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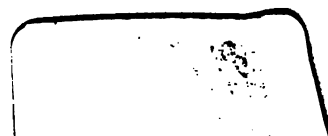
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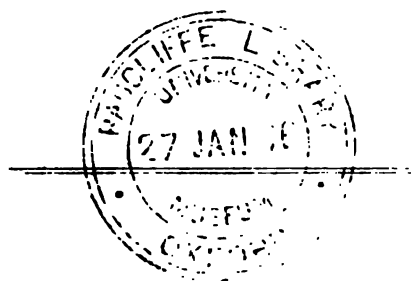
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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 121.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 6, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

District Committees are requested to send in their Annual Reports for 1873-4 to the Central Office with as little delay as possible.

The Council will be glad to have any spare copies of its Fifth Annual Report returned to the Central Office.

The Wandsworth and Putney Committee has removed its Office from Love Lane to 'The Plain,' Wandsworth.

The Hon. Sec. of the St. Saviour's, Southwark, Committee will be very grateful to any gentleman who will help him in the office, from 11 to 1 o'clock every morning, during the next few weeks. The assistance would be of great value, and would not require special knowledge or experience. For further information apply to the Secretary, Charity Organisation Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, Adelphi, W.C.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met as usual at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., and subsequently Major-General Blunt (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. F. Anderson, Kensington Committee; E. Waller, Esq., Fulham; Sir R. Macdonald Stephenson, Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Kerr, Esq., Chelsea; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Hamilton Hay Hill, Esq., Strand; H. A. Herbert, Esq., Shoreditch; Russell H. Barrington, Esq., Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney and Mile End Old Town; S. C. Bosanquet, Esq., St. Saviour's, Southwark; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; F. Green, Esq., Battersea; Rev. C. J. Meade,

T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; I. H. Cole, Esq., Deptford; Capt. G. H. Gardner, R.N., Eltham; G. M. Hicks, Esq., Additional Member; total, 24. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., Secretaries.

The Secretary reported that Lady Bouchier had sent him particulars of her small Cottage Home for Convalescents at Hampton Court, for the benefit of District Committees. No subscribers' letters were required. He stated that the Lambeth Committee were about to further consider the question of a third office, so that it would be convenient again to postpone the consideration of the recommendation of the Administrative Committee for a guarantee.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the fortnight ending December 26 the receipts had been £213. 9s. for the General Fund, and £92. 15s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £660. 17s. 6d. and £133. 18s. 9d. respectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

A grant of £20 was made to Camberwell, for office furniture and books for the Meeting-house Lane Office.

A grant of £80 was made to the Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East Committee, towards its general expenses for the four months ending March 31.

INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE LABOUR MARKET.

Mr. A. H. Hill said that a large number of persons came before him who had no trade, and were not in any proper sense labourers. There was, at the same time, an almost unlimited demand for youthful labour, consequent, in part, on the operation of the Education and Factory Acts. He believed that ordinary employment was the best industrial education, and held that under present circumstances institutions for bringing children up under artificial conditions need not be multiplied. Boys earned so much in the Shoe-black brigades that it spoilt them for industrial education. No one would pay them as much whilst they were learning a trade. Boys from institutions were not well fitted for the labour market. He looked forward to the institutions becoming more and more mere places for orphan and homeless boys to live at whilst they went out to work. He moved—

That the present principle of educating lads in charitable institutions apart from the immediate requirements of the labour markets, is inexpedient and conducive to pauperism.

Mr. Russell Barrington, though a member of the Committee of the East London Shoe-black Brigade, agreed with much that Mr. Hill had said. Circumstances had changed so much that it was high time that the institutions looked about them. His Committee had come to the conclusion that the usual practice of dividing the shoe-black's earnings into three portions, one for the boy, one for his bank, and one for the brigade, was not a good one, as it put the boy under a great temptation to understate his earnings. They had decided to hire their stations out to the boys. They only intended to

keep boys for three months or so in the brigade, and then to pass them on to other occupations. They were trying to put old men on, on the same terms as boys.

Miss Hill pointed out that the industrial institutions endeavoured to supply moral training, without which boys could not get and would not take places. There was an enormous demand for girls for domestic service. She was not in favour of relieving parents of the responsibility of bringing up their children, but it was a great advantage to raise girls out of the unskilled labour class by qualifying them for situations.

Mr. Seton-Karr said that the subject was a very large one; he hoped that Mr. Hill would not ask the Council to divide on his resolution.

Mr. Hill was willing to withdraw the motion, but hoped that an opportunity would be found for further considering the subject.

The motion was withdrawn and the Council adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the two weeks ending January 2, 1875:—*Donations*: Miss Archer, 2s. 6d.; A. C. Barclay, Esq., M.P., £40; W. Beddoe, Esq., £5. 5s.; B. Biggs, Esq., £2. 2s.; Lady Bourchier, £10; F. Calvert, Esq., £10; 'Cassix,' £5; F. G. Debenham, Esq., £5; Hon. W. Egerton, M.P., £1. 15s.; Lord Egerton of Tatton, £10; The Gunmakers Company, £10; Rev. Dr. Heurtley, £1; H. Jenkyns, Esq., £5; C. S. Knipe, Esq., £2; Mrs. Konarski, £5; G. W. Medley, Esq., £2; Lady H. Melville, £1; C. Mitchell, Esq., £2. 2s.; Edmund Oldfield, Esq., £5; Miss Paley, £5; D. Powell, Esq., Junr., £2. 2s.; J. Riddell, Esq., £2. 2s.; Mrs. Reiss, £30; Mrs. C. Rollings, £5; E. Seligmann, Esq., £21; J. Shephard, Esq., £5; J. Sherwood, Esq., £5. 5s.; C. F. Skirrow, Esq., £1. 1s.; Société Belge de Bienfaisance, £5. 5s.; J. G. Walker, Esq., £2; P. F. Walker, Esq., £1; J. Walter, Esq., M.P., £20; Mrs. Hensleigh Wedgwood, £10; G. F. Wilson, Esq., £5. *Quarterly*: Hon. W. Warren-Vernon, £5; *Annual*: Capt. Hamilton Aide, £2. 2s.; Rev. J. Antrobus, £1. 1s.; Thos. B. L. Baker, Esq., £2; F. M. Ball, Esq., £2. 2s.; Messrs. Ball, Norris, and Hadley, £5; E. Bayley, Esq., £1; Messrs. Bischoff & Co., £2. 2s.; Rev. G. H. Bosanquet, £10; R. Broughton, Esq., 1873 and 1874, £2. 2s.; Sir T. Gore Browne, £5; Lord Fred. Cavendish, M.P., £2; L. T. Care, Esq., £1. 1s.; Sir J. W. Colville, £5; Earl of Darnley, £3; James Drew, Esq., £2. 2s.; G. T. Duncombe, Esq., £3. 3s.; S. Edwards, Esq., £1. 1s.; H. M. Farquhar, Esq., £5; C. G. M. Gaskell, Esq., £3. 3s.; Sir R. G. Glyn, Bart., £1. 1s.; Mrs. W. Grey, £1. 1s.; Elizabeth, Countess of Harrington, £2; Sir W. Heathcote, £2. 2s.; J. D. Hay-Hill, Esq., £3. 3s.; W. H. James, Esq., M.P., £1. 1s.; G. B. Kent, Esq., £5; Rev. H. E. Knatchbull, £1. 1s.; Lieut.-Col. Fred. Knivett, £2. 2s.; H. Longley, Esq., £1; Mrs. Lumley, £1. 1s.; Capt. F. A. Maxse, R.N., £1. 1s.; W. Morrison, Esq., £1; John Noble, Esq., £5; Lady H. J. Pelham, £1; Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Petavel, £1. 1s.; H. Rogers, Esq., £5. 5s.; Rt. Hon. Sir E. Ryan, £2. 2s.; Miss E. A. Shirreff, £1. 1s.; P. L. Selater, Esq., £1. 1s.; J. Dunn Smith, Esq., £1. 1s.; Dudley R. Smith, Esq., £2. 2s.; James B. Stanhope, Esq., £10; W. S. Stanhope, Esq., M.P., £2. 2s.; T. Taplin, Esq., £5. 5s.; F. Du Pre Thornton, Esq., £5. 5s.; R. Valpy, Esq., £2. 2s.; Henry Vaughan, Esq., £10; A. Young, Esq., £2; A. G. Watson, Esq., £5; The Duke of Westminster, £50; W. E. Welby, Esq., M.P., £2; J. H. Wright, Esq., £1. 1s. *D. C. Aid Fund*: Mrs. Charles Buxton, £20; Sydney C. Buxton, Esq., £5; E. Charlesworth, Esq., £5. 5s.; Miss Dashwood, £10. 10s.; Mrs. Innes, £2; Lord Overstone, £50; Lady Smith, £5; E. Waterhouse, Esq., £10.

COMING MEETING.

WANDSWORTH AND PUTNEY.—The Annual Meeting of the Wandsworth and Putney Charity Organisation Committee will be held at the Spread Eagle Assembly Rooms, Wandsworth, on Thursday, the 14th inst., at 8 p.m. Sir H. W. Peek, Bart., M.P., in the chair.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Hampstead, Bethnal Green, and Lewisham Charity Organisation Committees.

Report of the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund, 1874.

Seventh Annual Report of the Edinburgh Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

First Report of the Helensburgh Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

MANCHESTER PROVIDENT DISPENSARY ASSOCIATION.—The Honorary Secretary of this Association writes:—'We are getting our Provident Dispensaries gradually to work. We open another on the 5th January, and a third about ten days after. We have fixed upon seven to begin with. It will take time to educate the people, but as to our ultimate success, I have not the slightest doubt.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

RETURN OF CASES DECIDED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE TWO WEEKS ENDING SAT., JAN. 2, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with			
	Not requiring relief	Under-employment	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for Hospitals, &c.	Class total	
Kensington	6	6	9	21	3	1	5	5	1	2	1	9	85	9	3	7	
Fulham	1	4	1	6	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	8	3	6	14	
Paddington	4	5	1	10	..	5	5	5	3	2	10	25	26	9	..	..	
Chelsea	7	1	1	9	..	8	3	11	..	..	1	3	23	12	6	..	
St. George's:—																	
St. George's Division.	..	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	34	15	19	..	
Westminster do.	2	2	8	12	..	..	8	8	6	1	..	7		6	..	..	..
Westminster:—																	
St. James & St. Anne's	..	..	3	3	1	3	2	6	..	..	..	..	9	1	12	15	
St. Marylebone	1	6	4	11	..	13	4	17	7	3	1	2	13	41	14	9	
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
North St. Pancras and	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Highbury	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	5	..	..	4	1	
South St. Pancras	2	2	1	5	1	2	3	6	..	1	..	1	12	1	6	2	
Islington	3	..	2	5	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	6	..	1	1	
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	3	5	3	..	..	..	
Strand	2	2	4	..	2	..	2	..	1	2	3	5	9	14	21	5	
Holborn	..	4	4	..	2	3	5	3	2	..	..	5	14	4	25	1	
City	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	39	..	
Shoreditch	..	1	3	4	..	2	2	1	..	8	9	15	2	4	..	..	
Bethnal Green	1	1	2	4	3	1	5	7	2	1	10	19	2	2	..	..	
Whitechapel and St.	2	1	5	8	..	1	2	3	..	1	1	2	13	..	..	2	
George's-in-the-East.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Stepney Union & Mile	1	..	12	13	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	2	16	6	6	..	
End Old Town	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	1	3	..	
Poplar	1	1	7	9	..	4	1	5	2	..	..	2	16	3	2	2	
St. Saviour's	1	..	3	4	1	..	1	2	3	..	..	3	9	5	2	1	
Newington	..	2	2	4	1	2	3	3	..	..	..	..	5	2	6	1	
St. Olave's	1	4	4	9	1	4	1	6	3	..	..	3	24	1	4	..	
Lambeth:—North	..	1	1	2	1	1	..	2	1	1	..	2	2	..	2	..	
South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	4	..	4	..	4	5	..	..	10	
Battersea	5	7	12	..	..	..	..	7	2	..	..	9	21	..	..	..	
Clapham	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	7	2	..	..	9	10	1	1	17	
Camberwell:—																	
Grove Lane	..	1	9	10	5	3	..	8	8	..	..	8	36	..	1	..	
Peckham	1	..	6	7	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	
Greenwich	1	..	6	7	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	6	13	1	..	20	
Deptford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	8	
Woolwich	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	..	2	23	
Lewisham	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	9	1	1	11	13	8	2	18	..	
*Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sydenham	2	2	..	4	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	5	9	2	3	6	
Totals	42	49	110	201	17	55	33	105	96	24	8	21	149	455	141	202	154

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

KENSINGTON.—At the Hammersmith Police Court, on the 24th ult., *John Dougherty*, who was described as a labourer, was charged with begging in Silver Street, Notting Hill. George Brown, the inquiry officer of this committee, said the prisoner had his hand tied up in a sling. He came up to witness and begged. He said he had a wife and family and that he was destitute as he could not work through a piece of wood falling upon his finger and breaking it. Witness examined his hand, but there was nothing the matter with it. He found 2s. 6½d. in bronze upon him, some silver, and four half-sovereigns, the latter being sewn up inside his waistcoat. The prisoner said his wife was in Ireland, and she sent him £1 to get a few things, as she was coming over to him. He went to work and saved another £1, but he would not touch it as he wanted to buy a few things for his wife. Not having enough to keep him over Christmas, he asked for assistance. Mr. Ingham wished to know the cost of keeping a man in prison for a week. The gaoler said 4s. 6d., but there were three classes of diet. Mr. Ingham said the prisoner should be kept well in prison during the Christmas holidays. He ordered him to be imprisoned for fourteen days, and 12s. of the money found upon him to be applied for his keep. He ordered the remainder to be given up to him on his leaving prison.

WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho).—*Conference.*—The clergy and others interested in the relief of the poor in this District were invited by the Committee to a Conference, which was held in the St. James's Vestry Hall, on the 22nd inst.

Sir William Fraser, having been called to the Chair, stated that the object of the Conference was to find some simple system of intercommunication between the various relief agencies.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that this had been attained in five of the ecclesiastical districts in St. George's, Hanover Square, by the establishment of Parochial Councils.

The Rev. W. H. Fremantle, having been asked to describe the system at work in St. Mary's, Bryanston Square, said that making District Visitors the medium of distributing charitable funds vitiated the relation between them and the poor. A small Relief Committee had therefore been formed, and the poor knew that they could apply to it for assistance. If the applicant's circumstances were not known, the application was at once sent both to the Organisation Committee and the District Visitor. The applicant then came before the Relief Committee, which endeavoured to go to the root of his distress. For the able bodied they tried to find work, and sometimes gave them a loan, using the machinery of the Organisation Committee. The sick they assisted liberally if charitable assistance was really necessary. The aged they provided for in concert with the Guardians.

Colonel Lyon Fremantle said that in St. George's they had endeavoured to get the representatives of all denominations together; but the Church of England organisation predominated so much that the meetings consisted mainly of them, though the other denominations were quite willing to give information. Representatives of charitable agencies, Guardians, and Relieving Officers had met and compared notes from their different points of view. He was satisfied, and he spoke from much experience, that the more the whole truth was brought out the better it was for the deserving poor.

The Rev. J. E. Kempe expressed his willingness to give information to the Committee, but did not see any necessity for periodical meetings. The great want of that part of London was personal assistance. There were few residents there who had any leisure. He would willingly confer further with the Committee with a view to co-operation.

The Hon. and Rev. Dr. Talbot (Roman Catholic) and Canon Nugent Wade endorsed Mr. Kempe's statement—Canon Wade adding that there were no charities worth speaking of in his district.

Mr. James Gill, speaking as a visitor of the Strangers' Friend Society, said that the Organisation Committee had been of use to him, both by investigating cases and by taking up cases which did not come within the rules of his Society, which assisted the sick only.

Mr. Longley urged the importance of free exchange of information. He did not think that any one could say that he knew all about a case. The Guardians should be asked to furnish information about those who applied to them, as they did in Marylebone.

Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet understood the objects aimed at to be the prevention of overlapping, and the rendering of charitable relief more effectual. The first thing was to persuade the charities and the public to use the District Committee; then members of the Committee should acquaint themselves with the working of such agencies as did not send representatives to the meetings of the Committee; and then further action might be taken according to the requirements of the different parts of the District. In order to make relief effectual it should be given by a small Committee after inquiry rather than by individual visitors. The St. George's Charity Councils had promoted this kind of reform.

Mr. Kempe pointed out that there was a distinction between relief and kindly gifts to the poor.

Sir William Fraser thought that the Committee had only to pursue the course it had already entered on. It gave the public every opportunity of obtaining information, and he called on all interested in the real welfare of the poor to stand by it and support it.

BATTERSEA.—This Committee has received a grant of £30 from the Wandsworth Police Court.

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

EDINBURGH.—The Edinburgh Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor held its annual meeting on December 14. In the absence of the Earl of Haddington, who was to have presided, Bailie Muirhead was called to the chair.

The Chairman claimed for the Society that it was the catholic charity of Edinburgh, and that it was ready to give help in all cases where help was really required. He noticed the aid which the Association had rendered to the School Board. For a Board to have power to compel starving children to attend school, which the School Board had, but to have no power of feeding and clothing these children, was quite an anomaly, and the best part of the Education Act, the compulsory clause, would have remained a dead letter in Edinburgh but for the help rendered to the School Board by the Association coming forward and undertaking to feed and clothe those poor children. (Applause.)

Dr. A. Wood, in submitting the annual report, mentioned that it had been found expedient to start a sick and funeral fund, to which members of the poorer classes contributed every week, so that they were thus placed in the position of being enabled to derive assistance when in sickness or distress, not from charity, but from their own savings.

Mr. Trayner thought the Society should not forget, while they were doing so much to put down deception and to encourage industry, that something should be done if possible for the amusement of the lower classes.

Sir George Warrender expressed concurrence in what had been said by Mr. Trayner.

It was resolved, on the Rev. Dr. Sandford's motion, seconded by Mr. Ivory, 'that the improved condition of the lower classes of Edinburgh, in a sanitary point of view, as evidenced by the diminished death-rate, is matter of congratulation; that this is largely due to the exertions of the Health Committee of the Town Council, the Police, the Parochial Inspectors, and other authorities, co-operating with this Association and other benevolent institutions, to all of whom this meeting tenders its thanks, and in an especial manner to Dr. Littlejohn, the Officer of Health.'

In speaking to this resolution, Dr. Sandford said he thought the clergy might do much more than they did to promote improvement in the sanitary condition of the people, by impressing upon them, from the pulpit and otherwise, that the laws of health were the laws of God.

LIVERPOOL.—The annual general meeting of the Liverpool Central Relief Society was held on December 21, the Mayor, Lieut.-Col. Stoble, presiding.

The report having been read and adopted, Mr. W. Rathbone, M.P., moved, 'That the following be substituted for the preamble to the rules of the Society:—"That the Society be called the Liverpool Central Relief and Charity Organisation Society. That the object of the Society be the improvement of the condition of the poor (1) by raising funds and dispensing relief to distressed and deserving poor, in co-operation with the Poor-law Guardians and charities of the town, (2) by securing due investigation and fitting action in all cases, and (3) by repressing mendicancy." He said that his resolution was, in his opinion, necessary in order to make the present title and rules of the Society conform with the work which it was actually doing. Anyone looking at the relative proportion between the amount expended in relief and the expenses of the Society's staff would be apt to consider that the latter was altogether disproportionate to the work which was being done, yet there was never a time when the work done by the Society was more valuable or more in proportion to its cost than the work which it was doing at that moment. Never, he ventured to say, had subscribers to the Central Relief Society had more distinctly value for their money than now. So far from the Society merely collecting funds and distributing relief, it was a most valuable agent in preventing poverty, pauperism, and deception. It was still, as it was at the commencement, a Society for collecting funds and distributing relief when required, and should, unfortunately, the present prosperous state of the working classes, which had existed during the past few years, pass away, the staff and organisation was there which would enable them to distribute relief again upon a large scale. The Society, however, was also a most valuable means for inducing co-operation between the charities and the Poor-law authorities, and between the charities and other societies of the town, taking up people before they became paupers and preventing them ever becoming paupers. Anyone who on a board of guardians or a select vestry had ever taken any part in the administration of outdoor relief knew perfectly well that when a single member of a family from temporary distress became a recipient of outdoor relief, there was ever after the greatest danger of the whole family being tempted to become paupers whenever they had a difficulty to encounter. The Central Relief Society, however, took such cases before they came upon the books of the parish, gave temporary relief, and prevented them from becoming inoculated with the virus of pauperism and it was able at once to recommend suitable cases to the charities of the town. (Hear, hear.) The Society had also consented to assist the Ladies' Charity, and its action in this respect would be a most valuable means of securing the independence of the poor by preventing improper cases being dealt with by that charity. Then the Society for Nursing the Sick Poor in their own Homes had for years received most valuable assistance from this charity. In times like the present probably the principal part of the work of the charity was preventing the benevolent being imposed upon, and the sources of charity, being thus dried up or perverted into sources of mischief. This was the work which the Central Relief Society had been and was now doing, and its expenditure would be well repaid if it did nothing else. He ventured to move that the name and rules of the Society should be brought into harmony with this, and he moved the change of the rules of which he had given notice, for he ventured to think that it was not too much to hope that by pursuing such a course the Society might really organise the charities of this town into one connected and efficient system. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was seconded by Mr. S. Smith, and agreed to.

GLASGOW.—The first annual meeting of the Glasgow Association for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicancy was held on the 22nd ult., the Earl of Glasgow presiding. Mr. John S. Robertson, hon. secretary, read the report, which, after describing the objects of the association, and narrating several cases which had been investigated, went on to say that in the course of the Council's inquiries, several societies, professing to carry on Christian work in the east end of the city, had come under their notice. These societies were supported by public subscriptions, which were collected by the promoters, and they generally managed the entire financial arrangements themselves. The Council regretted to say that the careful inquiries that had been made regarding them showed too plainly that they were not conducted in a manner becoming Christian societies. The Council

were most unwilling to injure in the slightest degree any society doing a really benevolent work; but they felt that they would be neglecting the trust committed to them were they not plainly to expose those which were manifestly carried on in an unsatisfactory and irregular manner, to use no stronger terms. A list of these societies was kept at the office of this Association, and might be referred to by anyone who desired information.

Sir James Watson, in moving the adoption of the report, urged that the organisation should be of as extensive a nature as possible, for a small Society of that kind would be productive of very little good unless it was generally taken up by the public. It was indispensable that the Association should be in full accord with the various charitable institutions in the city, as he had no doubt it was. Their work was a good one, and if carried out as it had been by the Association in London, it would be productive of great good. (Applause.)

Mr. Holms, M.P., seconded the motion. The work already accomplished by the Association had been of a very satisfactory character. It was a vast undertaking on the part of the Council. They had to gauge the depths of human misery and suffering in the city; they had to analyse the various cases brought under their notice; they had to examine all cases of imposition, and they had to find aid for the deserving poor. In the city of Glasgow they had an immense amount of degradation and poverty, but side by side with it they had an immense amount of wealth; and when the public of Glasgow were perfectly satisfied that what they gave for the deserving poor would be applied for that purpose, they were liberal with their wealth.

Professor Gairdner said that if the sums given to all the various charities in the city were summed up together, the citizens of Glasgow would be astonished at the result, and be apt to say, 'Surely there can be no want or destitution in a place where liberal hearts and open hands are to be found in such numbers.' But in presence of that extraordinary fact, there was also another fact, that there was an almost unfathomable depth of unrelieved destitution, which made it appear as if the efforts made to relieve distress by the dispensing of charity was so much money thrown into the sea. To have charity properly dispensed, there must be a check upon it, and this Association would supply that want.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of December 1874 was 36,609, and 60,748 received out-door relief, making a total of 97,357. This is an increase of 800 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1873, 1872, and 1871, this was a decrease of 9,522, 13,378, and 27,120 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 429. This is a decrease of 13 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 201 on the corresponding day of last year.

QUESTIONABLE CHARITIES IN GLASGOW.—We learn from the *Glasgow Herald* of the 28th December, that the Glasgow Charity Organisation Association has had to call attention to the manner in which two local societies are managed. The societies in question are known as the King Street Christian and Temperance Mission and the Glasgow Christian Mission. Six well-known Glasgow clergymen, who have hitherto allowed their names to appear as patrons of the former society, 'asked an eminent firm of accountants in the city to request the collector and missionary, Mr. Andrew McNeil, to send in the reports and accounts of the last four years for professional audit,' but have been met by a reply, after a month had elapsed, that the Committee could hold no further communication with the accountants on account of a member of the firm having possessed himself in some way, for two hours, of the collecting books. 'The Committee,' says the *Herald*, 'consisted originally of eleven, then of eight, and last year of seven "working men," two of whom seem last year and this year to have been the only auditors of the accounts.' In the case of the 'Christian Mission,' five of the principal firms in the city, who had apparently been subscribers for years to its funds, addressed a joint letter to the superintendent asking a number of questions. The superintendent at once put the matter into the hands of a solicitor. 'He answered scarcely a single one of the questions—he challenged the right of any small body of subscribers to question him at all—he told them that he had spent some hundreds of pounds of his own money in the Mission, and he finally appealed to Mr. William Smeal, the treasurer, who knew all about the Mission. The eminent subscribers—among whom is the legal firm of which the Dean of Faculty is senior partner—prudently wrote to Mr. Smeal, who replied that he had been treasurer, but knew nothing of the matter for the last two or three years. Mr. Crawford's solicitor answered practically that Mr. Smeal was an old gentleman whose memory was failing, that a considerable portion of the money subscribed has been used every year to clear off a debt due to Mr. Smeal himself, and that only two years ago (!) Mr. Smeal had given information about the Mission to somebody who asked.' The *Herald* is of opinion that the communications which it has printed leave the societies under a cloud, and 'will certainly induce every sensible person under whose notice they happen to be brought to withhold further subscriptions till an explanation, of which there is at present no particular sign, shall be forthcoming.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEES of the Charity Organisation Society, and their Offices.

KENSINGTON—39 Holland Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—14 Devonshire Street, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—3 Leinster Street, W.
CHELSEA—5A Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Park Street, N
HACKNEY UNION—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur Street, W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBORN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
SHOREDITCH—56 St. John's Road, Hoxton, N.
BETHNAL GREEN—297 Bethnal Green Road, E.
WHITECHAPEL UNION and ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST—194 Commercial Road, E.
STEPNEY UNION and MILE-END OLD TOWN—45 Portland Street, E.
POPLAR UNION—129 East India Dock Road, E.
ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK—15 Montague Street, S.E.
NEWINGTON—Vestry Hall, Walworth Road, S.E.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, SOUTHWARK—172 Tooley Street, S.E.
LAMBETH—Archbishop Sumner's Schools, Kennington Road, S.E.; and 21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
WANDSWORTH and PUTNEY—The Plain, Wandsworth, S.W.
BATTERSEA—1 Clifton Terrace, High Street, S.W.
CLAPHAM—3 Polygon, S.W.
CAMBERWELL—1 Grove Lane, S.E.; and Meeting-house Lane, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWICH—14 Haddington Terrace, King Street, S.E.
DEPTFORD—Mission Hall, King Street, Broadway, S.E.
WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDENHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards the expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' of the Council.

A STRONG CASE for HALF-BINDING the NUMBERS of the *Reporter* for 1873 has been prepared by Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., New-street Square, Farringdon Street, E.C.; and can be obtained from them through all newsagents, price 1s. 4d. If the numbers for the year be sent to Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., they will be bound for 2s. 10d.

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THE HISTORY AND MODE OF OPERATION OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY. By Charles B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., Secretary of the Council.

Longmans, Green, & Co., Paternoster Row, E.C.; and at the Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 122.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 13, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

The Title-page and Index to the *Reporter* for 1874 will be issued with the next number.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

Two mounted copies of the new edition of the 'List of Charity Organisation and other Societies of which inquiries regarding applicants for charity can be made,' will be sent shortly to the District Committees. It is suggested that the second copy should be offered to the Local Board of Guardians.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met as usual at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., and subsequently Lieut.-General Cavenagh, in the chair; Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. F. Anderson, *Kensington Committee*; E. Waller, Esq., *Fulham*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Major H. A. Sanford, Major C. C. Fitzroy, *St. George's*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; F. Burdett Roberts, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Rev. H. P. Kelly, *Shoreditch*; Russell H. Barrington, Esq., *Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East*; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., *St. Olave's Union, Southwark*; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., *Lambeth*; S. Eiches, Esq., *Clapham*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; G. Barker, Esq., J.P., *Lewisham*; Capt. G. H. Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., Dr. Hawksley, G. M. Hicks, Esq., T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 31. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., *Secretary*; R. Burnett, Esq., *Visitor*.

The Secretary stated that a new edition of the 'List of Charity Organisation and other Societies in different parts of

the world, of which inquiries regarding applicants for charity could be made,' had been printed off. It contained the names and addresses of 63 Societies in the United Kingdom, 51 in other parts of Europe, 10 in the United States of America, 4 in British Colonies, 3 in India, and 1 in Egypt.

A letter from Mr. O'Hanlon to Sir Charles Trevelyan was read, stating that the Manchester Provident Dispensary Association had opened a second Dispensary, and that one of the principal free Dispensaries had opened a provident department, and seemed determined to carry the new system vigorously into operation.

An Hon. Secretary called attention to a case in which a prosecution instituted by his Committee had miscarried, though there was no doubt that the prisoner had endeavoured to obtain assistance by means of a forged letter.

It was suggested that it would be well for District Committees to communicate with the Central Office in such cases.

A letter was read from Mr. J. R. Hollond, suggesting that the Society should inform the Committee which was collecting money for the relatives of those lost in the *Cospatrick* of their willingness to inquire into the cases of applicants for relief. Mr. Hollond pointed out that though it would not be difficult to establish the fact of relationship, it might be a nice point to determine whether the relatives surviving were in any true sense dependent on those who had perished.

Mr. Seton-Karr asked if any one could inform him where James Lloyd's Almshouses were. A friend of his had had a letter from a person dating from 'James Lloyd's Almshouses, Belgrave Street,' but a letter so addressed had been returned through the Returned Letter Office, and the Charity Commissioners had been unable to tell him of any such Almshouses.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending January 2 the receipts had been £355. 15s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £25. 10s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,003. 6s. 2d. and £59. 8s. 9d. respectively.

Also that they had ordered that a copy of the 'List of Charity Organisation and other Societies' should be sent to the Metropolitan Boards of Guardians through the District Committees.

Mr. Jodrell called attention to the importance of Reports on cases showing that the truth of the applicants' statements had been inquired into, and that the usual communication with the relieving officer and the district visitor had taken place.

After some conversation on this point the Council adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending January 9, 1875:—*Donations*: R. Burnett, Esq., £5; Major-General Clerk, £2. 10s.; Hon. Dudley F. Fortescue, £10; Hon. G. M. Fortescue, £10; W. H. Gladstone, Esq., M.P., £1; Alexander Gray, Esq., £5; J. H., £2; 'A Lady,' £10; H. Pitman, Esq., £2; Mrs. Tilleard, £5; Col. Arthur Trotter, £10; G. V. Yool, Esq., £5. *Annual*: Rev. E. Anriol, £1. 1s.; Rev. E. R. Benyon, £1. 1s.; Mrs. Blood, £1. 1s.; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C.,

£1. 1s.; Mrs. Chas. Buxton, £1; Lord F. C. Cavendish, M.P., £2; A. E. Dangerfield, Esq., £1; Geo. D. W. Digby, Esq., £5; Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., £5; Col. L. Gardiner, £1. 1s.; Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., £5; R. M. Hensley, Esq., £2. 2s.; G. M. Hicks, Esq., £5. 5s.; H. N. Hoare, Esq., £5; A. E. Holmes, Esq., £1. 1s.; Hon. and Rev. W. T. Kenyon, £1. 1s.; Hy. Kimber, Esq., £2. 2s.; H. J. Knyvett, Esq., £1. 1s.; Rev. W. H. Lyall, £1. 1s.; H. Marsh, Esq., £1; Mrs. Moody, £1. 1s.; W. Moore, Esq., £2; H. H. Murdoch, Esq., £2. 2s.; Capt. H. R. Porter, £1. 1s.; Rev. R. H. Quick, £2. 2s.; Baroness Meyer de Rothschild, £50; W. Dehague Routh, Esq., 1873 and 1874, £10; A. Sargood, Esq., £1. 1s.; Sir R. Macdonald Stephenson, £2. 2s.; Major T. P. Turbervill, £5; Lieut.-Colonel Walker, £2. 2s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., £1. 1s.; H. M. Cotton, Esq., £3. 3s.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JAN. 9, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by		Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	The Guardians or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans				
Kensington	7	4	8	19	7	1	8	27	8	5
Fulham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	4	4	2
Paddington	1	1	4	5	4	1	5	12	21	10
Chelsea	3	1	3	7	1	1	2	3	9	4
St. George's:—										
St. George's Division	1	2	3	6	1	1	2	4	7	2
Westminster do.	4	2	6	12	6	4	10	26	7	9
Westminster:—										
St. James's & St. Anne's	3	3	7	13	17	3	20	4	15	7
St. Marylebone	3	3	7	13	17	3	20	4	15	7
Hampstead	1	2	5	8	1	1	2	3	8	5
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	2	5	8	1	1	2	3	8	5
South St. Pancras	1	4	9	14	2	1	3	5	19	6
Islington	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	3	6
Hackney	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	3	6
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	3	4	8	1	1	2	3	9	1
Strand	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	3	6
Holborn	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	3	6
City	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	3	6
Shoreditch	2	1	2	5	1	1	2	3	3	6
Bethnal Green	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	3	6
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	3	2	1	6	1	1	2	3	13	..
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	4	1	5	10	1	1	2	3	8	5
Poplar	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	1	3
St. Saviour's	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	13	2
Newington	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	..	..
St. Olave's	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	7	6
Lambeth:—										
North	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	23	3
South	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	2	1
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	2	1
Battersea	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Clapham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	9	..
Camberwell:—										
Grove Lane	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	19	2
Peckham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	..	..
Greenwich	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	3	1
Deptford	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	1	6
Woolwich	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	1	8
Lewisham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	12	1
Eltham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	..	7
Sydenham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	10	2
Totals	31	28	73	142	9	50	27	86	67	15

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

COMING MEETING.

WANDSWORTH AND PUTNEY.—The Annual Meeting of the Wandsworth and Putney Charity Organisation Committee will be held at the Spread Eagle Assembly Rooms, Wandsworth, on Thursday, the 14th inst., at 8 P.M. Sir H. W. Peek, Bart., M.P., will take the chair.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Westminster Union and St. Marylebone Charity Organisation Committees.
Annual Report of the Oxford Charity Organisation Association.

RETURNS FOR 1874.

The following table shows the number of cases decided by the District Committees in the year 1874:—

DIVISIONS	Class I. Dismissed as				Class II. Referred to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total
	Not requiring relief	Ineligible	Undeserving	Giving false address	The Poor Law	Local agencies	Private persons	Institutions	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals	
Kensington	132	250	142	9	573	22	40	46	8	125	199	30	1613
Fulham	12	15	18	1	46	10	13	10	2	20	21	6	171
Paddington	96	113	41	7	257	47	56	72	14	180	217	64	500
Chelsea	32	63	36	12	143	43	68	33	10	154	89	16	517
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	24	138	19	9	190	14	26	14	12	65	192	24	1485
Westminster do.	55	211	43	31	340	29	63	231	37	350	196	73	1485
Westminster:—													
St. James's & St. Anne's	11	40	8	..	59	3	1	17	11	32	33	11	143
St. Marylebone	99	153	63	10	325	43	279	99	84	503	116	78	1105
Hampstead	15	16	9	..	40	6	7	3	1	17	17	12	104
North St. Pancras and Highgate	18	46	16	1	81	4	3	14	51	72	4	19	197
South St. Pancras	108	99	93	11	311	24	127	128	20	299	2	45	672
Islington	62	20	20	6	108	7	10	19	3	39	43	9	215
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	5	35	28	5	73	19	1	13	31	64	122	31	332
Strand	5	44	47	8	101	11	30	21	5	67	15	23	244
Holborn	73	150	12	..	235	7	34	16	4	61	44	22	362
City	3	4	1	..	7	3	..	1	3	9	7	..	28
Shoreditch	42	51	31	11	135	28	26	11	2	67	70	43	323
Bethnal Green	23	42	33	3	101	24	47	30	12	113	66	29	303
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	96	62	73	7	270	20	40	75	3	138	15	31	507
Stepney Union and Mile End Old Town	28	70	6	1	103	10	20	10	7	47	25	11	223
Poplar	17	26	18	..	61	2	1	5	1	9	24	9	103
St. Saviour's	17	26	18	..	61	2	1	5	1	9	24	9	103
Newington	44	79	39	3	165	22	5	36	10	73	92	17	375
St. Olave's	6	25	10	1	40	4	18	3	6	31	23	11	107
Lambeth:—													
North	31	84	28	5	148	26	41	14	7	88	106	16	580
South	22	41	11	1	75	7	44	16	11	78	25	32	306
Wandsworth & Putney	4	28	13	..	51	3	6	2	1	11	47	27	143
Battersea	13	110	27	4	154	23	23	12	1	59	174	31	433
Clapham	1	29	8	2	40	11	8	12	2	33	63	10	150
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	11	136	6	..	153	23	180	1	16	220	80	43	709
Peckham	..	44	..	..	44	15	..	..	..	20	130	1	157
Greenwich	33	79	15	4	131	15	..	3	2	31	30	142	353
Deptford	6	5	6	1	18	..	..	1	..	1	68	10	99
Woolwich	3	10	1	..	14	3	..	3	..	6	16	36	81
Lewisham	7	6	4	2	19	8	25	8	..	41	85	17	180
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	3	17	6	..	26	19	2	..	..	21	147	15	211
Totals	1158	2472	936	153	4738	355	1159	1077	372	3163	2712	1049	12556

Applications at Offices, by Vagrants and Homeless Persons—4,885.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

KENSINGTON.—*Loan Society.*—The Holland Street Loan Society, which works in connection with this Committee, held its Annual Meeting on Monday. It appeared from the Report that during 1874 £110. 7s. had been lent to 28 persons, making the total amount of loans granted in 1873 and 1874 £329. 7s., and the number of borrowers 96. Of the sum so lent £262. 3s. 6d. had been repaid; £11. 4s. 6d. had been carried to the bad debts account, and £55. 19s. was in course of liquidation. It had been necessary to have recourse to legal proceedings in six cases.

CHARITY AND PROVIDENCE IN GENEVA.

The monthly journal of the 'Geneva Bureau Central de Bienfaisance,' some account of which will be found in No. 107 of the *Reporter*, gives, in its four last numbers, interesting accounts of the progress made in the organisation of charity both on the Continent and in England. In one number is an abridged translation of the 33 suggestions to District Visitors contained in the 'Handy-book for Visitors of the Poor,' published by the Charity Organisation Society, and in another number an account of the object and mode of operations of the Society, in which much stress is laid upon the vigorous means for the repression of mendicancy and imposture which the law of England places at the disposal of societies and private persons.

Another page speaks of a co-operative savings bank, with a guaranteed capital of £12,000, the sum on deposit being £5,785, and the number of depositors 3,988, making the average amount of each deposit about 25s. The lowest sum received is 20 centimes (less than 2d.), and an interest of 4 per cent. per annum is paid on all deposits of one franc (9½d.) and upwards. The office of the savings bank is under the same roof as the Bureau de Bienfaisance, and its manager is the director of the latter institution.

From an account given of a 'Société Alimentaire,' an article based upon the report of the Charity Organisation Society upon soup kitchens, and other passages in this journal, it appears that public attention in Geneva has been much drawn to the objections to charities the principal object of which is the distribution of cooked food. The 'Société Alimentaire'

appears to have been started with a guaranteed capital, for the establishment of self-supporting dinner-tables for the working classes. The receipts during the month of May were £228, but the undertaking was still burdened with a debt of £148. Allusion is made to the cooking depôts of Glasgow, and the following passage shows the editor's opinion of food charities:— 'What seems more natural or more innocent than giving a portion of food to one who declares he has nothing to eat? "No one will ever make me believe," exclaimed a benevolent lady who was recommended to be prudent in giving this kind of relief, "that a plate of soup ever did anyone any harm!" How many times have we not heard this reply! This form of relief has always been as popular in Geneva as in London and Paris, and were we to find ourselves face to face with a severe winter and a general scarcity of work, people would no doubt be forthcoming who would be ready to promote the opening of one of the so-called "economical" kitchens with which we are already familiar. It is nevertheless certain that food given gratuitously, or at half-price, is, unless under exceptional circumstances, one of the surest means of developing pauperism, since it undermines the providence and self-respect of the recipients. . . . We know something in Geneva of ticket-hunting and ticket-traffic.'

On other pages the various Dwellings Companies of London are mentioned, and reference is made to the 'Société Co-opérative Immobilière Genevoise,' which, with a capital of £10,000, in 1,450 shares, producing an interest of 4½ per cent., has housed some 40 families in its buildings.

Some interesting statements are made in another place with regard to the consumption of brandy in France during the last 40 years. The mean annual amount is stated to have been 1 litre per head in 1831, and 2 litres 54 in 1869. From 1850 to 1860 the mean number of accidental deaths attributable to intoxication has increased in the proportion of 331 to 587, and the number of suicides from 240 to 664. Alcoholic mania has increased to an alarming extent.

In a review of a pamphlet on pauperism and mendicancy in various countries, the following passage occurs:— 'In America and in Switzerland beggars are not tolerated in the streets; public feeling rebels against the display of misery. . . . Twenty years since, Switzerland was a prey to a regular tribe of wandering beggars, which was recruited to some extent by outlaws and convicts of all countries. A law scattered these *Heimathlosen* (homeless persons) through the cantons. Each commune took its share, and the frontier police acted energetically. Soon entire families ceased to lead a vagabond existence. They were absorbed into the busy hive of Swiss industry, and at the present time no trace of them is to be found. . . . The mendicant must be rendered a *fixture*; a country and a home must above all be given to him.' In speaking of Italy, described in the review as the 'classic land of the mendicant,' allusion is made to the migratory bands of begging musicians which come from that country, and it is stated that in Paris the police have recently discovered a factory of sham Italian children destined to adopt this mode of life. Amongst other subjects treated of in the 'Bulletin Mensuel,' may be found a 'Société d'Utilité Publique,' with a library of 2,763 volumes; an 'Asile de Nuit' (lodging-house) with a capital of £800, in 200 shares of £4 each, bringing in an annual interest of five per cent.; the 'Société Suisse de Bienfaisance de New York,' of which a detailed account is given; and an agency for the assistance of Swiss governesses abroad.

H. H. G.

DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—We learn from the *Metropolitan* that at the meeting of the Greenwich Board of Guardians, on the 7th inst., the Rev. C. F. S. Money moved, and Mr. Brown seconded, the following resolution, of which the former gentleman had given notice, and which was unanimously carried:— 'That a letter be addressed to the Local Government Board, with a view to obtain reports as to the sanitary condition of the dwellings of the poor, in order to facilitate co-operation by this Board with the District Board of Works in remedying sanitary defects and preventing the spread of disease.'

MENDICITY AT BRIGHTON.—Edward Branagan, formerly a private in the 40th Regiment, but for many years a persevering beggar, particularly among officers of the army, was recently brought before the Hove Bench on a charge of begging of Colonel Stringer, 4 Upper Brunswick Place, and Colonel Hansard, 22 Palmeira Square, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour. From the statement of Mr. Brandreth, honorary solicitor to the Brighton Charity Organisation Society, at whose instance the prosecution was undertaken, it appears that Branagan came to Brighton in 1850, and, through the liberal assistance of a few military officers, started as a drilling-master to schools, and was doing well, when he expressed a desire to go out to America. Again his friends assisted him; a sum of between £20 and £30 was raised for his expenses, and he was seen off by train for London. In three weeks he returned, but without the money. He had been robbed of it—at least, so he said. Ever since that time he has got his living by systematically preying on officers. One of the tales on which he relied as a means of exciting compassion was that of being greatly in arrears of rent. This, however, was shown to be false, as to the case on which he was convicted. A copy of the very latest edition of the 'Army List' was found at his lodgings.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of January 1875 was 36,352, and 61,598 received out-door relief, making a total of 97,950. This is an increase of 593 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 7,845, 11,901, and 24,697 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 234. This is a decrease of 195 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 367 on the corresponding day of last year.

THE ABUSE OF HOSPITALS.—The *British Medical Journal* publishes the following memorial, which is in course of signature:— 'To the President and Committee of Council of the British Medical Association—We, the undersigned, members of the British Medical Association, and others, beg most respectfully to request the Committee of Council to take into its consideration the relation of the medical profession to the hospitals and free dispensaries throughout the kingdom. Your memorialists are convinced that the manner in which these institutions (with some few exceptions) are at present conducted inflicts a serious injury upon many most deserving members of our profession, while the indiscriminate (or almost indiscriminate) bestowal of gratuitous medical relief upon all applicants lowers the whole scale of our professional remuneration, is far from being a real boon to the working classes themselves, and cannot fail, in the long run, to have a prejudicial influence upon the nation at large. The question to which we venture to draw the attention of the Committee of Council has been much discussed of late years both in the medical press and in the lay periodicals. It is not necessary, therefore, that we should enter into any details respecting it. We may, however, mention that there are three facts which have a very important bearing upon it, and which make the present time particularly opportune for entertaining it. These are: (1) The improvement which is now rapidly taking place in the social and political condition of the industrial classes; (2) the amendments which have lately been made in the administration of parochial medical relief; and (3) the increase within the last few years in the length and expense of medical education. These facts are admitted by all, and their concurrence has led, we believe, to a very general opinion among those who are conversant with the working of the free dispensaries and hospitals that some changes are necessary in order to bring these institutions into harmony with the altered conditions of the present day. As it is desirable that any changes which may be necessary should be duly weighed by a body which fairly represents the medical profession, and should be recommended by high authority, so as to carry along with them the assent of the lay governors of the "Medical Charities," your memorialists pray you to take this important subject into your consideration.' The signatures to this memorial include those of Sir William Jenner, Sir William Gull, Sir William Fergusson, Sir Rutherford Alcock, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Mr. Erichsen, Dr. George Johnson, Dr. Hawksley, Dr. J. W. Ogle, Dr. A. P. Stewart, and many others. Medical men who approve of the memorial, and wish their names to be added to it, are requested to communicate with Dr. Meadows, 27 George Street, Hanover Square, or with Mr. Fairlie Clarke, 12 Mansfield Street, Cavendish Square.

RELIEF IN CONSTANTINOPLE, AND DISTRESS IN ASIA MINOR.—A correspondent writes from Constantinople:— 'There are not very many cases here which require assistance, and the funds rather, in my opinion, exceed than fall below what is required. This being a country with a despotic government, when a rascal turns up as vagrant and thief, the British community is apt to get rid of him by the summary method of sending him home, or passing him on to our neighbours, on the principle that it is better to shoot one's rubbish into our neighbour's garden than to keep it in our own. In this way we get rid of the worthless characters. Those cases which are deserving are pretty carefully looked after, and a good deal of the superfluous charity goes to assist poor Greeks, Armenians, and other inhabitants of the country. Of course you know that this is the country *par excellence* of vagrants. Some of them live in style, paying house rent at £40 and £50 a year. The Turks are in the 'religious stage' on the poor question, and seldom withhold their hand from the poor or the afflicted. If I were a very poor man I should turn beggar. The profits of some must, I am sure, be enormous, and the majority, I fancy, earn far more than a day-labourer could. The mosques are the relieving wards, and every believer can obtain a night's shelter in one of them. The great question of relief at the present time is that of the sufferers from the famine in Asia Minor. This famine is caused almost entirely by the stupidity and bad government of the Turks. Last year merchants sent up corn into the district; the government seized it, and ordered it to be sold at a low price. Why were poor people to die that gisour merchants should grow rich? Many other merchants had been waiting to see the result of the sale of the first instalment of corn sent into the famine district, in order that—if the price realised had been high—they might have poured in supplies. Of course, when they learnt that the corn had been seized, they sent theirs elsewhere, and the people had neither seed-corn, nor food to eat. It is as pretty an illustration of political economy as I know. There can be no doubt about the facts, because I am not reporting at hearsay, but what has come directly under my own knowledge.'

CASE OF GOATER.

At the Bow Street Police Court, on the 6th inst., Alphæus M. Gaultier, *alias* Goater, *alias* Hanbury Tracy, was brought up from Lewes by Detective Sergeant Kerley, on a warrant, and charged with unlawfully obtaining 10s. from Mr. Alsager Hay Hill, under false pretences. Mr. George Lewis, jun., instructed by Mr. Ribton-Turner, appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society.

Mr. Alsager Hay Hill said: I am a barrister-at-law, and reside at 1 Long Acre. On the 8th November 1873, the prisoner called and asked if my brother, Rev. Reginald Hay Hill, was in. I told him he was away from town. He said he was very sorry, as he knew him, and wanted particularly to see him. Believing from his manner that he was a friend of my brother, I invited him in. He told me that he was well known to Baron Cleasby and his family, and many other persons whose names I was familiar with. He told me, apparently very reluctantly, that he had got drunk the night previously, and found his pocket cut and his purse gone. He said he was then a master at the Collegiate Institute, Liverpool, under the Rev. G. Butler, whom I knew something of. He said my brother was a very good fellow indeed, though on theological matters they agreed to differ. He then asked me to lend him 10s., and I did so. He promised to call on the following evening (Sunday), his brother-in-law having, he said, promised to see him. I remained in the whole evening, expecting him to call, but I did not see him until the Monday, when he asked me to lend him some more money to take him to Liverpool to keep his engagement. He asked me for 5s., and I declined to lend him any more money. I did not see him again until he was at the Guildhall Police Court. I subsequently had communication with my brother.

The prisoner declined at present to ask the witness any question.

The Rev. C. T. Ackland, head-master of the Kensington Grammar School, said: Toward the close of the year 1873 the prisoner called on me and inquired for the Rev. H. Howlett, who had been one of my assistant-masters. The prisoner called himself Goater, and entered into a general conversation. He then said Mr. Howlett was a friend of his at Cambridge. After some time he said he was sorry Mr. Howlett was not in, as it was of importance to him, but he thought he might open his business to me. He told me he had come up to meet his brother from Nottingham; that his brother had sent a telegram saying that he was called to Paris; that he (prisoner) had gone to Izant's for refreshments, where he supposed he had lost his purse. He asked me to lend him 5s., which I declined to do. He then left. I wrote to Mr. Howlett the same night. He wrote back saying he did not know the name of Goater. I believe the prisoner to be the same man.

Frederick Kerley, detective sergeant, said he received a warrant for the arrest of the prisoner, and he went to the Lewes police-station, where he took the prisoner into custody at 9 o'clock last night. He read the warrant to the prisoner, who asked the date of it. He replied, 6th of January 1875. The prisoner said he did not understand the *alias* of Hanbury Tracy, but supposed it would be explained when he got to London. Prisoner said he knew Mr. Hill, who was a barrister, but that he (prisoner) must have been drunk when he saw him, and he added that drink had been the cause of all his misfortunes. Witness brought him to London this morning.

Mr. Lewis applied for a remand.

In answer to the magistrate, the prisoner said that he was taken into custody on Tuesday, and the warrant was not issued until yesterday. He did not know whether that made any difference.

Sir T. Henry: Not the slightest.

The prisoner thought the statement made by Mr. Lewis in his opening speech, viz. that for fifteen years he had been out of his profession as a tutor, was calculated to damage him in the opinion of the magistrate. The fact was, he only left his last engagement at Midsummer last.

Mr. Lewis remarked that he omitted to mention that the prisoner had been previously convicted, and that his movements for the past fifteen years could be traced.

The prisoner was then remanded till Thursday, the 14th inst.

The following is a description of Gaultier: *Age*, 38; *height*, 5 feet 9 in.; *complexion*, fair; *visage*, long and thin; *hair*, dark brown, very slightly streaked with grey, bald patch on crown; *whiskers*, *beard*, and *moustache*, brown; *eyes*, blue; *general appearance*, inclined to slimness, regular features, good forehead; *dress*, shabby, dark great-coat, with velvet collar and breast-pocket, paper collar, small square-pattern mixture trousers, blue necktie. Gaultier is the son of a person who formerly kept a school at Sydenham; he has been a tutor in schools at Hammersmith, Lewes, Brighton, in Cumberland, and other localities. He was convicted, on the 15th of August, 1868, at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, for obtaining money under false pretences, and sentenced to 14 days' hard labour.

The Organising Secretary will be glad to receive any information with regard to him.

Publications of the Charity Organisation Society,

To be obtained at the Office of the Society, and through Messrs. Longmans, Paternoster Row, and all Booksellers.

THE HISTORY AND MODE OF OPERATION OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY. By Charles B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., Secretary. Price 3d.

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A HANDY-BOOK FOR VISITORS OF THE POOR IN LONDON, WITH CHAPTERS ON POOR LAW, SANITARY LAW, AND CHARITIES. By CHARLES B. P. BOSANQUET, M.A., Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society. Price 2s.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 123.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 20, 1875.

{WITH INDEX AND
TITLE-PAGE.}

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met as usual at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh, in the chair; Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. F. Anderson, Kensington Committee; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., Chelsea; Lord Wm. Compton, Major L. Prendergast, Major H. A. Sanford, St. George's; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney and Mile End Old Town; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., St. Olave's Union, Southwark; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; J. H. Cole, Esq., Deptford; C. A. Barry, Esq., Sydenham; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., G. M. Hicks, Esq., Additional Members; total, 26. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries; A. Scott, Esq., Visitor.

The Secretary said that inquiries had been made as to the reason of the Council prosecuting in the case of Goater. He had been directed by the Administrative Committee to state that Goater was believed to have imposed, or to have endeavoured to impose, on persons in at least five of the Society's Districts, and that letters had been received from the country stating that he had imposed on the charitable in a similar way in Suffolk, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Sussex, and other parts of England. It appeared to him that there was no material difference between his case and that of a street mendicant who rendered himself liable to prosecution by making a false statement as to the way in which he came to be in want of money.

ASSISTANCE BY EMPLOYMENT.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen asked whether any Committees

displayed lists of persons seeking employment in their office windows, and, if so, with what result.

Several members stated that their Committees put names on a Labour Register,—with some success so far as jobbing labour was concerned.

Mr. McGachen gave notice that he would repeat his question at the next meeting.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending January 9 the receipts had been £190. 19s. for the General Fund, and £4. 4s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,185. 6s. 10d. and £63. 12s. 9d. respectively.

That as there were no motions by individual members on the agenda proper of Council, they recommended in accordance with a resolution of April 27, that the Report of the Committee on the Position of the District Committees, received November 4, 1872, be reviewed in detail by the Council. *See Notice below.*

Also that letters had been submitted to them from Lord Lichfield, Dr. Hawksley, and Mr. Wilkinson with reference to a proposed alteration in the first paragraph of the recent pamphlet on the History and Objects of the Society, and that they had resolved to adopt an alteration suggested by Lord Lichfield.—*See Notice below.*

A letter was read from Dr. Hawksley, stating that an unavoidable engagement prevented his attending the Council, and requesting that the consideration of so much of the Report of the Administrative Committee as related to the pamphlet might be postponed till the following Monday.

After some discussion it was resolved by 13 to 4, that so much of the Report as related to the proposed alteration of the pamphlet should be treated as a recommendation instead of an order, and considered at the next meeting.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending January 16, 1875:—*Donations:* C. W. Bell, Esq., £1; S. Figgis, Esq., 10s.; 'A Friend,' £10; Mrs. Greenwood, 10s.; Mrs. George Lewis, £4. 4s.; Russell Scott, Esq., £15; Mrs. Ward, 10s., *Annual:* Rev. Canon Argles, £10; M. Blakiston, Esq., £5; C. E. O., £2. 2s.; Mrs. N. Cohen, £1. 1s.; A. Durward, Esq., £1. 1s.; Capt. Gardner, R.N., £1. 1s.; W. B. Gurdon, Esq., £1; Dr. Hawksley, £2. 2s.; E. Hill, Esq., £1. 1s.; A. C. Humphreys, Esq., £1; Lady Lawley (1874 and 1875), £4; R. B. Litchfield, Esq., £3; S. R. T. Mayer, Esq., £1. 1s.; Mrs. McGrouther, £2. 2s.; F. Montgomerie, Esq., £5; C. R. Moorsom, Esq., £5; Dr. Ross, £2; W. J. Smith, Esq., £1. 1s.; J. Tarratt, Esq., £2. 2s.; A. D. Thomson, Esq., £2. 2s.; Rev. W. P. Trevelyan, £1. 1s.; Sir R. Wilbraham, K.C.B., £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund:* Colonel Angus, £5.

The following business stands for Monday, January 25:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. That the opening paragraph of the pamphlet entitled 'The History and Mode of Operation of the Charity Organisation Society' be altered by the substitution of the words 'a few gentlemen' for the words 'Lord

Lichfield and others,' and by the insertion of the words 'after holding a Conference of representatives of London Charities' after 'less defined object.'

2. That a grant of £50 be made to the St. Saviour's, Southwark, Committee.

3. That a grant of £30 be made to the Bethnal Green Committee.

4. That a grant of £15 be made to the Deptford Committee.

5. That a grant of £20 on account be made to the St. Olave's, Southwark, Committee.

6. That a draft Information Paper, to guide District Committees in referring cases to the Newport Market Refuge, be adopted and issued.

Miss Octavia Hill to call attention to the first recommendation (as to local Charities) of the Committee on the Position of the District Committees, which reported November 2, 1872.—See *Reporter*, Vol. I. p. 162, or Appendix to Fourth Annual Report.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JAN. 10, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.	
Kensington	4	7	8	19	2	..	2	4	2	1	7	10	33
Fulham	1	..	1	2	..	..	2	2	1	..	..	1	4
Paddington	1	1	9	11	..	1	3	4	3	3	1	4	18
Chelsea	1	2	..	3	3	..	3	6	6	2	..	7	16
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	1	1	8	10	..	1	1	2	3	..	..	3	7
Westminster do.	..	1	1	2	..	1	4	4	2	..	..	3	23
Westminster:—													
St. James' & St. Anne's	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
St. Marylebone	3	2	6	11	..	14	1	15	6	..	1	7	33
Hampstead	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	2	3	1	..	4	6
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South St. Pancras	..	3	3	6	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	2	7
Islington	1	4	6	11	..	5	5	10	1	3	2	4	14
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	3	4	8	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	4	8
Strand	1	2	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Holborn	..	2	2	4	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	1	5
*City	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoreditch	2	1	3	6	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	4	7
Bethnal Green	..	1	1	2	..	1	1	2	1	..	1	1	3
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	3	1	1	5	1	4	3	8	..	..	..	..	13
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	3	..	1	4	..	2	1	3	..	2	1	3	10
Poplar	..	4	6	10	..	4	4	8	1	..	1	1	3
St. Saviour's	1	1	4	6	..	4	4	8	..	..	1	4	16
Newington	2	2	5	9	..	2	2	4	1	3	5	9	16
St. Olave's	1	2	3	6	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	1	5
Lambeth:—													
North	1	1	1	3	1	..	1	2	1	..	1	1	4
South	1	1	2	4	..	2	2	4	1	1	..	2	4
Wandsworth & Putney	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	3	7
Battersea	..	4	4	8	..	..	..	..	4	1	1	6	10
Clapham	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	4
Camden:—													
Grove Lane	..	2	2	4	..	6	6	12	3	..	3	3	16
Peckham	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	3	6
Greenwich	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	4	10
Deptford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	4
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lewisham	2	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	10
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	3	6
Totals	27	29	66	122	10	34	30	74	60	20	16	106	302

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of January 1875 was 36,885, and 62,637 received out-door relief, making a total of 99,522. This is an increase of 1572 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 6,008, 10,812, and 23,014 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 424. This is an increase of 190 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 130 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

FULHAM (AND HAMMERSMITH).—*Grant from Police Court.*—This Committee has received a grant of £30 from the Hammersmith Police Court.

WANDSWORTH (AND PUTNEY).—*Annual Meeting.*—On Thursday evening the third annual meeting of this Committee was held at the Assembly Rooms, Wandsworth. Sir Henry Peek, Bart., M.P., occupied the chair, and was supported by the Hon. Baron Pollock and Messrs. Alan Lambert, Gurney, Haydon, Kimber, Huntingford, Carruthers, and others.

The Chairman said he was glad to think that it was more than ever acknowledged to be the duty of every right-minded man to give a certain amount of his income—of course it would vary in different cases—for the benefit of those of his fellow-creatures who were less fortunate than himself. He thought it was a duty to do so, but he thought it was no less a duty to give with discrimination, for indiscriminate alms-giving was one of the greatest curses one could imagine. In Wandsworth people were so busy that they had not time to sift out cases, and therefore associations composed of intelligent men which would take upon themselves to do so, were of great local advantage, and placed those people who recognised the duty of giving under great obligations. That was the object of the Society which they were come to discuss that evening. The Society which they were discussing was a branch of a Society in London, and it came down to their locality and said, 'If you show confidence in us we will do the best we can in finding out the merits of the different cases, and will tell you which we recommend, and we will also say what cases ought not to be supported.' He had more applications from Wandsworth than from any part of Mid-Surrey, and when he looked round and saw the large amount of money which was given from bequests, and the amounts given by the liberality of the Wandsworth people, he did not know why it should be so. But he had more applications for assistance from there than from any place with which he was politically connected, and he did not think that ought to be. It had struck him sometimes, that the amounts given might be, he would not say wasted, but not made to go so far as they might go. The last sixpence he gave away without inquiry was twenty-five years ago, in the streets of Totnes, in Devonshire. He was there walking along on business, when a woman, who looked a deplorable object, asked him to give her something. He was never very open-handed to beggars, but he turned to a man who was near and asked if he knew the woman, and he replied it was a sad case, so he gave her sixpence and walked up the street to make a call, and shortly after came back to a chemist's, who said to him, 'Do you recognise your sixpence? You gave that woman sixpence'—and he replied that he did, as he was told it was a sad case, but the chemist said there was no more the matter with her than with him, and with the money that was given her she purchased laudanum. That was all the good his sixpence had done, and he resolved that as long as he lived he would never give to a beggar again, and he never had. He would instance another case. One day he received a letter from a lady; it was in the handwriting of a lady, and very well expressed. The applicant stated that she was the wife of a clergyman in extreme distress, but did not know where to go for assistance. He sent the letter to one of the Societies, as he had not time to make inquiries, and promised, if the report was satisfactory, to give £5. The report was satisfactory, and he gave the Society £5. First of all £1 was given, then a second, then a third, and then a fourth. He then got a letter from the lady, saying she was extremely obliged to him for his assistance, but her husband was better and had obtained employment, and she would not trouble him for the other pound. If she had wanted it she knew where to get it, but from that day to this it had never been called for. Those were two cases showing the disadvantage of indiscriminate, and the advantage of discriminate giving. Sir H. Peek then alluded to the old City custom of collecting money for the poor at Christmas time under the name of 'Inquests,' but which, to the great advantage of the City, was now discontinued. The Chairman then called upon the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Alan Lambert, who said that in the few remarks he had to make he should make use of the Report as his text. He wished to say that the Committee recognised with thankfulness the liberal assistance they had received during the last year, so that in no single case which had come before them had they been prevented relieving adequately for want of means. He wished to place great stress upon the word 'adequately,' for when they took up a case which they considered deserving, it was necessary, if they relieved at all, to do it thoroughly. The Committee set their faces against giving out the shilling or the sixpence, for that was not worthy to be called relief, and if they gave in any way it was done effectually, so as to carry the persons through their time of trouble, or start them fairly in the world. A large sum out of the total receipts was for special cases, the first of which was for £23. It was the case of a poor governess, who, in the autumn of 1873, was in great distress. She was completely broken down in health, and had nothing before her but the workhouse. For a time the Committee relieved her, and set to work to find out who had known her in past years, and they realised a sufficient sum to place her in a home, where she died in the spring of last year; but the Committee had the satisfaction of feeling that they had relieved a poor fellow-creature who had experienced a great amount of misery, and had kept her from ending her days in the workhouse. In case No. 310, where £63 had been

raised, he might fairly venture to say it was shown that the work of the Society was recognised and appreciated in the district. The case was one of a professional man, who had fallen into difficulties, and who had a wife and young family to support. The case was a thoroughly hopeless one unless something was done to enable him to recover his position. The Committee sent out fifty circulars and raised £60, armed with which they set to work, and succeeded in getting him passed through the Insolvent Court, and placed him in a position to begin life again, and he was now doing fairly well. He need not enter into the principles which guided them, for they were aware that the primary point with the Committee was that they never admitted relief in any case without it being thoroughly investigated by a paid officer, who had no power to give relief. The case comes before the Committee, and if it is one in which either from improvidence or wrongdoing, the applicant is not deserving of support, he is immediately told he must go to the Poor-law authorities for assistance. In connection with the Society they had a labour register for persons of good character awaiting employment, and he wished it was more extensively used by persons requiring charwomen or gardeners, as they had a number they could recommend. Emigration cases they almost invariably refused to assist, as in the state of the labour market they did not think it wise to encourage people to emigrate. He believed there was a career here for the healthy and industrious, and if they were not strong and industrious, it was unlikely they would do better in a place where they quired self-reliance. They had had some very distressing cases before them, where wives had been deserted by their husbands who had gone to seek for work; but he thought the Committee could not do better than let it be distinctly understood that the families would not be provided for except in the poor-house. Although it might seem hard yet he thought it was the best thing, for many men left their families thinking they would be taken care of in some way. He was glad to be able to state that they were working in perfect harmony with the Poor-law authorities, and received valuable information and assistance from the guardians, and also the relieving officers. On the question of the distribution of endowments he wished to say a few words. He found that in Wandsworth there was a sum of £650 annually received from endowments, and last year £470 was distributed, leaving £185. The balance seemed large, but had he been one of those who had the distribution of it, he should have been tempted to have kept it larger. Some remarks had been made which might have created some little soreness, but not the slightest reflection was intended on those who had the distribution of the fund. He was afraid that much evil was done in Wandsworth by the distribution of so large a sum of money during something like six weeks or two months, and it behoved the inhabitants to say whether, with that large fund, some better means might not be found for distributing it than at present. In September last a man came to the Society, as his doctor had told him it was necessary for him to wear flannel, as he was suffering from rheumatism, and wanted two flannel suits. The Society sent him to the churchwardens, suggesting that they might give him some, but he was sorry to say that their reply was that nothing could be given until Christmas, although they had £160 in hand, which he thought rather hard. He could see no reason why the distribution should be confined to two months, and ten months be allowed to shift for themselves. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he wished to say that the Committee was in great want of working members for Wandsworth, and his co-secretary, who had long been resident in Wandsworth, had been obliged to give up in consequence of leaving the locality. If any persons would come forward and help them the Committee would be glad. From Wandsworth came the most cases, which took up a great deal of time; but it was from Putney that they derived the working members of the Committee.

The Hon. Baron Pollock moved the adoption of the report. He did so with the greater confidence because he had been present at each meeting of the Society, which had taken place in that room, since the chair had been taken by their excellent member and friend, Sir Richard Baggallay, three years ago. What the Committee had promised they had performed. He looked upon the question they dealt with as one of the great questions of the time in which they lived. He was glad that their Chairman had grappled with the subject of promiscuous charity, which was a curse. In Marylebone and elsewhere the giving relief had been reduced to a system which rendered it more easy in a large district now than what it was in a small village a hundred years ago. Baron Pollock alluded to the distribution of endowments, which the Society was established to assist, and concluded by saying the Society was deserving of support, and he was sure would receive it.

Mr. Haydon, in seconding the adoption of the report, said that some few weeks ago he was coming from Waterloo Bridge, and one of his neighbours was in the same compartment with him, and a conversation upon the Society arose; when his neighbour, who was a beerhouse-keeper, said, "I used to receive from persons in the lodging-house on the Plain a large quantity of halfpence, but all at once they ceased," and he went on to say that since the Society had been established he had taken next to nothing, and should be obliged to shut up shop. That proved that the Society had

done good, and he believed it would effect a larger amount of good. He had seen the people go from those lodging-houses about nine o'clock in the morning, and return about four o'clock in the afternoon, when they regaled themselves with what had been given them; but nothing of the kind took place now. If the Society were to be discontinued they would have the parish as bad as it was before the Society was established.

The motion was then put and carried.

Mr. Ribton Turner said that at the present time competition between nations was of the keenest possible character, and they had to cope with France and Germany, who, by their provident habits and education, were taking the commerce which, in former years, England enjoyed. He estimated that two millions of people in England and Wales were in receipt of Poor law relief. The Society was endeavouring to do as much as it could, but it could not advance faster than public opinion would go, and if certain classes would keep mill-stones round their necks the Society could not remove them without the assistance of public opinion. He concluded by moving that the principles of the Society were sound and were deserving of support.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. C. Carruthers, and carried.

• AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received returns from the following affiliated Associations showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, December 26, 1874:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Econ	Glasgow	Horsham	Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarboro'	Wimbleton	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	13	24	8	1	19	5	2	10	7	3	2	1
2. Undeserving	23	24	8	1	19	5	2	9	22	13	1	1
3. Cases for Poor-law, or otherwise ineligible	5	13	8	2	18	1	3	17	16	5	3	3
	41	37	19	3	41	8	5	36	45	21	6	4
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	25	4	5	2	7	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	4	1	5	6	6	2	2	4	2	3	1	1
3. Private Persons	5	5	6	3	25	2	2	3	3	3	1	1
	29	10	11	10	31	7	2	6	5	5	1	1
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	66	27	5	18	2	7	3	11	3	25	1	6
2. Loans	20	7	5	3	1	16	1	5	4	1	1	1
3. Employment	3	2	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4. Letters for Hospitals &c.	14	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	69	41	27	31	11	10	6	29	5	30	6	6
	139	88	57	44	33	25	13	71	58	58	13	11
Reports sent out	70	20	20	35	2	2	37	12	10	10	10	10
Vagrants dealt with	14	842	18	429	19	112	29	24	358	24	358	24

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its eighth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office. There were present, Lieut.-General Cavenagh, in the chair; Major-General Bainbridge, Miss Erskine; Messrs. T. Clarke, D. Conolly, F. Fuller, A. H. Hill, W. Harris, W. A. B. Hamilton, Edmund C. Johnson, W. R. Kemp, R. Bruce Reid, and W. M. Wilkinson; Mrs. E. C. Johnson and Mr. J. M. Hutchinson, Visitors; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Secretary was instructed to endeavour to obtain a complete Report of the Proceedings at the Congress of Superintendents and Teachers of Institutions of the Blind, held at Vienna in August 1873.

The Committee further considered what was being done in London for the industrial training of blind adults.

THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—At the Conference on Sanitary Reform convened by the Mayor of Birmingham, and held on Thursday last, Sir Sydney Waterlow referred in his Paper to the meetings of the Special Dwellings Committee in 1873, and stated the conclusions arrived at. The public mind, he said, was now fully aroused to the great importance of the question, the Government was prepared to take action, and it was clearly their duty to give the Home Secretary all the external support they could. Mr. Baillie Morrison read a paper on the working of the Improvement Act in Glasgow. Sir James Hogg, speaking at Truro the same evening, made the announcement that the Government meant to legislate during the coming Session in reference to the dwellings of the poor in London and other large towns. He considered that no more important question could be brought before the Legislature of a great country.

ORGANISATION OF CHARITY IN NEW YORK.—We learn from the *New York Evening Post* that a conference was held on the 28th ult., at the Bible House, to consider certain points in connection with the work of systematising out-door relief in that city, and to point out a mode by which any sentimental or superficial objections to the system of registration inaugurated successfully by the Bureau of Charities last winter might be obviated. The special point enforced by the speakers was that the societies were themselves the parties most interested in this work; and results showed that the representatives of those societies present on the occasion felt the force of this argument, and were prepared zealously to give effect to the plan proposed. Invitations had been sent to all societies engaged in out-door relief, whose beneficiaries exceeded one hundred in number. Mr. Gordon was appointed chairman. Mr. Roosevelt stated briefly the objects of the meeting, and explained the difficulty experienced in obtaining from certain societies the information necessary for the registration of beneficiaries. He said that the public required, if possible, a simple, inexpensive, and effectual method of administering the funds now contributed for out-door relief in the city. Such a system should fulfil, among other things, the following objects:—1. It should exclude the unworthy. 2. It should check mendicancy. 3. It should protect the societies from imposition, and, by enabling their funds to go further, increase their efficiency. 4. It should secure the relief of all distressed persons by referring them to the proper societies. 5. It should check the unnecessary multiplication of fresh relief agencies on ground already covered. 6. It should strengthen the claims of existing societies to the support of the public. 7. It should show any overlapping of the societies in their work. 8. It should ascertain where distress and pauperism really exist. 9. It should point out and apply the remedy promptly. 10. It should give the power of ascertaining the condition, habits, character and resources of any given beneficiary. 11. It should serve as a basis for co-operation between the Commissioners of Charities or other public departments and the voluntary benevolent societies of the city. All these conditions could be fulfilled by the system of registration instituted and successfully worked last winter by the Bureau of Charities. Its simplicity, economy of operation, and effectiveness were demonstrated by facts. But its continuance must depend upon the co-operation of the societies engaged in this form of charitable work. The bureau was only anxious to secure the benefits of the system to the public, and therefore proposed to hand over this part of their work to a representative committee formed out of the societies themselves. No suspicion or jealousy need in this way arise among its members, and the bureau would place the copyright of its Directory of Charities, its materiel, &c., at the disposal of such committee, while any expense would be compensated by the increased confidence of the subscribing public and by the diminution of the claims of unworthy persons on the funds of the societies. The following resolution was thereupon proposed, and, after a full discussion, carried unanimously:—

Whereas the Bureau of Charities has laid before the representatives of certain societies engaged in out-door relief a plan for registering beneficiaries of the different societies which has been inaugurated and worked successfully by it during the last winter; and

Whereas the permanent success of such a plan seems to depend on the effective co-operation of the various societies interested; and

Whereas in this way the worthy could be most effectually assisted without any chance of publicity, and the objects of the subscribing public most completely realised, while the fraudulent would be exposed and prevented from obtaining assistance; and all pretext for street mendicancy would thus be removed;

Resolved, That the representatives of the societies here present pledge themselves to use their influence to form a committee composed of members of the respective societies to carry out this branch of the work in co-operation with the Bureau of Charities.

A committee of five was then appointed to carry out the above resolution, and to report at an early date.

CASE OF GOATER.

At the Bow Street Police Court, on the 14th inst., *Alphæus Marcus Gaultier*, alias *Goater*, alias *Hanbury Tracy*, 38, described as a tutor, was charged on remand before Sir Thomas Henry with obtaining, and attempting to obtain, by false pretences, various sums of money from Mr. Alsager Hay Hill, the Rev. C. T. Ackland, the Rev. A. J. Rivington, and others.

Mr. George Lewis, Jun., prosecuted on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society.

The Rev. Reginald Hay Hill, Rector of St. Peter's, Thetford, and brother of Mr. Alsager Hay Hill who was examined last week, said that he did not know the prisoner either under the name of Tracy or Gaultier.

The Rev. Henry Howlett, Curate of Meppershall, Bedfordshire, whose name had been used to the Rev. C. T. Ackland, said he did not know the prisoner.

The Rev. John Alfred Rivington, assistant master at the Cathedral School, Chapter-house, St. Paul's Churchyard, said that on the 10th July last the prisoner called upon him, and gave the name of Gaultier. He stated that he was a friend of the Rev. A. Barff's, of 1 Amen-court, and that he had called on him and failed to find him in. He said he had

obtained a situation as master in Ipswich Grammar School, and was on his way there, but was unfortunately left without money, and he asked witness to advance him some. He said he wanted a sovereign, which witness gave him. He promised to return it the next day. He came the next day in a cab very drunk, and asked for some more money to pay the cab. Witness gave him half-a-crown for the sake of the cabman, but the prisoner absconded with the money, and left the cabman unpaid. He gave the prisoner the money believing him to be a friend of Mr. Barff's.

The Rev. Albert Barff, 1 Amen Court, head master of the Cathedral School, said he had no knowledge whatever of the prisoner, nor had he given him authority to use his name.

Mr. Lewis here applied for another remand, as he wished to bring evidence against the prisoner from Liverpool. It was wished to bring three cases against the prisoner, as it was well known that he had been all over the country defrauding clergymen and others by pretending to be well known to their friends. The prisoner, Mr. Lewis stated, had already been convicted of a similar offence at Canterbury, on the 6th of August, 1860.

Sir T. Henry granted the remand, and allowed the witnesses from the country to be bound over to appear at the trial.

The prisoner was remanded till to-morrow, the 21st inst.

The following is a description of Gaultier: Age, 38; height, 5 feet 10 in.; complexion, fair; visage, long and thin; hair, dark brown, very slightly streaked with grey, bald patch on crown; whiskers, beard, and moustache, brown; eyes, blue; general appearance, inclined to slimness, regular features, good forehead; dress, shabby, dark great-coat, with velvet collar and breast-pocket, paper collar, small square-pattern mixture trousers, blue necktie. Gaultier is the son of a person who formerly kept a school at Sydenham; he has been a tutor in schools at Hammersmith, Lewes, Brighton, in Cumberland, and other localities. He was convicted, on the 15th of August, 1868, at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, for obtaining money under false pretences, and sentenced to 14 days' hard labour.

The Organising Secretary will be glad to receive any information with regard to him.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDDICITY.

No. 124.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 27, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met as usual at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. F. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Sir R. M. Stephenson, *Paddington*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. E. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lord William Compton, Major L. Prendergast, Major H. A. Sanford, W. Wightman Wood, Esq., *St. George's*; Henry Peto, Esq., *Westminster Union (St. James's and St. Ann's, Soho)*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, C. J. Tarring, Esq., *South St. Pancras*; J. Burdett Roberts, Esq., *Islington*; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, *St. Giles' and Bloomsbury*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Sir R. Wilbraham, K.C.B., *Holborn*; Rev. H. J. Cummins, *City*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Russell H. Barrington, Esq., Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney and Mile End Old Town*; S. O. Bosanquet, Esq., F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., Allen D. Graham, Esq., *St. Saviour's, Southwark*; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., *St. Olave's Union, Southwark*; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., *Lambeth*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camden*; I. H. Cole, Esq., *Deptford*; George Parker, Esq., J.P., *Lewisham*; Captain Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Alanger Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., J. W. Willis-Band, Esq., Dr. Hawksley, *Additional Members*; total, 44. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., *Secretaries*; A. C. Mitchell, Esq., Rev. H. Solly, *Visitors*.

A letter was read from the St. Giles' Committee, stating that the Hon. E. F. Kenyon and Mr. R. A. Kinglake would be representatives at the Council, and Mr. J. Bickersteth and Mr. Heneage Wynne Finch would be hon. secretaries.

The Secretary stated that the printer had still about fifteen sets of the *Reporter* for 1873, and that if any Committee or subscriber wished to have these bound up in one volume with the numbers for 1874, it might very appropriately be done, as

the paging was continuous, owing to an oversight at the beginning of 1874.

ASSISTANCE BY EMPLOYMENT.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen asked, according to notice, whether any Committees displayed lists of persons seeking employment in their office windows, and with what result?

Mr. Seton-Karr said that the Chelsea Committee had not put any list in their window, but had circulated slips in their District announcing that they were prepared to recommend persons, and had inserted this in their annual report. The applications which they received for charwomen and similar occasional labour were slightly on the increase.

Sir R. Wilbraham said that the Holborn Committee attained a similar end by advertising in a local paper.

The Rev. H. F. Mallet said that his Committee (*Hampstead*) had a standing advertisement in the local paper, with a similar offer.

Mr. Edgcombe said that the Kensington Committee had never displayed any list. He did not think that would be a convenient course, as the cases were, many of them, peculiar. They had a notice-board announcing their willingness to recommend persons, and when any employer applied, the member of Committee who took charge of the Register tried to find the right person. They had found permanent employment for some, casual employment for many. They had had complaints of some of those they recommended; this was to be expected. It was people who had sunk to the bottom that came to their office, and for whom they tried to get a fresh start. They only recommended people after making inquiry about them.

Sir Macdonald Stephenson handed in a written statement; also printed slips describing the classes of persons on their Labour Register, which were circulated by the Paddington Committee.

Mr. A. H. Hill assumed that the Labour Registers were only intended for persons in distress, who applied at the office on that ground, and for whose distress employment was thought to be the appropriate remedy. An ordinary workman should not be encouraged to come to a Charity Office to seek for work.

Miss Octavia Hill said that the Marylebone Committee preferred using local registries.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending January 2 the receipts had been £86. 12s. for the General Fund, and £15 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,261. 4s. 4d. and £68. 12s. 9d. respectively.

Also that they had directed that the four recommendations for grants should have precedence of the recommendation as to the alteration of the pamphlet, on the agenda paper of the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Grants of £50, £30, and £15 were made to the St.

Saviour's (Southwark), Bethnal Green, and Deptford Committees respectively.

Mr. Russell Barrington urged that a larger grant should be made to the Bethnal Green Committee, but it was pointed out by Mr. Bund and the Rev. H. I. Cummins that it was unwise to increase grants recommended by the Administrative Committee.

On the recommendation that a grant of £20 be made on account to the St. Olave's (Southwark) Committee, Mr. Wightman-Wood moved as an amendment that the grant be increased to £50.

It was pointed out that the proposed grant was only intended as an instalment, the Administrative Committee not having yet had a full financial statement before them, and the original recommendation was adopted, 26 voting for it.

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY.

The Council then considered the recommendation of the Administrative Committee—

That the opening paragraph of the pamphlet entitled 'The History and Mode of Operation of the Charity Organisation Society' be altered by the substitution of the words 'a few gentlemen' for the words 'Lord Lichfield and others,' and by the insertion of the words 'after holding a Conference of Representatives of London Charities' after 'less defined object.'

Sir Charles Trevelyan moved the adoption of the recommendation. It was a testimony to the reputation of the Society that a slight mention of its origin should provoke so much warm feeling. The time for writing the Society's history had not come; its function was to make history, not to write it. Like most English institutions, the Society had grown in a rough-and-ready way. First, there was a general sense of a public want; then there were the first crude and imperfect attempts to provide for it; then by degrees a satisfactory system was worked out by the co-operation of many persons of various experience and turns of mind. Even after he had joined the Society, in the second year of its existence, it was still in an elementary stage, and the final constitution of the Council was settled many months after he joined it. He thought that the paragraph, if altered as proposed, would be correct as far as it went, though it would not tell the whole story.

Mr. Edgcombe would second the motion; he believed that the origin of the Society was as undiscoverable as the sources of the Nile.

Mr. Wightman-Wood said that he had received a printed paper of 'Objections' from Dr. Hawksley, in common, he presumed, with other members of the Council. He pointed out that it was not correct to call the pamphlet 'History and mode of operations of the Society'; only a few lines were devoted to its history, and all the rest of the pamphlet to its mode of operations. He would move as an amendment—

That the words 'History and' be omitted from the title of the pamphlet, and that the first paragraph and foot-note be referred back to the Administrative Committee to be amended in any respect in which they may consider it is inaccurate.

Dr. Hawksley argued that there was no such uncertainty about the origin of the Society as had been stated. It originated in a meeting held on June 22, 1868, at the House of the Society of Arts, over which the present Archbishop of Canterbury, then Bishop of London, presided, and at which Mr. Solly read a paper, entitled 'How to deal with our Roughs and Criminal Classes.' An Association was subsequently formed 'for the prevention of pauperism and crime.' The committee formed in consequence of the meeting divided itself into sections, one of which had for its subject 'The Means now in Operation for the Prevention of Pauperism.' He was

a member of this, and prepared a paper, which was read at another meeting, held at the House of the Society of Arts, under the presidency of Lord Shaftesbury, on December 17, 1868. After this meeting Lord Lichfield expressed his willingness to join the Association, if it would abandon its wider views, but he did not actually join till after two Conferences of representatives of Charities had been held at the House of the Society of Arts on the 11th and 25th February 1869. The title of the Society was not altered till the end of April, but the Association had restricted its action before.

The Secretary admitted that the pamphlet had not much claim to be called a history of the Society. He was often asked for a prospectus of the Society; and as neither the Manual nor the Annual Reports were quite suitable for the purpose, he had offered in the summer to prepare such a paper. He had only given such a general statement of the history of the Society as seemed to him requisite for the purpose of a prospectus, but had introduced 'History' into the title for the sake of distinctiveness. He had been at most of the meetings in 1868-69 to which Dr. Hawksley had referred, and did not dispute any of his facts, but thought that many influences to which he had not alluded had contributed to prepare the way for the Society, and give a direction to its work. He wished to explain, with reference to a statement at p. 11 of Dr. Hawksley's 'Objections,' that General Cavenagh, to whom the Administrative Committee had referred the matter in December, had sent him, with his Opinion, a sketch of the early history of the Society for the information of the Administrative Committee. This was the draft which Dr. Hawksley had seen. Two or three days later General Cavenagh had, at his request, sent him a paragraph for insertion in the pamphlet, based on the present first paragraph, and on an alteration which he (the Secretary) had suggested. This paragraph was adopted, with slight alterations, by the Administrative Committee, but was afterwards set aside for the alteration suggested by Lord Lichfield.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson would move, as a further amendment, that the whole matter be referred back to the Administrative Committee.

The Rev. H. Solly said he had attended, at Dr. Hawksley's request, to give his evidence if it should be wanted. He quite agreed that the Council ought not to give any more of its time to the question under discussion, but perhaps some members might be willing to give time to it; if so, might it not be referred to them?

Mr. A. H. Hill understood that if Mr. Wightman-Wood's amendment was carried, the Administrative Committee would have full discretion to omit all historical matter from what would no longer purport to be a history of the Society.

Mr. Wightman-Wood's amendment was then put and carried, 14 voting for it; and was subsequently agreed to as a substantive motion, the Rev. R. J. Simpson's amendment having been put and lost.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Jan. 23, 1875:—Donations: J. H. Law, Esq., £5; H. B. Mildmay, Esq., £25; J. S. Shadwell, Esq., £1; Sir C. C. Smith, £2. 2s. Annual: Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., £2. 2s.; W. M. Hale, Esq., £1; J. Lamont, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. H. G. Salter, Esq., £1; U. J. Kay-Shuttleworth, Esq., M.P., £5. 5s.; H. Sugg, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. R. Tomkinson, Esq., £5; T. Westcombe, Esq., 10s.; The Bishop of Winchester, £2. 2s. District Committee Aid Fund; W. H. G. Salter, Esq., £1; St. George's Charity Organisation Committee, £100.

The following business stands for Monday, February 1:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. That a draft Information Paper, to guide District Committees in referring cases to the Newport Market Refuge, be adopted and issued.

- '2. That a grant of £20 be made to the Shoreditch Committee.'
'3. That a grant of £15 be made to the Stepney Committee, as an addition to their Permanent Loan Fund.'

Miss Octavia Hill to call attention to the first recommendation (as to local Charities) of the Committee on the Position of the District Committees, which reported November 2, 1872.—See *Reporter*, Vol. i. p. 162; or Appendix to Fourth Annual Report.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
Kensington	5	6	11	1	4	5	5	1	1	21	4	2	1
Fulham	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	9	4	3	5
Paddington	1	1	3	5	1	1	5	1	2	15	5	8	5
Chelsea	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	8	6	2	2
St. George's—													
St. George's Division	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	24	6	6	1
Westminster do.	3	4	7	3	4	7	5	1	1	24	1	1	1
Westminster—													
St. James & St. Anne's	2	4	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	2	4	7
St. Marylebone	6	8	14	10	7	17	3	3	2	39	4	2	2
Hampstead	2	1	3	1	3	4	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	9	3	3	3
South St. Pancras	3	2	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	7	6	3	3
*Islington	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	2	9	9
Hackney	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	5	3	3	3
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	2	2	4	1	1	1	2	2	1	4	9	6	7
Strand	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Holborn	2	2	4	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shoreditch	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bethnal Green	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	2	5	3	10	3	3	1	1	1	15	2	4	4
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	1	1	4	6	1	1	1	1	1	9	7	2	2
Poplar	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	2	2
St. Saviour's	1	1	2	4	5	5	2	2	2	11	11	2	2
Newington	1	1	2	4	3	1	2	1	1	12	6	1	5
St. Olave's	1	1	1	3	3	1	2	2	2	6	1	5	5
Lambeth—North	3	3	6	1	1	1	4	1	1	16	3	3	3
Lambeth—South	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Battersea	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Clapham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Camden—													
Grove Lane	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	10	2	2	2
Peckham	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	10	2	2	2
Greenwich	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	10	2	2	2
Deptford	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lewisham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eletham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	27	37	64	128	7	33	26	66	55	17	9	16	97

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Report of the Annual Central Poor-law Conference, held in London, December 15, 1874. Knight & Co., 6d.

Report of the Fourth Annual Poor-law Conference of the South-Western District, held at Sherborne, October 28, 1874. Knight & Co., 6d.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its ninth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office. There were present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair) Dr. Hawksley, Rev. T. E. S. Catterna, Messrs. F. J. Campbell, T. Clarke, D. Conolly, W. Harris, A. H. Hill, Edmund C. Johnson, C. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, John Smith, J. L. Shadwell, and G. M. Tait; Mr. J. M. Hutchinson, Visitor; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

It was resolved, on Mr. E. C. Johnson's motion,—

'That the special industrial training provided for the adult blind in London is not sufficient for the number who require it.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

MARYLEBONE.—In January 1873, James Duffey, a blind man, was convicted of begging in the streets. Through this conviction he forfeited a pension which he had enjoyed for nearly five years from one of the Charities for the Blind. His case as an object of charity has been for some time before the Marylebone Committee, which, after a very prolonged investigation, could not entertain a very favourable opinion of it. There were circumstances, however, which led the Committee to invite a reconsideration of the case by the Charity alluded to; it did not recommend it, or pass any favourable judgment on its merits, but offered its services to watch it, if on a review the Blind Charity should consider itself justified in renewing its grant of a pension. The Charity has reviewed the case, and has re-granted the pension, but has ordered its payment to be made through the Marylebone Committee, giving it plenary authority to grant or withhold at pleasure. Having undertaken this responsibility, the Marylebone Committee would feel obliged to other District Committees if they would give early information of any act of begging coming under their cognizance, which in their judgment would seem to be an infraction of the conditions under which the pension is granted to James Duffey.

ISLINGTON.—A grant of £15 has been made to this Committee by the magistrates of the Clerkenwell Police Court.

GLASGOW CHARITY ORGANISATION ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Glasgow Association for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity was held in the Mechanics' Institution, Canning Street, Calton, on the 18th inst., to interest the inhabitants of the eastern end of the city in the objects of the Association. Mr. Dunlop, of Tollcross, says the *Glasgow Herald*, occupied the chair, and among the gentlemen present were—Colonel Buchanan, Drumpellier; Mr. J. C. Burns, Rev. Dr. George Jeffrey, Rev. R. J. Simpson (of St. Clement Danes, member of the London Charity Organisation Council), Rev. Dr. Symington, Rev. Mr. Rattray, Rev. Mr. Barras, Bailie Morrison, Councillor Waddell, Mr. J. S. Roberts, and Mr. Kenneth M'Leod.

The Chairman intimated that letters of apology for absence had been received from the Lord Provost, Sir James Watson, Mr. Holms, M.P., Dr. Walter Smith, Rev. James Johnstone, and Mr. F. G. Dougall. He then went on to say that the meeting had been called at the instance of the society formed in Glasgow for the purpose of organising charitable relief and repressing mendicity. It was not intended to restrict charity, but rather to promote it in every way possible, by diverting charity into its proper channels, and repressing imposition on the part of those who applied for charity, and exposing it. During the short time the Association had been in operation, it had exposed a great amount of imposition in the name of charity, and it was with the view of establishing a branch of the Society in the eastern district of the city that this meeting had been convened.

The Rev. Mr. Simpson, London, explained what the association was and what it was not. It was not a society for the abolition of charity, but one for regulating charity. Secondly, it was not a society for relief, but one to direct relief in other quarters. It was not an additional society, but one for the purpose of trying to direct the action of other societies in existence already in a wholesome and right way. He then described the operations of a kindred institution in London, and gave numerous instances showing how people were gulled by impostors. He proceeded to show that help given without inquiry was often wasted, and the money could be put to much better purposes. We learned from lips that could not err that we should, whatever our means might be, 'gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost.' The associators said—'One ought not to give without inquiry: it is part of a Christian's duty to himself, to his country, to his Maker; and it is also his duty to the deserving poor not to throw away the bounty Providence has entrusted him with, but, like a faithful steward, to give it to those who, after due inquiry and thorough investigation, are found worthy of that benevolence.' In that way one put his money to the best interest. In large communities there was always the danger of imposture, and therefore to have a society which should repress mendicity was desirable. The Association gave the best help to deserving poor men. All cases were thoroughly inquired into; and if a man wanted employment, he was put on the Labour Register, and they encouraged giving loans on the most easy terms. So, in the case of the poor man, the deserving, and the struggling, the Association was their best friend in the world, but to the impostor it was the most implacable foe.

The Rev. Dr. George Jeffrey moved the adoption of a resolution approving of the principles of the association. He said such an association was exceedingly needed in the eastern district of Glasgow. There could not be a worse thing for a community than indiscriminate charity. He knew nothing that did such injury to the giver, and to the person upon whom the gift was bestowed, than the indiscriminate charity which prevailed in that part of the city. It often happened that those persons who needed charity most were the least likely to make application for it. The great principle of the Society was inquiry, that being its special and most important feature; and it was therefore worthy of commendation and the

support of the public of Glasgow, to whom he recommended the Association.

Rev. Dr. Symington seconded the resolution. He expressed his conviction that there was great need for the existence of such an association, believing that in many cases the gifts of the benevolent had been squandered. It was their duty to consider the poor man's case, but they must consider it wisely. He did not wish to see charity repressed, but he desired it to be properly administered and applied, and this could only be done after inquiry into cases.

Mr. Thomson, Shawlands, spoke in support of the principles of the Association, and quoted, as an instance of the necessity for the Society, the fact that some of the articles of clothing given to the destitute recently had found their way to the pawnbrokers.

Mr. J. C. Burns followed, and explained why he had been led to take a prominent part in this movement. He alluded to the great interest Mr. Simpson had taken in the matter, and mentioned that the rev. gentleman and himself were going to Crieff with the object of ventilating the subject in rural districts. The aim of the Society was to find out the starving and the destitute, and to expose the impostor. On behalf of the Association whose claims had been pleaded, he asked that the men in the east end of Glasgow would, whoever of them were able, devote a little time in promoting its object, and co-operate in the operations which are being conducted. He was satisfied that in time there would be offices in the four districts of the city.

Baillie Morrison said if the association meant opposition in the smallest extent to the feeling of charity which exists in this large community, he for one would not be on the platform; but its object was to supply a great want, and it was for that reason he supported it. He believed there was no city in the United Kingdom where there was more public spirit amongst the wealthier portion of the community than existed in the city of Glasgow. There was no city, in proportion to its means, contributed more largely to religious and benevolent purposes than the citizens of Glasgow. The great majority of the givers, however, were men who, while they had money to spare, had not time, and in such circumstances the association supplied a great and important gap. Baillie Morrison then urged on the working men in the district to come forward and help in this work.

Councillor Waddel moved the adoption of a resolution, to the effect that a Committee be formed in the eastern district to co-operate with the Association, and to consider the propriety of establishing a branch; and if found desirable, to carry that project into effect.

The motion was adopted.

Colonel Buchanan also addressed the meeting, and expressed his sympathy with the objects of the Association.

Votes of thanks to Mr. Simpson and the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

CASE OF GOATER, alias GAULTIER.

At the Bow Street Police Court, on the 21st inst., *Alphus Marcus Gaultier*, alias *Goater*, alias *Hanbury Tracy*, 38, tutor, was charged on remand, before Sir T. Henry, with obtaining, and attempting to obtain, by false pretences, various sums of money from Mr. Alsaager Hay Hill, the Rev. C. T. Ackland, the Rev. A. J. Rivington, and the Rev. R. Isherwood.

Mr. George Lewis, jun., prosecuted, on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society.

It will be remembered that the evidence given on the last occasion went to prove that the prisoner had been in the habit of calling at different gentlemen's houses, representing that he had obtained situations as tutor in different grammar-schools throughout the country, and borrowing money to pay his fare to those places, which money he never repaid.

Mr. John Gregory Jones, secretary of the Liverpool College, said that the Rev. George Butler was the principal of the college, and that the prisoner was not appointed master to that college at any time during 1873. The college was formerly called the Liverpool Collegiate Institution.

The Rev. Hubert Ashton Holden, D.C.L., head-master of Ipswich Grammar School, said he had no knowledge whatever of the prisoner. He was not appointed tutor at Ipswich Grammar School during 1874.

The Rev. Richard Isherwood, curate of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, said that on a Sunday in November 1873 the prisoner called on him. He said that his (witness's) colleague, the Rev. Reginald Hay Hill, was a friend of his, but that, unfortunately, he was out of town. He said that witness could no doubt help him as well, and then stated he had come to town the previous evening, and that in getting out of a cab he made a slip and hurt his ankle, and while he was on the ground some one had run off with his purse; consequently he had no money about him, and as the old lodging-house keepers who knew him were dead, and others had taken their place who did not know him, he could not get anything to eat, and he would be greatly obliged to witness if he would give him something to help him on for the present. Witness referred him to Mr. Hill's brother, and declined to assist him.

Mr. Lewis said that the Rev. Arthur Canney, from whom the prisoner had also obtained money, was unfortunately prevented from attending through illness. He also stated that on August 3, 1860, the prisoner had been convicted of a similar offence at Canterbury, and sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment; on October 19, 1864, he was again convicted at Honiton, in Devonshire, and sentenced to six weeks; and again, on August 15, 1868, at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, he was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment. It was owing to the extended character of the prisoner's frauds on the charitable that the Society had taken these cases up.

The prisoner contradicted a statement made by Mr. Lewis to the effect that he had been getting his living in this way for 16 years. He said he had been in several situations during that time. He reserved his defence.

Sir Thomas Henry committed the prisoner for trial, expressing his approval of the action of the Society with regard to the case, and ordering that the expenses of the witnesses should be paid.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of January 1875 was 37,033, and 62,883 received out-door relief, making a total of 99,916. This is an increase of 394 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 6,992, 11,774, and 23,936 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 438. This is an increase of 14 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 146 on the corresponding day of last year.

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Every Saturday, price 4d. A Weekly Journal of the Progress of Hygiene of Cities, Towns, Rural Districts, Mines, Factories, and Habitations; the Food, Water, Gas Supply, and Drainage of Towns and Rural Districts; the Vital Statistics of Population; the Influence on Health of Trades and Occupations, and the Operation of Acts bearing upon Public Health.

THE SANITARY RECORD contains also Leaders, Notes of the Week, Reports, Reviews, Proceedings of Sanitary Authorities, Reports of Health Officers and Sanitary Associations, Law Reports and Commentaries, Answers to Correspondents, &c.

SMITH, ELDER, & Co., 15 Waterloo Place, S.W.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION

SOCIETY desire to invite the attention of those interested in the work they have in hand to their Collection of Reports of Charities, and works of reference on Poor Law and Charity, which may at all times be consulted at the Central Office, free of charge, together with the Reports and Suggestions of the Society on various Social Questions.

The Secretaries are authorised to furnish particulars with regard to Charitable Societies to persons desirous of such information.

The Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, &c., for distribution to suitable cases through the District Committees.

Contributions to the funds of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or at Messrs. Coutts & Co's, 59 Strand, W.C.

Draft Orders on Bankers for annual payments until further orders can be supplied to any who wish for them.

Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 14d.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 125.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY, 3 1875.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICE.

On Monday next the Office of the Saviour's Southwark Committee will be removed to No. 9 St. George's Circus, S.E.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met as usual at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; E. Waller, Esq., *Fulham*; Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lord William Compton, Major L. Prendergast, Major H. A. Sanford, Major C. C. Fitzroy, P. Ralli, Esq., *St. George's*; Henry Peto, Esq., Captain Elliot, R.N., *Westminster Union (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; F. Burdett Roberts, Esq., *Islington*; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, J. Bickersteth, Esq., *St. Giles' and Bloomsbury*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, *Holborn*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Rev. H. P. Kelly, *Shoreditch*; Russell H. Barrington, Esq., Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney and Mile End Old Town*; S. C. Bosanquet, Esq., *St. Saviour's, Southwark*; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., *Lambeth*; Rev. Dr. Thompson, *Battersea*; S. Etches, Esq., *Clapham*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; I. H. Cole, Esq., *Deptford*; Captain Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., *Vice-President*; Alister Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., G. Blount, Esq., T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 43. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., *Secretary*; Rowland Smith, Esq., *Visitor*.

A letter was read from Mr. Crowder, stating that a young man, named George Pavey, had lately applied to the East London Shoeblack and Woodchopping Brigade for employment, and enclosing a report of a very unusual character, which they had received from the Brighton Charity Organisation Society; he recommended any person to whom he might apply for assistance to ask to see this. The lad's left hand is useless, the sinews being drawn up in a peculiar manner.

The Secretary reported that Capt. H. M. Elliot, R.N., had been elected a representative of the Westminster Union Committee, *vice* Mr. E. Noel, M.P., and that Mr. T. P. Price had been elected an additional Hon. Secretary.

Also that the Society had lost a firm friend in the Rev. J. Bowstead, late Rector of St. Olave's, Southwark, and Rural Dean. He had for some time been the mainstay of the St. Olave's Committee, of which he was Chairman, and had been in communication with the Central Office within a few days of his death, which took place at the end of last week.

He announced that Lord Hatherley had consented to take the chair at the Annual Meeting of the Society, which would be held early in March.

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented copies of a pamphlet entitled 'Correspondence relating to the Canvassing and

Voting System,' recently published by the Charity Voting Reform Association.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending January 23 the receipts had been £52. 3s. for the General Fund, and £101 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,104. 14s. 9d. and £54. 12s. 9d. respectively.

Also that they had considered the reference made to them by the Council, and directed that the first ten lines of the pamphlet, to which objection had been taken, should be omitted, and that the title should be 'The Charity Organisation Society, its Objects and Mode of Operation.'

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A draft Information Paper to guide District Committees in referring cases to the Newport Market Refuge, under the agreement printed in our issue of December 16, was adopted, after some discussion, and ordered to be printed.

A grant of £20 was made to the Shoreditch Committee, also a grant of £15 to the Stepney and Mile End Committee as an addition to their Permanent Loan Fund, which they had been unable to increase beyond the £25 voted to them the previous year by the Council.

LOCAL RELIEF AGENCIES.

Miss Octavia Hill said that she had been asked to call attention to a recommendation with reference to promoting co-operation with Local Charities by a Committee which reported November 4, 1872. (See *Reporter*, vol. i. 162.) She thoroughly agreed with the recommendation, but it needed to be acted on rather than further discussed. The advance must be made by the District Committees; they must send members to the Charities, rather than expect all the Charities to send representatives to them. The Committees took charge of large areas, and they could hardly expect a busy clergyman, for instance, to come to a meeting which was in great part occupied with cases that were of no interest to him. It might be well if Committees were to follow the practice of some Boards of Guardians, and take the cases from different parts of their district together. The Report recommended that District Committees 'should invite members of their own bodies to take charge of fixed subdivisions,' with a view to communicating with the various agencies; she was inclined to think that relieving officers' districts might be taken for this purpose; there were six such districts in Marylebone, and she thought that one member might take charge of each for purposes of communication. The question would now be not so much of overlapping or investigation as of wise relief. This was the question that had to be faced. Some members should join each relief agency, and show, as cases came up, how they should be dealt with. Such persons would, she believed, be welcomed now, if they went in a right spirit. An abrupt change of plan was to be avoided. The poor had been

taught to look for relief, and it could not be stopped all at once. Relief agencies, too, must be expected to act differently in some respects from the Organisation Committees. They dealt more with cases of sickness, and could not always wait for the result of investigation. Her advice to relief agencies was to relieve cases pending inquiry, if they seemed to require it, but not to let that prevent their sending the case to the Organisation Committee for subsequent investigation. This led, no doubt, to some bad cases being relieved, but the evil diminished, for when once a case had been inquired into, any clergyman or charity into whose district they might move would be able to get information at once. Relief agencies dealing with small areas had an advantage in being able to see the applicants. She did not think that Organisation Committees should do this, but she was strongly of opinion that Relief Committees should require the attendance of the head of the family. Kindly cross-examination before a small committee, after inquiry, would often throw much fresh light on the case. Relief-work was best done in a small area, assuming that the relievers communicated with the Organisation Committee. In such an area there was continuous knowledge of cases. It was easily known, for instance, whether a loan effected its object. District Committees should look forward to giving up all relief, but to being used by the relief agencies for investigation and for loans.

Mr. Galabin pointed out that some relief agencies had no committees for members to join.

Sir Charles Trevelyan thought that what Miss Hill proposed was being carried out, in substance, in St. George's. The ecclesiastical districts (22 in number) had there been for the most part adopted, as the Church charities were almost the only charities. Where Parochial Councils had been formed some members of the Organisation Committee had always been told off to work on them, and in other districts the charities were known.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson saw advantages in taking Poor-law rather than ecclesiastical boundaries for subdivisions. It looked less like interference with the clergy. He had found the District Committee of great use to him in dealing with new-comers into his parish.

Major Prendergast thought it most desirable to take Poor-law subdivisions. It was essential that relief agencies of all denominations should meet on equal terms. It was very important that the primary investigation of cases should be undertaken by the Organisation Committee, rather than by relief agencies.

Mr. Ralli feared that the Poor-law subdivisions were too large; St. George's Union had only four relieving officers' districts, and one of these contained all Westminster.

Miss Hill pointed out that, however great the knowledge of cases possessed by local agencies might be, it could hardly fail to be increased by the addition to it of what the Organisation Committee had learnt. The Committee should be communicated with about every new applicant. It was of little use for the District Committee to make advances until there was some readiness to respond on the part of local agencies.

After some further remarks the discussion closed with an expression of thanks to Miss Hill for having brought the subject forward.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Jan. 30, 1875:—*Donations:* G. Hardy, Esq., £1. 1s.; Sir O. Lyell, £5; Miss I. J. Munro, £1; T. P. Parr, Esq., £1. *Annual:* J. Aitken Esq., £5; J. R. Blakiston, Esq., £5; A. G. Crowder, Esq., £5; The Earl of Egmont, £3. 3s.; Miss Frith, £1. 1s.; Capt. Hon. R. W. Grosvenor, £5; H. Hayter, Esq., £2. 2s.; H. W. Hoare, Esq., £2. 2s.; G. D. Lister, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss H. de Rothschild, £10. 10s.; General Spencer Stanhope, £5; The Misses Wakefield, £2. 2s.; Michael Willis, Esq., £10. *District Committee Aid Fund:* A. G. Crowder, Esq., £50; Mrs. Crowder, £1. 1s.; The Misses Wakefield, £40.

The following business stands for Monday, February 8:—

To consider recommendation of the Administrative Committee:—
'That an additional grant of £30 be made to the St. Olave's Committee.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS,

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JAN. 30, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underlying Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals &c.				
Kensington	3	4	1	8	..	..	4	4	..	8	16	4	6
Fulham	..	1	1	1	..	..	2	..	1	3	4	3	4
Paddington	..	3	3	6	..	3	4	..	1	6	17	11	1
Chelsea	8	1	1	10	..	2	2	1	2	3	20	15	6
St. George's:—	..	2	3	5	..	..	..	1	..	1	22	12	9
St. George's Division	..	5	7	1	1	4	2	1	..	3	3	3	3
Westminster do.	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	3	6	7
Westminster:—	..	4	2	8	14	10	9	19	5	1	44	13	9
St. James' & St. Anne's	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	3	2	1
St. Marylebone	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	3	2	1
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4
South St. Pancras	1	3	2	6	..	4	3	7	..	..	13	4	2
Islington	2	2	..	4	..	1	1	1	5	1	12	23	11
Hackney	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	2	..	2	4	1	3
Strand	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	1	..	1	4	6	9
Holborn	3	..	1	4	1	1	2	3	..	3	9	5	7
City	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	11
Shoreditch	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	2	2	4	8	..	1
Bethnal Green	..	2	2	1	..	1	..	1	..	3	7	..	1
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	..	1	3	4	1	2	..	3	..	1	8	5	4
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	1	2	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	8	1
Poplar	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
St. Saviour's	..	2	2	3	..	3	3	..	2	5	10	3	2
Newington	..	3	3	1	..	1	4	..	1	5	9	..	..
St. Olave's	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	4
Lambeth:— North	1	2	2	5	1	1	3	..	3	..	14	..	2
South	..	2	2	1	..	1	..	2	..	2	3	2	1
Wandsworth & Putney	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	4	3
Battersea	..	5	5	..	..	..	2	..	1	4	9	..	1
Clapham	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	3	3	..	10
Camberwell:—	..	1	1	1	9	10	2	1	..	3	16	2	..
Grove Lane	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	2
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	2	7	12	1	10
Greenwich	2	..	3	5	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	1	7
Deptford	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	3	3	1	3
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Lewisham	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	2	3	4	2	..	6
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Sydenham	1	..	1	1	..	..	4	..	4	5	..	1	4
Totals	29	31	62	122	7	36	21	64	54	18	13	20	105
											291	142	101
												93	

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

KENSINGTON.—Assistance by Employment.—The contents of the notice-board referred to by Mr. Edgcombe in our last issue, as displayed outside the Office of this Committee, are as follows:—'To RESIDENTS.—Persons requiring charwomen, needlewomen, knife-cleaners, women to take charge of houses, men to do casual work, may apply at this office.'

PADDINGTON.—Labour Register.—The following statement was received from this Committee, in reference to the Rev. J. D. McGachen's question as to assistance by employment:—

'The Labour Register was established to provide employment for applicants who attributed their distress to the want of it, and who, after the usual inquiry, were considered deserving and of good character.

'Slips informing employers that a Labour Register had been opened, and that those only were entered on it who, after inquiry, were found of good character, were circulated throughout the District, and every opportunity is taken of making known the existence of the Register, and employers of labour are encouraged to come to the Office.

'The Register is arranged under the heads of the various occupations, with columns for the number of the case, name and address of the applicant, and remarks.

'Whenever an application is made for a worker, the case papers are consulted before any applicant is recommended, and the name and address

of the employer is written on some official paper (generally an envelope), with the stamp of the Committee upon it, as a guarantee that the person applying for the work is sent from the Office, who in turn is required to return to the Office, and report if engaged or otherwise.

'The rate of remuneration is never interfered with, as this is considered a matter to be arranged between the employer and employed.

'Domestic servants are, as a rule, excluded, because, if admitted, it would place the office in competition with the legitimate business of Registry Offices, and because servants of good character have no necessity to apply to charity to obtain situations. A long illness or other unavoidable occurrence may have caused clothing to be pledged or parted with, and thus prevent a servant from obtaining a situation; such an applicant would be admitted, and possibly the Committee would assist in advertising, and when a situation was procured, help to obtain necessary clothing.

'In like manner boys are always discouraged in applying at the Office, as the demand for such exceeds the supply, and a little perseverance on their own part will always prove successful in attaining the desired object.

'The labour principally applied for is of a casual character, such as charwomen, the various kinds of needlewomen, knife and window cleaners, messengers, and such like.

'The Register serves in many instances, as a good test of willingness to work, and also if the want of it is a cause of distress, or only a plea for begging, as sometimes when a worker has been sent for, and this very shortly after application has been made for employment, the answer is returned, 'I have plenty of work now,' or even more forcibly, as in a very recent case, where the proprietor of a ladies' outfitting and baby-linen warehouse sent for a needlewoman, and one was sent to, who was known to be a good hand, when she replied, "that she could not think of working for a shop; she only worked for ladies."

'Great inconvenience, and loss of time and labour, is occasioned by applicants removing, and not giving notice of the same; this should be required from all whose names are on the Register.'

'From October 1, 1873, to September 30, 1874, employment in 109 instances was obtained for applicants whose names were on the Register, and this does not represent the full advantage applicants derive from the Register, as frequently one employer will recommend the worker to another employer, which naturally leads to a larger connection; and it often happens also; that the name and address of the worker is obtained on the first occasion, and when again required is sent to direct, and not through the Office.

'During the months of October, November, and December, 1874, forty applicants obtained employment through the Register.

Sr. GAZETTE'S.—The Hon. Secretary of this Committee writes to the Secretary of the Council:—"I beg to notify to you for the information of other District Committees that—(1) The case of a Margaret McCulloch has been for some time under close investigation, and has been decided to be ineligible. She has now left the lodging in which she was living, and we do not know where she has gone to. (2) A youth, aged 21, giving the name of C. F. Menteath, applied at this Office on the 27th inst. He produced a discharge from the 42nd Highlanders. He was offered Newport Market Refuge, pleading injuries, but refused to go. (3) Elizabeth Morewood applied at this Office on the evening of the 27th of January, stating that she had been sent from Newark Infirmary to St. Leonard's-on-Sea Infirmary. She was offered to go to the workhouse, pending inquiry, but refused."

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Report of the Lambeth Charity Organisation Committee.

Fourth Report of the Kent Mendicity Society for the Repression of Professional Vagrancy, 1873-4.

Eleventh Annual Report of the Liverpool Central Relief and Charity Organisation Society, 1873-4.

Report of the Monmouth Street Society, Bath, for the Occasional Relief of the Sick Poor and the Promotion of Industry, for the year 1874.

THE NATIONAL PENNY BANK.

The Prospectus of the National Penny Bank (Limited), which has just been issued, states the objects of the Company as follows:—

'1. The object of this Company is to establish a Penny Bank, on commercial principles, in London and elsewhere, similar to that which has been so successful in Yorkshire.

'2. The main wish of the promoters is to encourage habits of thrift among the industrial classes, to extend the facilities for saving, and to manage the business in such a manner as to secure that those in the receipt of weekly wages may use the bank. The establishment of "The National Penny Bank" on a strictly commercial basis, has been determined upon to prove that the industrial classes do not desire, or in any way need, charitable assistance to provide them with facilities or inducements for saving. At the same time the promoters, beyond providing powers to declare a dividend

not exceeding 5 per cent., do not enter into the scheme as a commercial speculation.

'3. The Yorkshire Penny Bank has been founded about fifteen years. It now holds invested deposits to the extent of nearly £400,000, and is a strictly commercial undertaking. Its success warrants the promoters in hoping that in London even greater results may be obtained.

'4. The undertaking is intended to be supplementary to the Post Office and other Savings and Penny Banks, but its minimum deposit will be as low as one penny.

'5. It is intended to make the rules and regulations of the bank as popular as possible; to bring the bank to the people; to start branches, wherever it can be done, at workshops and places of business; to avoid complicated and unnecessary restrictions; and, in fact, to carry on the work of the bank in promoting thrift, in the same way and with the same facilities with which a successful trader in any other business seeks to develop his custom.

'6. The bank proposes to facilitate the purchase of Consols in small sums, to promote Life Insurance both in the Post Office and elsewhere, to make known the advantages of Deferred Annuities, Endowments, and other means of saving, and to facilitate by the machinery of the bank, which will provide for the collecting regularly of small sums, the possession of such securities by the weekly-waged classes.

'7. As soon as one thousand shares are subscribed for it is proposed to commence business by opening a branch in each of the metropolitan boroughs.'

The following persons amongst others have expressed their willingness to assist in the establishment of the Company:—The Earl of Derby, the Earl Fortescue, the Earl of Lichfield, Edward Akroyd, Esq. (President of the Yorkshire Penny Bank, and late M.P. for Halifax), Sir Joseph Whitworth, Bart., and F. D. Mocatta, Esq.; and the Earl of Lichfield, General Cavenagh, the Hon. Edward Stanhope, Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, Major-General F. Eardley Wilmot, and Mr. G. C. T. Bartley are members of the Committee of Management. The temporary offices are at 112 Brompton Road.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its tenth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office. There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh, in the chair, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major-General Bainbrigge, Colonel Fyers, Dr. Armytage, Dr. Hawksley, Rev. T. E. S. Catterns, Messrs. T. Clarke, D. Conolly, W. Harris, A. H. Hill, C. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson; Mr. J. M. Hutchinson, visitor; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Committee concluded the consideration of what was being done in London for the industrial training of blind adults, and it was resolved:— 'That, outside the special training provided by existing institutions, there is a considerable and increasing, but still insufficient, amount of training towards industrial employment afforded to the blind, by means of the elevation of character caused by the instruction imparted by the visitors of the different societies, as well as by private individuals.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of January 1875 was 37,025, and 62,646 received out-door relief, making a total of 99,671. This is a decrease of 245 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 7,754, 12,094, and 24,799 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 430. This is a decrease of 8 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 144 on the corresponding day of last year.

EFFECT OF A LABOUR TEST WITH DETENTION.—In our issue for June 17 we inserted a paragraph from the *Daily News*, stating that the East-bourne Guardians formerly had a rule compelling casuals arriving at the workhouse on Saturday to perform the usual task of work before leaving on Sunday. During the last year some of these visitors objected to Sunday work, and after magisterial proceedings the question was referred to the Local Government Board. They decided that, although casual paupers could not be made to work on Sundays, they could be detained till Monday and made to work then. This the Guardians resolved to do. The result of six months' experience of the latter system was presented to the Guardians' meeting held on the 1st of last month, and it was shown to have worked exceedingly well. Only 26 casuals had come in throughout the six months on Saturdays, one a week, and it was remarked that no doubt these came ignorant of the new rule. We are informed that during the six corresponding months in 1873, when the old system of Sunday labour was in force, there were 110 admissions, and that during the interval in which no work was exacted—that is to say, the first three months of 1874—there were 57.

ACTION AGAINST A BENEFIT SOCIETY.

The following report of proceedings in the Winchester County Court, from the *Hampshire Chronicle* of January 16, refers to action taken by the Winchester Charity Organisation Society.

Bramble v. Taylor.—This case came before the County Court sitting at the Guildhall, under the presidency of Mr. Russell, on Wednesday last, and deserves attention, so that the public may well consider, before they enter any 'benefit' society, whether it is worthy of their confidence or not. The plaintiff, John Bramble, who was represented by Mr. White, resides at Fulwood, Winchester, and the action was brought against George Taylor, of 12 New Meeting-Street, Birmingham, as secretary of the United Family Life Assurance Benefit Society, the claim being originally for eleven weeks' sick-pay, from Sept. 28 to Dec. 14, 1874, at 7s. 6d. per week (£4. 2s. 6d.), less 5s. 9d., amount due for fees to the society during the same period, or a net sum claimed of £3. 16s. 9d. Plaintiff also claimed reinstatement as a benefit member of the society, or a penalty in case of default, as provided by the statute 18 and 19 Vic. c. 63, s. 42. The money claimed had been paid into Court, and therefore the only business was to settle the last items of the claim. Mr. White, after reciting the above facts, said that Bramble became a member of the society as long ago as April 1873, paid up his subscription month by month, and during that time he had received some payment for sickness. Nothing, however, occurred of consequence till last September, when he was suddenly informed his subscriptions could no longer be received. He was then compelled to apply for relief to the Charity Organisation Society, who had virtually instructed him (Mr. White) to bring the case before the Court, as they considered the treatment plaintiff had received to be very unjust. The only explanation given by the society was that the plaintiff had not complied with the rules in the first instance by going before a medical officer. But this statement was erroneous, because he had gone to Mr. La Croix. Several letters passed, and, in order to show the spirit in which the correspondence was carried on by defendant, he would read one of them. It was sent to the agent in Winchester, and was as follows:—

September 28, 1874.

MR. G. BENNETT.—DEAR SIR,—I now write to inform you concerning J. Bramble. It appears that he was not examined by Dr. La Croix when E. Arnold got him into our Society, which all persons entering the Sick department must be examined by a medical man. So now he has been found out. J. Bramble must be examined by Dr. La Croix, our Medical man for the district. For him to give us satisfaction that J. Bramble was a fit and proper person to become a Member of this Society, before you can receive any more money from him on our account and from all that I can gather concerning him, I think both you and us will be considerably better without him. And we hope that you will push especially the *Life Business* and we will render you all the help we reasonably can. And No. Dr. La Croix will use his influence in your favour, you had better see the Dr. and just try how much real Good business you can get.

Wishing you and yours every Needful good for this Life and a happy home in a better and Brighter world, when you have done with the Struggles of This present world [loud laughter, in which the Judge heartily joined]. Hope to hear from you soon yours Truly G. TAYLOR Secretary.

A summons was issued, and he (Mr. White) wrote to Taylor, but no reply came till last week, when the whole amount of the claim was paid into Court. Everything, therefore, was admitted by defendant, and now he simply came before the Court to ask for an order of reinstatement, or the penalty as prescribed by the Act. Immediately the money was paid he sent notice to defendant of the proceedings about to be taken in the County Court, as that Court had jurisdiction, under the Friendly Societies' Acts, wherever any one usual place of business was established within the County Court District. He could not call Mr. La Croix, as he was now on the high seas, having sailed to take a Government appointment at Dominica, in the West Indies, and there was nothing to show that this society was one worthy of public support. It was, perhaps, his duty to read the following letter, which purported to be signed by defendant, and was received on Tuesday morning:—

Jan. 11, 1875.

SIR,—John Bramble was told to send the whole of his contributions to our office that is due to the Society from him, with his contribution book, according to rule 23 and the notice on the contribution books.

H. White, Esq., Solicitor, Winchester.

Yours truly, G. TAYLOR, Sec.

Mr. White argued that defendant had no case at all, as he had waived everything by paying the money into Court. The Charity Organisation Society had sent to demand plaintiff's reinstatement, but only received an uncourteous reply.

His Honour made an order for the reinstatement of plaintiff in a fortnight, under a penalty of £50 in default, and also for the payment of costs.

DORSET MENDEICITY SOCIETY.—The number of vagrants relieved in the thirteen Unions of Dorsetshire, during the quarter ending the 31st of December last, was 857, being a decrease of 72 per cent. on the number in the corresponding quarter of 1869, the year before the formation of the Society, when 3164 were returned.

A HIGHLAND BEGGAR'S WALLET.—The Inspector of Poor for the parish of Killean and Kilchenzie forwarded to the poor-house, Lochgilphead, on Thursday evening, an old woman, well known in Kintyre for the last half-century as the 'Caillach na h'uidh,' or the old woman of the cave. Janet McCallum, for that is her proper name, is about seventy-five years of age, and obtained a livelihood partly by hawking and partly from the generosity of the public, and had never been in receipt of parochial relief. In conformity with the rules of the poor-house, she had to be stripped of her clothing on entering, in order to be dressed in the habit of the house. Her equivalent for a bodice was observed to feel remarkably heavy, and on examination a large bag was found secured to it, which, on being opened, was found to contain £45 in silver, £6 in gold, a Union Bank deposit receipt for £47—in all, £98, the whole weighing 11 lb. avoirdupois. Her 'pock' weighed 40 lb., and contained everything required in a kitchen and larder—cooking utensils, beef, several pounds of 'braxy,' herrings, bread, &c., besides small articles of clothing. Janet belongs to the parish of Skipness, and has been of eccentric habits for many years.—*Globe.*

NOMINATED GUARDIANS.—Mr. A. G. Crowder and Mr. W. Walker have been appointed by the Local Government Board as Guardians of the poor of St. George's East until the 15th April next.

THE SANITARY RECORD: A JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Every Saturday, price 4d. A Weekly Journal of the Progress of Hygiene of Cities, Towns, Rural Districts, Mines, Factories, and Habitations; the Food, Water, Gas Supply, and Drainage of Towns and Rural Districts; the Vital Statistics of Population; the Influence on Health of Trades and Occupations; and the Operation of Acts bearing upon Public Health.

THE SANITARY RECORD contains also Leaders, Notes of the Week, Reports, Reviews, Proceedings of Sanitary Authorities, Reports of Health Officers and Sanitary Associations, Law Reports and Commentaries, Answers to Correspondents, &c.

SMITH, ELDER, & Co., 15 Waterloo Place, S.W.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION

SOCIETY desire to invite the attention of those interested in the work they have in hand to their Collection of Reports of Charities, and works of reference on Poor Law and Charity, which may at all times be consulted at the Central Office, free of charge, together with the Reports and Suggestions of the Society on various Social Questions.

The Secretaries are authorised to furnish particulars with regard to Charitable Societies to persons desirous of such information.

The Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, &c., for distribution to suitable cases through the District Committees.

Contributions to the funds of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or at Messrs. Coutts & Co's, 59 Strand, W.C.

Draft Orders on Bankers for annual payments until further orders can be supplied to any who wish for them.

Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council.

A STRONG CASE for HALF-BINDING the NUMBERS

of the *Reporter* for 1874 has been prepared by Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., New-street Square, Farringdon Street, E.C.; and can be obtained from them through all newsagents, price 1s. 4d. If the numbers for the year be sent to Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., they will be bound for 2s. 10d.

COVERS in Dark Green Cloth, for filing current Numbers of the *Reporter*, may be had of Mr. STACY, 257 Euston Road, N.W., post-free, on receipt of 1s. 3d. in postage-stamps.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0
Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods, if accompanied by a remittance.

Post-office Orders payable to CHARLES B. P. BOSANQUET, at the Charing Cross Post-office. Stamps will be received in payment; but Subscribers are reminded that Post-office Orders for sums under 10s. can be obtained for 1d.

Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 126.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY, 10 1875.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICE.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in Willis's Rooms, on Wednesday, March 10, at 3 P.M. Lord Hatherley will take the chair.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

District Committees which have not yet sent in copies of their Annual Reports to the Central Office are requested to send them in with as little delay as possible.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met as usual at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon Kensington Committee; E. Waller, Esq., Fulham; Sir R. M. Stephenson J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr Esq., Chelsea; Lord William Compton, Major C. C. Fitzroy, St. George's; Captain H. M. Elliot, R.N., Westminster Union (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho); Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, E. Peters, Esq., Stepney and Mile End Old Town; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's, Southwark; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., St. Olave's Union, Southwark; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; I. H. Cole, Esq., Deptford; Captain Gardner, R.N., Eltham; H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., Vice-President; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., Additional Members; total, 28. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries; R. C. Brown Clayton, Esq., Visitor.

The Secretary reported that Mr. B. R. Balfour had been appointed Hon. Secretary of the St. Olave's, Southwark, Committee.

LOANS OF FIVE POUNDS.

Also that a District Committee having in five cases failed to observe the direction in the District Committee paper on loans, that 10 Us for £5 and upwards required to be stamped with a sixpenny stamp, as agreements, at the time they were granted, a request had been addressed to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to allow these 10 Us to be stamped, and to forego the penalty incurred in each case. The Commissioners had been kind enough to comply with the request, but at the same time gave a caution that the Board of Inland Revenue would not again deal so leniently with an omission on the part of the Society to comply with the law.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen asked how many of the District Committees had made loans of £5 and upwards.

Several members present stated that their Committees had

made loans of this amount to small tradesmen, persons wishing to migrate to the manufacturing districts, and others.

Mr. McGachen said he would put the question again next week.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending January 30 the receipts had been £60. 2s. for the General Fund, and £91. 1s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,148. 18s. 8d. and £110. 13s. 9d. respectively.

It appeared from the Report that applications for information, with a view to establishing Charity Organisation Associations, had been received during the week from Perth, Belfast, and Exeter.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BOOKS AND FORMS.

The following Report was brought up and read:—

Your Committee was appointed by the following resolution, passed unanimously at the meeting of Council, held on October 5, 1874:

'That, as it is very desirable to promote uniformity of administration in the various offices, a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider what alterations have been found by experience to be necessary in the various books and forms recommended by the Central Council.'

At the meeting of Council, held on October 19, 1874, the following seven members were nominated on the Committee, with power to add to their number:—Major-General Cavenagh, Major-General Bainbrigge, Major Fitzroy, Messrs. Edgcombe, Hollond, Peters, and Wightman Wood.

Major-General Bainbrigge being unable to attend, Mr. Hensley was appointed in his stead.

During the sittings of your Committee Honorary Secretaries and Representatives of District Committees were invited by two notices in the Reporter to submit suggestions personally or in writing.

Your Committee has held twelve meetings, all of considerable length.

At their first meeting they agreed that no change in the present form should be definitely adopted until the opinions of some of the Agents had been ascertained.

In accordance with this resolution, paid officers from seven Committees attended the ninth meeting of your Committee, and almost unanimously approved of all the proposed alterations.

Your Committee have had under their consideration all the books and forms recommended by Council for the use of Committees. They are as follows:—1. Application, Decision, and Relief Book, and directions; 2. Record Book; 3. Loan Ledger; 4. Loan Receipt-Book; 5. Labour Register; 6. Collector's Receipt-Book; 7. Application form; 8. Form for Subscribers; 9. Report forms; 10. Form of Acknowledgment; 11. Employer's form; 12. Previous, address form; 13. Schoolmaster's form; 14 and 15. Loan forms B and C.

They have considered the recommendations of a Sub-Committee appointed by the St. George's District Committee to consider certain of the books and forms, and have had before them samples of older types of Application Form still used by some of the District Committees.

They have also had submitted to them a system of accounts which the Assistant Organising Secretary had been authorised to bring before District Committees; but as it appeared that it had been carefully devised and approved by competent persons, the Committee thought it unnecessary to consider it in detail. They recommend, however, that the existence of such a system should be made more widely known to the District Committees.

Your Committee recommend—

1. That alterations, more or less important, be made in the following:—

- (a) Application Book and directions; (b) Record-Book; (c) Loan-Ledger; (d) Application form; (e) Employer's form; (f) Previous address form; (g) Loan form B; (h) District Committee paper No. 2, Loans.

And they append sheets showing the nature of such alterations.

2. That the following remain unaltered:—(a) Labour Register, (b) Collector's Receipt-Book; (c) Form for Subscribers; (d) Report forms; (e) Loan form C; (f) Schoolmaster's form.

They further recommend—

3. That the following new papers be adopted:—

- (a) A form of 'Loan Card,' in lieu of the Loan Receipt-Book hitherto in use;

- (b) The St. George's Form for Acknowledgment, in lieu of the form recommended by Council on February 4, 1874.

- (c) A paper of 'Directions' for the Record-Book.

- (d) A 'Report-Book' and paper of 'Directions.'

- (e) A 'General Index.'

- (f) A new edition of 'District Committee Paper No. 4, Books and Forms.'

- (g) A paper of Directions for using the Loan Ledger and Loan Cards.

And they append samples and drafts of the same.

4. Your Committee recommend that the Administrative Committee should be requested to consider:—

- (a) The expediency of a new edition of 'District Committee Paper No. 2, Loans' (with a view of giving more recent statistics of the Loan operations of some of the District Committees), and of 'Information Paper No. 3, Non-Resident Applicants.'

- (b) The removal of the words 'whether . . . furnishing Reports or' from Information Paper No. 4, page 2, line 2.

5. Your Committee further recommend that the District Committees should be urged to adopt and use the 'Report-Book' and 'General Index' at once, and to introduce the other books and forms into their offices when the books at present in use are filled up.

(Signed) C. C. FITZROY, Chairman.

RECOMMENDATION.

A grant of £30, in addition to the £20 recently granted on account, was made to the St. Olave's Committee.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Feb. 6, 1875:—*Donations*: J. Francis Austen, Esq., £21; Rev. G. B. Moore, £5; Lieutenant-General Lord H. Percy, K.C.B., V.C., £5; W. J. Thompson, Esq., £5. *Annual*: Miss H. Ballard Stevenson, £5. 5s.; Miss H. M. Ward, £1; Major Yard, £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: Mrs. J. Hincks, £2.

The following business stands for Monday, February 15:—

The Rev. J. D. McGachen to ask: 'How many of the District Committees have made loans of £5 and upwards.'

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe to ask: 'What the practice of District Committees is with reference to requesting other Committees to make inquiries for them, when such inquiries might be made through the post.'

To consider recommendation of the Administrative Committee:—

'That the Council undertake to arrange a public meeting in the East of London.'

ERRATUM.—In the list of Annual Subscriptions which appeared in last week's Reporter, instead of 'Michael Willis, Esq., £10,' read 'Michael Wills, Esq., £10.'

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Paddington, North St. Pancras, and Eltham Charity Organisation Committees.

Annual Report of the Scarborough Association for Organising Charitable Relief and Repression of Mendicity—1873-4.

Annual Report of the Plymouth Mendicity Society, 1874.

Eighth Annual Report of the Geneva 'Association pour Réprimer les abus de la Mendicité,' 1874.

Poor Laws in Foreign Countries, being Reports communicated to the Local Government Board by H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with introductory remarks by Andrew Doyle, Esq., Local Government Inspector.

Letter accompanying the Account of Donations received for Work amongst the Poor during 1874. By Octavia Hill.

The Doctor's Bill or No Doctor's Bill? A word to Working Men and their Families. By W. F. C. Jarrold & Sons, 1d.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEB. 6, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with						
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants Loans Employment Letters for Hospitals, &c.										
Kensington	3	6	4	13	1	1	3	3	10	6	5	5					
Fulham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	4	3	2	8					
Paddington	4	6	10	20	4	4	8	17	31	15	5	1					
Chelsea	2	3	5	10	1	4	5	4	9	7	1	1					
St. George's:—																	
St. George's Division	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	4	29	11	5	1					
Westminster do.	3	3	6	12	1	4	5	1	4	4	2	1					
Westminster:—																	
St. James' & St. Anne's	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	7	3	6	5					
St. Marylebone	5	4	10	19	13	11	24	3	48	18	11	1					
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	5	3	2	1					
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	5	3	2	1					
South St. Pancras	2	1	3	6	3	3	2	2	14	4	4	1					
Islington	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	5	3	2	1					
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	5	3	2	1					
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	7	8	1	1					
Strand	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	5	3	2	1					
Holborn	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	6	3	10	7					
City	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	5	3	12	1					
Shoreditch	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	5	3	6	1					
Bethnal Green	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	8	1	5	1					
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	5	3	2	1					
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	8	4	5	1					
Poplar	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	5	8	3	3					
St. Saviour's	1	4	5	1	1	3	2	2	11	1	3	1					
Newington	1	3	4	1	1	5	1	6	11	3	1	1					
St. Olave's	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	2	1	1					
Lambeth:—																	
North	1	5	5	2	2	5	5	5	16	3	2	1					
South	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	2	1	1					
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	5					
Battersea	2	2	2	2	6	6	2	8	10	2	1	1					
Clapham	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	14					
Camberwell:—																	
Grove Lane	1	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	10	1	1	1					
Peckham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	1	1					
Greenwich	3	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1					
Deptford	1	1	1	1	6	6	6	6	6	1	1	14					
Woolwich	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1					
Lewisham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	11					
Eltham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	5	2	7	7	7	1	1	5					
Totals	32	21	67	119	2	39	21	62	71	12	8	21	112	293	109	108	94

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fifth week of January 1875 was 37,031, and 62,493 received out-door relief, making a total of 99,524. This is a decrease of 147 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,145, 13,243, and 25,651 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 445. This is an increase of 15 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 156 on the corresponding day of last year.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its eleventh meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Lord Hatherley, Sir Rutherford Alcock, Major-General Bainbrigge, Col. Fyers, Dr. Armytage, Rev. T. E. S. Catterns, Messrs. T. Clarke, D. Conolly, W. Harris, A. H. Hill, C. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, and G. Martin Tait; Messrs. C. Coburn, J. M. Hutchinson, and U. J. Kay-Shuttleworth, M.P., Visitors; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Committee further considered Head I. c.:—'What is being done industrially for trained adults?'

It was resolved, on Mr. Martin Tait's motion:—'That the Committee are unable to learn that, as a general rule, there exists any provision in connection with the Blind Institutions in London for the employment of trained blind people, with the exception of those who are admitted by the process of election or by special selection; and they are of opinion that the facilities afforded for the employment of trained adults fall far short of what is required.'

COMING MEETING.

CAMBERWELL. — The Annual Meeting of the Camberwell Charity Organisation Committee will be held at the Vestry Hall, Peckham Road, to-morrow (Thursday), at 8 P.M.; W. Grantham, Esq., M.P., in the chair.

IMPROVEMENT OF UNSANITARY DWELLINGS.

In the House of Commons on Monday, the 8th inst., the Home Secretary moved for leave to introduce a Bill for Facilitating the Improvement of the Dwellings of the Working Classes in large towns. He said: In the course of the last Session of Parliament the Government gave an earnest of their interest in this question; first, by interfering with the action of one of the great railway companies in the Metropolis, and secondly by proposing a Standing Order, afterwards adopted, for the purpose of taking precautions in the case of other Bills of a similar kind from time to time brought before us. This is a matter which, as far as I am individually concerned, has long engaged my attention. But the attention of the Government was formally called to it early in the spring of last year by two memorials presented to the Prime Minister as well as to myself by two classes of persons, both deserving great attention. One of those memorials was from the Council of the Charity Organisation Society, who had given a great deal of attention to the state of the dwellings of the poor. They issued a very able report, and then presented a memorial to the Government, which certainly deserved their attention. They stated—

That the dwellings of the poorer classes in various parts of the metropolis are in such a condition from age, defects of construction, and misuse, as to be deeply injurious to the physical and moral welfare of the inhabitants, and to the well-being of the community at large.

The other body which addressed the Government was one of great eminence, and which has very seldom interfered with public business—I mean the Royal College of Physicians. So deeply did this eminent body feel that the condition of the dwellings of the poor in the metropolis deserved the special attention of the Government, that they stepped out of their way last year to present this memorial to the Prime Minister. They said:—

It is well known to your memorialists that overcrowding, especially in unwholesome and ill-constructed habitations, originates disease, leads to drunkenness and immorality, and is likely to produce discontent among the poorer portion of the population.

So that when the subject was brought before the notice of the House of Commons last year by the hon. member for Hastings (Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth) in a very elaborate and, he will allow me to add, a very able speech, well seconded by the hon. baronet near him (Sir S. Waterlow), I was able to give an assurance that this matter had received the attention of the Government and should continue to do so, and the pledge I then gave I now rise to redeem by asking leave to introduce a Bill on the subject." (Cheers.) Mr. Cross then referred to what had already been done both by legislation and individuals. Much had been done, but the action of individuals and associations had been necessarily insufficient, and legislative provisions had, as the memorial of the Charity Organisation Society pointed out, been 'merely palliative in their application to houses, the original construction of which was defective.'

The evil (said the memorial) can only be adequately dealt with by making it the duty of some public body, possessing a wider sphere of action and in a more independent position than the Local Boards and Vestries, and invested when necessary with powers of compulsory purchase, to initiate comprehensive improvements in the interest of the poorer classes, as has been done with good effect in Glasgow and Edinburgh and other cities, and, in a somewhat different form, in Liverpool.

The Bill would proceed, he said, entirely on sanitary grounds, and would have strict regard to these two canons—that the State ought not to provide any class of the community with the necessaries of life, nor to enable bodies of any kind to supply those necessaries at a much lower rate than the market price. But health was wealth, and looking at the question as one of sanitary reform, the State had great arrears to make up. It should never have allowed some of these houses to be built. 'To illustrate the evils arising from unsanitary houses, Mr. Cross quoted largely from the death-rate statistics for small districts in London, Liverpool, and Manchester, and then related at length what had been done in Liverpool, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, all of which he had himself visited, in the way of demolitions and new buildings. The Government thought that the Bill for the present, at any rate, must be confined to London and large towns—towns of 25,000 inhabitants. As to authorities for carrying it out, they had adopted for London exactly what was shadowed out by the Memorial of the Charity Organisation Society. It would be worked by the Corporation in the City, and by the Board of Works in the Metropolis, and by the Town Councils in other towns, and they were to be set in motion by the medical officers. When a medical officer reported that a district was unhealthy, owing to the badness of the houses, the local authority would pass a resolution that an Improvement Scheme should be prepared. This is to be accompanied by maps, plans, &c. All plans relating to London will be laid before the Home Secretary, and in other cases before the President of the Local Government Board, who, after due inquiries, will embody them in a Provisional Order,

so that the expense of a Private Bill will be saved. There are provisions for settling the basis of valuation and the mode of arbitration, and the Bill provides that when the sites are acquired the local authority shall not build, unless in special cases, with the consent of the Secretary of State. The House must not imagine that the results would be sudden or showy; he believed, however, that the measure would do the work silently but surely, and that in a few years the effects would be perceived.

Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth, Sir Sydney Waterlow, and Mr. Waddy congratulated the Home Secretary on the attempt he was making to deal with a great evil, and Mr. Cross having stated that the Bill would be in the hands of members by Wednesday, the second reading was fixed for Monday next.

THE HASTINGS MENDICITY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting, held yesterday afternoon, says the *Hastings and St. Leonards Chronicle* of January 27, initiated one of the wisest steps taken for some years. Greater publicity, and removal of the locale from the Town Hall to the Castle Assembly Rooms, helped to secure an influential and comparatively numerous attendance. Amongst those present we noticed several magistrates, a number of the local clergy, and ladies and gentlemen well known for their benevolent leanings.

The Mayor (G. A. Thorpe, Esq.), in opening the proceedings, said the Mendicity Society was doing a good work in the town, very quietly, but most usefully, in keeping the streets more free from vagrants. The Society had that day to report an addition to its usefulness in opening an Inquiry Office to gather information, so that those who had money to give away might have the opportunity of knowing that it fell to persons who were really worthy of charity.

Mr. S. Gutsell, the honorary secretary of the Society, read the annual report and statement of accounts. The treasurer's accounts showed total receipts £88. 15s. 10d.—a falling off of about £10. The expenditure, £106. 11s. 1d., left a balance of £17. 15s. 3d. due to treasurer.

The Rev. Dr. Crosse moved the adoption of the report. He explained the two-fold organisation of the Society: To give relief to the poor man travelling in search of work; and to see that, in cases of resident poor, help was bestowed in proper cases only. He felt it was a hardship to send a man who was really in search of work to the casual relief of the workhouse. It was impossible they could individually attend to questions of relief; but he thought they might be said to have performed, though in a perfunctory way, their Christian duty, in providing a bed, supper, and breakfast for the wayfarer. On the other hand, they had established a sifting process. As a Christian minister he was bound, in the interest of the poor, to find out whether there was deceit and fraud in the applications made to him for relief, because the fraudulent man took away the interest which givers had in cases of distress, and shut up the heart and the purse strings. In bestowing charity there should be as much test of the worth of an applicant, and the same security that it was well bestowed, as if a loan was made.

U. J. Kay-Shuttleworth, Esq., M.P., seconded. In the course of his remarks in support of the Society, the honourable gentleman explained his own position in connection with the Charity Organisation Society in London. The object and working of that Society he explained at some length, quoting largely from a paper read at Glasgow. He knew (he said) that the Mendicity Society of Hastings had done an admirable work in the town; and they had advanced a step or two in the direction of the larger Society in London. He had already availed himself of the services of the Inquiry Office, through Mr. Gutsell, and had found it work advantageously.

The motion was carried unanimously.

BEGGING-LETTER IMPOSTORS AT BRIGHTON.

The Brighton Charity Organisation Society is endeavouring to break up a gang of begging-letter writers, apparently with some success.

On January 29, as we learn from the *Brighton Daily News*, Edward Page, 44, a man of destitute appearance, was charged before the Borough Bench with begging. Mr. Brandreth, the honorary solicitor to the Charity Organisation Society, said the prisoner had been the companion of the man Quinton, who had been sent to prison for stealing an Inverness cape belonging to the Rev. A. D. Wagner, at whose house he had called for the purpose of begging. In the present case the prisoner, about three weeks ago, called at the house of Miss Crusoe, of 4 Montpelier Villas, with a begging letter. He said he was a tailor, and had lost the use of one eye, in consequence of which he could only do slop work; this, he said, was difficult to get, so that he was in want of pecuniary assistance. He also said he had a wife and three children. Believing his tale, Miss Crusoe gave him a shilling, and he left. He, however, came again about a week afterwards. The servant, finding that he wished to force his way in, remained at the door and endeavoured to prevent him. Miss Crusoe, hearing the noise, went to the door and gave him another shilling, in order to get rid of him. William Collingwood, the officer of the Organisation Society, who apprehended the

prisoner in Chesterfield Street, where he was lodging, said the prisoner was one of a gang of begging-letter impostors who had infested the town for some time. Mr. Brandreth intimated that he would bring all similar cases before the magistrates, and that he should ask them to deal severely with them, in order to relieve the town of such vagabonds. The prisoner, who said poverty had driven him to it, was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

Enos Griffin, 40, a waiter, was charged with begging. Mr. Brandreth also appeared in this case. He said that the prisoner had been a waiter at the Aquarium, and had been discharged for drunkenness. For some time he had been lodging in Edward Street. He had in his possession several testimonials of good character, one of which he (Mr. Brandreth) knew to be genuine. The testimonials, however, were all dated anterior to July 1873, and he should have no difficulty in proving that the prisoner was a begging-letter impostor. Louisa Ryder, a servant at No. 6 Alexandra Villas, said the prisoner came into the area a few days ago, and told her to ask the servants for some money to assist him in getting to London. She declined to do so, and he prevented her shutting the door by placing his foot against it. Collingwood said the prisoner had lived almost entirely by begging, and mentioned several gentlemen at whose houses the prisoner had called with begging-letters, amongst them being Mr. Carpenter, Brunswick Square, Mr. Hannington, North Street, and the Vicar of Brighton, who had referred the case to the Charity Society for investigation. The prisoner, who had been lodging at the Wellington Arms, in Edward Street, had given an incorrect address to the people to whom he had gone with letters, and had instructed the landlady at the incorrect address to give satisfactory replies to any visitor who might call concerning him. The prisoner, who was a respectable-looking man, was sent to prison for one month, with hard labour.

On February 1, Catherine Williams, a middle-aged woman, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for obtaining money from a lady by a false statement that she was suffering from cancer, and was about to go to the Cancer Hospital.

CASE OF GOATER ALIAS GAULTIER.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Tuesday the 2nd instant, before the Recorder (the Right Hon. Russell Gurney, Q.C.), Alphæus Marcus Gaultier, 38, described as a tutor, pleaded guilty to obtaining money by false and fraudulent representations from Mr. A. H. Hill and the Rev. A. J. Rivington, and with endeavouring to obtain money in a similar way from the Rev. C. T. Ackland.

Mr. F. H. Lewis was instructed to prosecute, and stated that the prosecution was instituted by the Charity Organisation Society. It appeared that the prisoner, who was a son of a former proprietor of the Sydenham Park School, was a man of education, and had formerly filled a respectable position in society, but there were good grounds for believing that he had, for a period of nearly nineteen years, been carrying on a systematic plan of defrauding benevolent persons by false and fictitious representations. In the cases to which the prisoner had pleaded guilty it appeared that he had represented that he had been appointed a master in various schools in the country, but was short of the means to enable him to go to the place where he had obtained the appointment. On the faith of these representations sums were lent to him in the first two cases, but it turned out that all his stories were fictitious, and the Charity Organisation Society, by whom the matter was investigated, felt it their duty to institute the present prosecution. There was this aggravation in the case, that the prisoner had been three times before convicted of a similar offence, first at Canterbury, in 1860, when he was sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment; next at Honiton, in Devon, in 1864, where he was sentenced to six weeks, and again at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in 1868, where he was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment. The prisoner had also been recently tried at Lewes for a similar offence, and had escaped owing to a flaw in the indictment.

The prisoner, when called upon, made a long statement to the Court, to the effect that he was a man of education, and had filled responsible positions in different schools, which he declined to name publicly, and that he had been brought into his present position through drink. He assured the Court that if a lenient sentence were passed upon him it was the intention of his friends to send him to America, where he might have a chance of retrieving his position.

The Recorder said he considered the prisoner had committed a very serious offence, and the public were very much indebted to the Charity Organisation Society for instituting the present prosecution. Proceedings like those to which the prisoner had pleaded guilty were most mischievous, and were calculated to prevent really deserving persons from obtaining assistance, by causing charitable persons, through fear of being imposed upon, to withhold the assistance they might otherwise have rendered. The prisoner had been three times before convicted of a similar offence, and under these circumstances he felt it his duty to sentence him to be kept in penal servitude for seven years.

THE SANITARY RECORD: A JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Every Saturday, price 4d. A Weekly Journal of the Progress of Hygiene of Cities, Towns, Rural Districts, Mines, Factories, and Habitations; the Food, Water, Gas Supply, and Drainage of Towns and Rural Districts; the Vital Statistics of Population; the Influence on Health of Trades and Occupations; and the Operation of Acts bearing upon Public Health.

THE SANITARY RECORD contains also Leaders, Notes of the Week, Reports, Reviews, Proceedings of Sanitary Authorities, Reports of Health Officers and Sanitary Associations, Law Reports and Commentaries, Answers to Correspondents, &c.

SMITH, ELDER, & Co., 15 Waterloo Place, S.W.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES of the Charity Organisation Society, and their Offices.

KENSINGTON—39 Holland Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—14 Devonshire Street, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—3 Leinster Street, W.
CHELSEA—5a Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Park Street, N.
HACKNEY UNION—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur Street, W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBORN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
SHOREDITCH—56 St. John's Road, Hoxton, N.
BETHNAL GREEN—297 Bethnal Green Road, E.
WHITECHAPEL UNION and ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST—19 Commercial Road, E.
STEPNEY UNION and MILE-END OLD TOWN—45 Portland Street, E.
POPLAR UNION—129 East India Dock Road, E.
ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK—9 St. George's Circuit, S.E.
NEWINGTON—Vestry Hall, Walworth Road, S.E.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, SOUTHWARK—172 Tooley Street, S.E.
LAMBETH—Archbishop Sumner's Schools, Kennington Road, S.E.; and 21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
WANDSWORTH and PUTNEY—The Plain, Wandsworth, S.W.
BATTERSEA—1 Clifton Terrace, High Street, S.W.
CLAPHAM—3 Polygon, S.W.
CAMBERWELL—1 Grove Lane, S.E.; and Meeting-house Lane, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWICH—14 Haddington Terrace, King Street, S.E.
DEPTFORD—Mission Hall, King Street, Broadway, S.E.
WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDNHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards the expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' of the Council.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 127.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 17, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in Willis's Rooms, on Wednesday, March 10, at 3 P.M. Lord Hatherley will take the chair.

NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The Islington Committee have resumed their morning meetings on the fourth Tuesday in the month, at 10 o'clock; on that day there will be no meeting at 7 P.M.

District Committees are reminded that guarantees for loans of £5 and upwards require a sixpenny stamp to be legally valid.

ERRATUM.—It was stated by an inadvertence in last week's Reporter that I O U's for £5 required a sixpenny stamp. It is the guarantees for the repayment of sums of that amount which are printed on the same paper with the I O U in the Society's Loan Form B that require to be stamped.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met as usual at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; E. Waller Esq., Fulham; J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Captain Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Lord William Compton, Major L. Prendergast, Major Sandford, Major C. C. FitzRoy, St. George's; Captain H. M. Elliot, R.N., H. Peto, Esq., Westminster Union (St. James's and St. Ann's, Soho); Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; H. Hay Hill, Esq., Strand; Sir R. Wilbraham, Holborn; Rev. H. G. Henderson, H. A. Herbert, Esq.,

Shoreditch; Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Russell H. Barrington, Esq., Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney and Mile End Old Town; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., Newington; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; I. H. Cole, Esq., Deptford; Captain Gardner, R.N., Eltham; C. A. Barry, Esq., Sydenham; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 39. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., Secretaries.

The Secretary reported that twenty-five copies of the volume just issued by the Local Government Board, on Poor Laws in Foreign Countries, had been presented to the Council. Mr. Doyle had incorporated in it some of the information which the Council had obtained and placed at his disposal, as to the mode of administering charity in foreign countries. He had been directed by the Administrative Committee to apply for additional copies, that one might be sent to each District Committee and affiliated Society.

LOANS OF FIVE POUNDS.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen asked, in pursuance of notice, how many of the District Committees had made loans of £5 and upwards.

A letter was read from Major-General Bainbrigge, stating that the experience of the Greenwich Committee had led them to the conclusion that it was not well to lend more than £2 at a time; in case of a larger loan the borrower either found the amount of the instalments, which according to the usual rule would be one shilling a week for each pound, burdensome, or took a very long time to pay off, or ought not to require a loan without interest.

Mr. J. R. Holland said that during the year ended 30th of September, 1874, four loans of £5 and upwards had been granted by the Paddington Committee. One of £5 had been made to a cab-driver who owned his own cab, to put it in a condition to be certified by the police; another of £5 to assist a poor person who obtained a living partly by letting lodgings, to pay arrears of rent and rates, which had gone behind owing to illness and want of employment; a loan of £7. 10s. had been made to assist in emigration; and one of £8 to assist a widower in paying for the care of his children at nurse. There was also a loan of £1. 19s. which was granted quarterly, and which therefore amounted to £7. 16s. per annum; this was also to a widower who had a child at an orphanage, where the quarterly payments had to be made in advance. The Committee made the payment, and the man repaid 3s. weekly. He thought that, as a matter of principle, there should be no fixed limit, but that practically large loans were not often desirable.

Several other members having stated the practice of their Committees, the Rev. J. D. McGachen said that the Bethnal Green Committee had only once lent so much as £5. He agreed that cases should be dealt with on their merits, but those only should be dealt with which were in a position to need charitable assistance.

INQUIRIES THROUGH DISTRICT OFFICES.

Mr. Edgcombe asked the practice of District Committees with reference to requesting other Committees to make inquiries for them, when such inquiries might be made through the post. He thought that when an inquiry had to be made of a well-known person, e.g. an employer, it was best to make it through the post.

Mr. Hollond pointed out that, in the case of a migratory applicant for relief, several offices might apply to the employer in succession, if they did not communicate with the office in whose district the employer resided.

Mr. Seton-Karr suggested that the employer might be non-existent.

A letter was read from Mr. A. D. Graham in favour of applying through the post, unless there was reason to doubt the respectability of the person of whom inquiry was to be made.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending February 6 the receipts had been £53. 8s. 5d., including £10. 2s. 5d. on account of the *Reporter*, for the General Fund, and £2 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,192. 2s. 7d. and £82. 13s. 9d. respectively.

Also that the Finance and Supervision Sub-Committees had considered an application for an addition to the staff in the Organising Secretary's department, and were of opinion—

First. That the system of record and check now in force is too elaborate and cumbrous. They have suggested some modifications in the mode of entering up the records which they believe will lead to a slight diminution of clerical labour, but there will still be considerable room for further improvement.

Second. That, in order to secure efficiency as well as economy, it is necessary that the department should be replaced upon its originally contemplated basis, and not continue, as at present, divided into two distinct branches. The existing division was sanctioned simply as a temporary measure, consequent on Mr. Turner's absence from the office owing to serious illness; to its subsequent retention, after the emergency for which it had been required and authorised had ceased, the present unsatisfactory state of affairs may in a great degree be attributed.

In the event of the Council concurring in the views above expressed, your Committee would recommend that, for the due discharge of the duties appertaining to the Organising Secretary's Department, the following establishment should be sanctioned:—

Secretary.
Assistant-Secretary.
Chief Clerk (to act when necessary as Head Inquiry Officer).
Inquiry Officer.
Clerk.
Assistant-Clerk.

And that they had adopted the above as a recommendation to the Council.

MEETING IN EAST LONDON.

Mr. Russell Barrington moved the adoption of the recommendation of the Administrative Committee—

That the Council undertake to arrange a public meeting in the East of London.

The East London Committees were in favour of such a meeting being held, but it would be difficult for them to make the necessary arrangements.

After some discussion the following motion was substituted for the recommendation, at Mr. Wightman Wood's suggestion, and was agreed to:—

That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to organise a meeting in the East of London (in connection with the local District Committees), to advocate the principles and objects of the Society; and that the Administrative Committee report to Council at the first meeting after Easter what steps they have taken, and what probability there is of success.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BOOKS AND FORMS.

Major FitzRoy moved the adoption of this Report, which

was printed in full in our last issue. He had himself tested several of the proposed alterations. The Committee owed thanks to Mr. Howgrave Graham for the pains he had taken as their Secretary.

Mr. Wightman Wood bore testimony to Major FitzRoy's industry as Chairman of the Committee. He would be sorry to unsettle any conclusion which they had deliberately arrived at, but there were two minor points which had not received attention, and he wished, therefore, to move—

That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to consider whether Loan Form A should not be added to the list of recommended forms, and whether the schoolmaster's form should not be further revised, and that in other respects the Report and its appendices be adopted.

Mr. Wightman Wood's motion was agreed to, and the Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Feb. 13, 1875:—*Donation*: F. A. Hamilton, Esq., £10. *Annual*: C. A. Angus, Esq., 10s.; Miss Hall, £1. 1s.; Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., £3. 3s.; Mrs. C. Hunt, £3; H. B. Praed, Esq., M.P., £1. 1s.; R. G. Tatton, Esq., £10; A. Trevelyan, Esq., £1; W. Wynyard, Esq., £1. 1s.

The following business stands for Monday, February 22:—

To consider a recommendation of the Administrative Committee with reference to the staff of the Organising Secretary's department. See *supra*.

Major FitzRoy to move: 'That whenever any recommendation is brought up by the Administrative Committee, or any motion is made by an individual, whereby expense will be incurred or additional work thrown upon the Central Office, an exact estimate of such expense, or of such additional work, be presented before any such recommendation or motion is discussed; and that such estimate be printed in the *Reporter* along with the notices of business for the ensuing week.'

Mr. Phillips Jodrell to call attention to Information Paper No. 4, and to move that the latter part of it—'Reports'—be altered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its twelfth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Sir Rutherford Alcock, Col. Fyers, Dr. Hawksley, Messrs. T. Clarke, F. Fuller, W. Harris, A. H. Hill, O. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, J. Smith, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson; Messrs. C. Coborn and J. M. Hutchinson, Visitors; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

A translation by Major-General Bainbrigge of a paper read by Herr Moldenhawer, of Copenhagen, at the Congress of Superintendents and Teachers at Vienna, on 'The Practical Results of the Education of the Blind,' was read.

The Committee then took Head II. into consideration:—'What more can be done through existing agencies.'

It was resolved:—'That the Committee consider that blind children under the age of five years should be taught at home to feed and dress themselves, and that they should, if possible, be taught to read by means of the various agencies for visiting and teaching the blind at their own homes; but that in order that they may be properly taught, when circumstances admit of home training, simple but adequate instructions should be prepared and circulated as to the best modes of managing and bringing up blind children.'

POOR-LAW CONFERENCE FOR LONDON.—The letter of Mr. Brushfield (the Chairman of the Whitechapel Guardians), says the *Metropolitan*, with regard to periodical conferences on questions connected with the Poor Law, seems to have fallen somewhat flat upon the metropolis, and hardly to have been taken up in the manner it appeared to deserve. The Holborn Guardians being equally divided upon the question, the chairman refused to give his casting-vote, and thus nothing was done in the matter there. We regret that this idea has not been seized hold of more readily, as we feel certain that a proper meeting of the kind would result advantageously to local self-government.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of February 1875 was 36,496, and 62,271 received out-door relief, making a total of 99,217. This is a decrease of 307 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,084, 15,203, and 25,539 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 402. This is a decrease of 43 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 106 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

RETURNED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEES IN WEEK ENDING DAY, FEB. 13.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with		
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Ages	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment Letters for Hospitals &c.	Class total						
gton	1	8	15	1	2	4	3	..	3	5	24	8	2	3		
gton	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	9	..		
gton	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	1	..	..	15	12	6	..		
gton	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	6	10	12	8	1		
gton's—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
gton's Division.	4	..	4	..	..	..	2	..	1	3	11	2	2	..		
gton's minister do.	..	1	6	7	..	6	6	1	..	7	3	..	..	..		
gton's nster :—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
gton's mer & St. Anne's	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	4	5	5	7		
gton's yelborne	6	..	5	11	4	13	25	6	..	8	45	11	5	..		
gton's read	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	2	4	..	..	2		
gton's St. Pancras and	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
gton's rate.	2	..	2	..	2	2	..	1	1	2	6	4	1	..		
gton's St. Pancras	1	2	4	7	..	3	3	1	1	2	12	2	3	2		
gton's m	3	..	1	4	..	6	1	7	2	3	16	17	7	2		
gton's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
gton's St. & Bloomsbury	..	2	2	..	2	2	..	1	..	1	4	2	4	..		
gton's	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	6	9	4	..		
gton's	..	1	4	5	..	1	..	1	1	..	2	8	4	9		
gton's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..		
gton's	..	1	2	3	..	1	4	3	..	7	10	..	2	..		
gton's Green	..	..	..	..	3	1	4	3	..	8	10	1	..	..		
gton's chapel and St.	5	4	3	12	..	4	8	7	..	3	26	7	3	..		
gton's in-the-East.	..	1	3	4	..	..	2	2	..	1	8	6	1	..		
gton's Union & Mile	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	..		
gton's Old Town	..	1	..	2	4	4	4	5	..	..	11	5	1	..		
gton's	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	4	1	1	10	4	4	..		
gton's	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	4	2	4	3		
gton's	1	1	3	5	..	..	..	2	..	2	7	5	2	..		
gton's North	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	..		
gton's South	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	5	2	1	5		
gton's North & Putney	..	1	1	..	1	1	4	1	..	5	7	..	2	10		
gton's	..	1	1	2	1	..	1	1	..	1	4	2	2	15		
gton's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
gton's	..	3	3	1	4	..	5	1	1	..	14	..	2	..		
gton's Lane	..	3	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	2	..		
gton's bam	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	6	..	..	12		
gton's rich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	10		
gton's rd	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	5	5	..	2	4		
gton's ich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
gton's am	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	3	2	..	16		
gton's am	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10		
gton's am	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	8		
gton's ham	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	3	..	..	..		
gton's	28	28	62	118	8	35	46	89	61	25	520	111	318	140	103	124

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

GEORGE'S (HANOVER SQUARE).—Mary Murphy, late of Leicester, is to this Committee.

TECHAPEL AND POPLAR.—These Committees have recently received of £30 each from the magistrates of the Thames Police Court.

BERWELL.—The annual meeting of the Camberwell Committee of Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity was at the Vestry Hall, Camberwell, says the *South London Press*, on May the 11th inst. Mr. W. Grantham, M.P., presided, and there were sixty ladies and gentlemen present—a respectable gathering, considering the character of the weather on this evening. Amongst those present—Revs. S. Smith, F. Richardson, F. Butanshaw, O. J. Meade, J. T. D. Morse; and Messrs. Denny, Gudgeon, Strong, Turney, Lewin, Galabin, and Ribton-Turner.

Grantham, M.P., said he was pleased to find so many present on a inclement night, as it showed that deep interest was taken in what was considered to be one of the most important subjects that could by any ability be brought before either a meeting of this nature or even before men in the House of Commons. The subject of almsgiving and the was one that dated back as long as England had been; and her men had been, he was going to say, unable to comprehend it, or at they had been unable to settle it satisfactorily for the country; in t would be found that more statutes had been passed upon this subject upon almost any other. He thought that fact alone would show how important the question was that they had come together to assist in g. After condemning indiscriminate charity as being injurious to cipient and to the commercial prosperity of the nation, he contended

that societies like the one in whose behalf they were now met accomplished a great deal towards ensuring a proper distribution of the funds of the charitable, and at the same time repressed mendicacy. He had stated that the subject was one that had given a great deal of trouble to the statesmen of this country; and he might remind them that the very first bill introduced this year touched upon this subject, for it was a bill to enable them to improve the dwellings of artisans, labourers, and the working classes generally—a bill which he thought would be of the utmost benefit to the country. He had been very much struck, on looking over some references to the old statutes, to find how the Government of the day had, year after year, in the earlier history of the Parliament of this country, tried to grapple with this question, endeavouring to accomplish what this Society now sought to do—to prevent indiscriminate almsgiving. Some of the old statutes he quoted, and then said that up to the present day no enactment had ever passed in Parliament which had really solved the difficulty, and no scheme had been successful until this had come into operation a few years ago. He contended that the system of the Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicacy was the best that had ever been suggested, and he trusted the Society would be supported as it deserved to be. He was informed that in this very large District the support given to it was not of that character which might be expected; but if this was so, he felt sure it was because the working of the Society was not so well known as it should be. In conclusion, he pointed out various ways in which greater support might be secured for the Society, and he trusted every layman would do his utmost to strengthen the hands of the Committee, so as to produce such an organisation as would not only be the pride and boast of this particular District, but the pride and boast of London itself. (Applause.)

The report was then read by Mr. Galabin, the Honorary Secretary, in the course of which it was stated that decided progress had been made during the past year in carrying out the objects for which the organisation was established. In various instances the Committee had made advances to enable persons to purchase tools, sewing-machines, mangles, washing-tubs, &c., to start in a little trade, to emigrate, or to remove to other centres of industry where they could obtain regular employment. Between September 30, 1873, and September 30, 1874, the sum of £64 was advanced in this way out of the funds of the Camberwell Branch, and £22. 15s. out of the funds of the Society for the Relief of Distress, through the Camberwell Committee. These loans had been repaid with a fair amount of regularity and promptitude. In extreme instances of destitution temporary help had been given while the cases were under investigation. Where these seemed to be past remedy, they had been referred to Poor-law and other agencies; but where anything could be done to lift the applicant out of the ranks of pauperism, there the Committee had rendered efficient help. In addition to the sum of £141. 8s. 11d. expended in this way out of their own funds, the Camberwell Committee had been helped to dispense the further sum of about £100, provided from the funds of the Society for the Relief of Distress and from other sources. From time to time they had been enabled to help the sick poor to become out-patients of hospitals, to obtain admission to convalescent homes, and also to purchase surgical instruments. The Committee had to thank the magistrates of the Lambeth police-court for a donation of £50; and they had also received, during the past year, a grant of £35 from the Central Society to furnish and fit up their office in Grove Lane.

The adoption of the report was moved by the Rev. J. Richardson, who made some sensible remarks concerning the great distinction there was between the poor man, the pauper, and the professional beggar. In his own mind he was accustomed to consider people as belonging to four different classes: (1) Those who were neither in want nor asked for help; (2) those who were in want but did not ask; (3) those who were both in want and who asked; and (4) Those who asked and were not in want. (Applause and laughter.) The noblest way to help the poor was to enable them to help themselves, and this he showed could be done in a variety of ways. One reason, he said, why, perhaps, this Charity Organisation Society had not received the great support which had been expected in Camberwell was, he believed, because there was in the parish a large mass of volunteer labour continually being applied to meet the circumstances of really deserving cases of distress and want. (Hear, hear.) With respect to the class of which he had spoken as asking and not being in want, it was necessary that the charitable should be constantly on their guard, and in this direction he was bound to admit that the Charity Organisation Society had done much good by their system of investigation.

Mr. Chute seconded the adoption of the Report, and in the course of his remarks showed that the Committee was a truly representative body. The Society was of advantage to those who came to reside in London, as it enabled such who had funds at their disposal to spend it in the proper channels. He also spoke generally concerning the objects and operations of the Society.

The report was agreed to unanimously.

A resolution, pledging the meeting to support the objects of the Society, was moved by the Rev. T. D. Morse, who particularly enforced the necessity of endeavouring to permanently improve the condition of the poor, and

who regretted that the Society did not receive that support in Camberwell which had been hoped; and it was seconded by Mr. Ribton-Turner (the Organising Secretary of the Society), by whom some interesting statistics on the general question of pauperism and the means adopted for dealing with it were furnished. Towards the conclusion of his speech Mr. Turner said the highest and truest function of charity was to raise people above the necessity of seeking for it. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

At this stage in the proceedings Mr. Grantham was compelled to leave, and the chair was then taken by Mr. Strong, J.P.

On the motion of Mr. Denny, seconded by Mr. Gudgeon, a vote of thanks was accorded to the officers of the Society and the Working Committee, the compliment being acknowledged by the Rev. Mr. Meade.

In response to a vote of thanks to Mr. Grantham, M.P., and to himself (Mr. Strong), the Chairman said that he would take care that Mr. Grantham should be informed of the compliment which had been paid him. Speaking as a member of the Camberwell Board of Guardians, he said he believed that great benefit had been derived from the working of this Society, dealing as it did with cases which the guardians, however willing they might be to help, could not. He also spoke of the great importance of keeping people from coming to the Board of Guardians for relief; not that there was any disgrace in receiving relief from the Poor-law Board, but that it was an unfortunate thing for any poor family to receive parochial relief—the effect of receiving something for nothing being often very disastrous and leading to hereditary pauperism; indeed, there were cases in this parish in which there were paupers whose fathers before them were paupers, and who were bringing up their children to be paupers. (Applause.)

HELENSBURGH.—The Helensburgh Association for Repressing Mendicity and for Improving the Condition of the Deserving Poor desire to call attention to circulars which have for some years been issued from Helensburgh stating a case of alleged distress, and to suggest that persons receiving such applications should, before replying, communicate with the Secretary of the Association, Mission Hall, Colquhoun Square, Helensburgh.

THE SEAMEN AND FISHERMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

At the Bedford Borough Petty Sessions, on Monday, January 25, before the Mayor (Alderman Hurst), Mr. John Howard, Mr. John R. Bull, and Mr. A. E. Burch, Thomas Sherwood Young (57), who gave his address as 5 White Post Terrace, Gravesend, and his occupation as a carpenter, was charged with obtaining, on the 23rd inst., by false pretences, the sum of 6s. from Mr. Fredk. Howard, Britannia Ironworks.—Mr. Howard stated: At the end of August last the accused called upon me and asked for a subscription for the so-called Seamen and Fishermen's Friend Society. The subscription of 6s. was paid, and on referring to a receipt for a subscription paid six months previously I sent a communication to the society, asking that, as the subscription had been already paid, the 6s. last given should be returned in stamps. As no answer arrived within about a week, another letter was sent, and both were returned from the Dead-letter Office, the society not being known. I communicated with a private inquiry office in London, and received a letter to the effect that they could not hear of such a society, and feared it was a swindle, as there were no New Victoria Docks. I kept the papers in expectation that the man would call on me again, and on Saturday last he did call. He asked me for my subscription, and I paid him 6s., for which he gave me a receipt. I told him I was not quite satisfied, and asked him if he had a copy of the report of last year. He said it was not printed; I asked him if he had one for the previous year, and he said 'No.' I asked him how it was that the society was not in the *London Directory*, and he said they were too late to get it inserted. I then asked if he had any credentials with him; he pulled out the book now produced, containing the names of captains, &c., but no addresses to them. I told him I should be sorry to injure him, but I must be satisfied with regard to the society. I showed him part of the letter from the private inquiry office to the effect that there were no New Victoria Docks. He said it was the postman's fault that my letters were not delivered, that the society had removed from Limehouse to the New Victoria Docks, and that it had been in existence twenty-two years. I said I should like to be satisfied that his story was genuine, and asked him if he would accompany an officer to London, so that he might point out the office of the society. He said he would go. I sent for Inspector Haynes, and they went together by the next train to London. The book shows that the man has been to Reading, Margate, and other places.—Inspector Haynes deposed that on the train arriving at St. Pancras the accused retired for a time, bolting himself in; and as he was heard to tear up a lot of paper the officer rapped at the door several times. When the man came out Haynes said, 'It is evident to me by your manner in tearing up that paper that you have been playing me false.' He replied, 'I have.' Witness continued: I said, 'Then why could you not have acknowledged it at the other end, instead of giving this trouble and putting Mr. Howard to the expense of our coming up here?' He said, 'I wish I had now.' I said, 'I think you have been at this game for years.'

He replied, 'I once did belong to a society, and I did think of giving this up, only I have an invalid wife and child with bad sight.' I took him into custody, and told him to give up everything he had in his possession. I received from him £1. 15s. 1½d. and the papers I now produce.—The Bench remanded the accused for a week.

On Monday, February 1, the prisoner was again brought before the same Bench.—Inspector Haynes deposed that he proceeded to London on Friday last to make inquiries. He found no such place as the 'New' Victoria Docks, neither did he find any such association as the Seamen and Fishermen's Friend Society.—The prisoner did not say anything in his defence. On being told he would be committed to the Sessions he asked to be allowed to go out on bail, but his request was not acceded to. *The Bedfordshire Times and Independent*, from which the above account is taken, says that the prisoner's books show that he has collected the following totals: In the latter part of 1872, £20. 18s.; in the year 1873, £64. 6s. 6d.; in the year 1874, £117. 10s. 6d.; and in January 1875, £12. 14s. 6d. His books further prove he had visited Bedford on the 14th of February 1873, the 11th of February 1874, on the 13th and 28th of August, 1874, and on the 23rd of January 1875 (the time of the present fraud). He has been living at Gravesend for the past twelve months and has some respectable connexions. It is also said he has frequently followed the occupation of a lay preacher.

[The prisoner has long been known to the Charity Organisation Society, and they have furnished information with regard to him to the Chief Constable of Bedford. An account of the proceedings against Young at Ware in connection with the same society will be found in the *Reporter* of July 3, 1872; Vol. I., page 122.]

THE POPULATION OF LONDON IN 1875.—The Registrar-General states that the population of London in the middle of this year is estimated at 3,445,100, which exceeds by 44,459, or 1·3 per cent., the estimate for the middle of 1874. The excess of births over deaths in 1874 was 44,788. It follows, therefore, that the gain to the population by immigration is very nearly balanced by the loss from emigration. For registration purposes London has for many years been divided into five groups of districts. The largest of these is the South group, which in 1875 is estimated to have a population of 1,054,083; the North group has 808,861, the East 663,810, the West 605,995, whereas the smallest and Central group has only 312,411 inhabitants. The population of this Central group, including the City, is estimated to be declining at the rate of 1·6 per cent. per annum; whereas the rate of increase in the other groups ranges from 0·9 in the East to 2·0 per cent. in the South group, where the largest area still remains to be built over.

A STRONG CASE FOR HALF-BINDING the NUMBERS of the *Reporter* for 1874 has been prepared by Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., New-street Square, Farringdon Street, E.C.; and can be obtained from them through all newsagents, price 1s. 4d. If the numbers for the year be sent to Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., they will be bound for 2s. 10d.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 128.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 24, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

The Strand Committee will keep its Office open in future from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met as usual at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Reading Committee*; W. Muscard, Esq., E. Waller, Esq., Miss Emma Howes, *Putnam*; Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Captain Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lord William Compton, Major L. Prendergast, Major Sandford, W. W. Moore, Esq., Major C. C. Fitz-Roy, P. Balli, Esq., *St. George's*; Captain L. M. Elliot, R.N., H. Peto, Esq., *Westminster Union (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. Hay Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. I. J. Cummins, *City*; Russell H. Barrington, Esq., Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney and Mile End Old Town*; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., *St. Olave's, Southwark*; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., *Lambeth*; R. M. Hensley, Esq., *Wandsworth and Putney*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Canterwell*; George Parker, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., *Lewisham*; W. Day, Esq., *Sydenham*; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-Presidents*; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 40. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

A letter was read from the St. George's Committee, stating that Mr. W. Westby Moore would act as a representative during the absence of Mr. Duff.

The Secretary reported that twenty-five more copies of the volume on Poor-laws in Foreign Countries had been received from the Local Government Board, and that a copy

would be sent to each District Committee and Affiliated Society; also that he had been instructed to send a list of the Almoners of the Society for the Relief of Distress to each District Committee.

OUT-PATIENTS AT HOSPITALS.

He reported that the Committee of the Royal Free Hospital had approved the suggestion of the Administrative Committee, that the Report on the Inquiry into their Out-patient Department should be printed, and that it was in the printer's hands. The names and addresses of 641 applicants had been taken down, without selection, and those who had conducted the investigation were of opinion, after making allowances for dependent relatives and other exceptional circumstances, that 12 of these could have paid a doctor's bill, that 231 could have subscribed to a provident dispensary, that 169 might be described as proper applicants, and that 57 should have gone to the parish doctor; 103 gave false names or addresses, and from about 69 no sufficient information was obtained.

TREATMENT OF DESERVING CASES.

Miss Octavia Hill called attention to the following extract from the Report of the Leeds Council Improvement Society:—

Twenty-four cases have this year been added to the 'deserving list,' which now includes 118 cases requiring more or less of permanent assistance. The 'deserving list' is dealt with by the Ladies' Committee, who introduce the cases to the notice of such charitable persons as are willing to take entire charge of them, personally to visit them, and to give from time to time the assistance and advice which may be found needful. This is a very important branch of the Committee's work, and is the natural counterpart of their effort to discourage indiscriminate almsgiving. There can be little doubt that as, in our large towns, the dwellings of the rich and those of the poor become more and more separated, and in most cases neither business nor pleasure lead the well-to-do portion of the population across the neutral ground to the districts where poverty and misery find their home, so the intercourse between rich and poor tends to become less and less. If this feature of modern town life is pregnant with danger, and if occasional contact with sickness and misery is a blessing to the giver as well as to the receiver of help, then the Committee feel sure that they are doing a good work in promoting personal intercourse between charitable persons and the deserving poor; and they earnestly hope that ladies or gentlemen who may be disposed to undertake the care of any case will communicate with the Society's Office, and give their aid to the Ladies' Committee.

She thought that the District Committees would do well to keep such lists. There were chronic cases which the Committees could not undertake to pension out of their own funds, but which they would be glad to put into communication with benevolent individuals.

Mr. Seton-Karr feared that the difficulty would be in finding a sufficient number of benevolent individuals.

HOUSES IN PYE STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Mr. Seton-Karr asked whether the attention of the St. George's Committee had been called to the condition of the houses in Pye Street, Westminster

Mr. Parry Woodcock said that he had known Pye Street for

long, and that its condition was 100 per cent. better than it had been twenty years ago. The lodging-houses had been greatly improved by being under police supervision.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending February 13 the receipts had been £30. 16s. 0d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,212. 2s. 0d. and £82. 13s. 9d. respectively.

Also that they had ordered that translations of three papers read at the Vienna Congress of Superintendents of Institutions for the Blind should be printed for the use of the Special Committee on the Blind.

A circular to the District Committees to accompany sample sheets of the revised books and forms was brought up from the Administrative Committee and approved.

THE ORGANISING SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

The Secretary read the recommendation of the Administrative Committee on this subject, which was printed in full in the last *Reporter*. He explained that the permanent staff of the Office had remained the same in number since early in 1873, though the work of the Office had much increased; in July of that year two extra men had been dismissed on the recommendation of the Expenditure Committee, and the question of extra clerkage and of an addition to the staff had been before the Council again and again since that time, but always with reference to the same number of men.

The Rev. W. H. Langhorne moved the adoption of the Report.

Sir Charles Trevelyan referred to the duties of the Organising Secretary. The establishment was already insufficient, and the Committee proposed to reduce it. He disputed the statement in the recommendation that the subdivision of the department had been sanctioned as a temporary measure; it dated from November 1872. This division of labour had worked well. He would move as an amendment:—

That a small Committee, consisting of Members of Council and the two Secretaries, be appointed to investigate and report to the Council upon their establishment.

Mr. Barrington thought that it would have been better if a Special Committee had been appointed to look into the whole arrangement of the Office. There was no doubt that the officers all worked hard, but the Committee thought that something might be gained by rearrangement. The departments of the two Secretaries were not well defined. He would like to see this reconsidered.

Sir Alexander Gordon said that the Administrative Committee intended that the Organising Secretary should subdivide his work as he thought proper. They wished to get rid of divided responsibility.

Mr. J. R. Hollond argued that no case had been made out for a reduction. Two extra clerks had been kept on for some time, so that the Report, which proposed to increase the staff by one person only, practically recommended a reduction. The result would be that the District Committees would get less assistance than at present. The District Committees ought to look to the Council for experience and assistance; but if this were to be so, the Central Office must not have its hands full of inquiry work. This could not be kept waiting. He would move, when he had the opportunity:—

That the recommendation of the Administrative Committee be adopted, but that no reduction be made in the number of Inquiry Officers until it be determined what work, if any, hitherto undertaken by the Society shall be discontinued.

Mr. Willis-Bund thought that no step should be taken which would prevent the Council doing the work it had undertaken thoroughly.

Mr. Mocatta thought it a matter of regret that larger powers had not been given to those who conducted the inquiry. The public were using the Society more and more, and the Council would have to use its best efforts to keep pace with the demands on it.

Major FitzRoy said that there was certainly no idleness in the Office. The question was whether labour could not be economised. There was much inquiry work done outside the metropolitan area for residents in London. Much of this was very well done; but the Council must make up their minds whether they wished such work undertaken.

Major Prendergast urged the Council not to waste the work of their Committees by rejecting a carefully considered Report.

Sir Charles Trevelyan's amendment having been put and lost by 11 to 5, and Mr. Hollond's by 10 to 8, the Report was adopted by 10 to 6.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Feb. 20, 1875:—*Donations*: W. H. Arkwright, Esq., £10; Rev. R. W. Bosanquet, £5. 5s.; Hon. H. S. Law, £2. *Annual*: The Earl of Aberdeen, £5. 5s.; Earl Fortescue, £1. 1s.; J. Faithful Fortescue, Esq., £1. 1s.; 'J. B. S.', £5; Mrs. Nassau Senior, £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: W. H. Domville, Esq., £1.

The following business stands for Monday, February 29:—

To receive and consider draft of the Annual Report.

Major FitzRoy to move: 'That whenever any recommendation is brought up by the Administrative Committee, or any motion is made by an individual, whereby expense will be incurred or additional work thrown upon the Central Office, an exact estimate of such expense or of such additional work be presented before any such recommendation or motion is discussed; and that such estimate be printed in the *Reporter* along with the notices of business for the ensuing week.'

Mr. Phillips Jodrell to call attention to Information Paper No. 4, and to move that the latter part of it—'Reports'—be altered.

Sir Alexander Gordon to move: 'That the Administrative Committee be requested to consider the work of the Secretaries' Department, and report whether any change in the staff is necessary.'

COMING MEETINGS.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, March 10, at 3 p.m., the Right Honorable the Lord Hatherley in the Chair.

The Annual Meeting of the North St. Pancras and Highgate Charity Organisation Committee will be held in the Theatre of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, South Grove, Highgate, on March 15, at 8 p.m., Colonel Wilkinson in the Chair.

CHARITY VOTING REFORM.

The first annual meeting of the Charity Voting Reform Association, says the *Standard*, of which the Duke of Northumberland is president, was held yesterday, at the Westminster Palace Hotel. The chair was occupied by Lord Lyttelton, and amongst others present were Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. Plimsoll, M.P., Sir Rutherford Alcock, Captain Elliot, R.N., the Dean of Westminster, the Rev. R. J. Simpson, &c.

The report of the Committee, referring to the past work of the association, mentioned as an evidence of its success that 2,736 members had enrolled their names, the majority being names well known and esteemed for their philanthropic work. The document, dealing with the objections which had been made to the association, said that it had been said that this association was adverse to charity in general, and that it was opposed to the charitable institutions, respecting which steps were being taken to promote reform in the mode of election. So far from this being the case, it was, on the contrary, the good and healthy action of these institutions that it desired to promote. Again, it had been said that this association desired to withdraw subscriptions from charitable purposes; but this was equally far from the truth. Nevertheless, it might unhesitatingly be said that the association considered subscriptions to be more judiciously bestowed where the mode of admission to the benefits of the institution was on a satisfactory basis than where the abuses of canvassing and trafficking in votes still existed; and

they relied on the genuine charity and good sense of their countrymen that they would not give less because it was likely to be better bestowed. The principal objects of the association were to suppress canvassing, to put a stop to all traffic in votes and all vote-jobbing, including the purchase of votes at the time of election, exchange of votes for one institution against those for another, and all dealings with professional vote-brokers; to discontinue public polling-days, and to investigate and classify the claims of the candidates according to their relative urgency. As regards voting by the whole body of the subscribers, the association did not consider it essential that it should be abandoned, but they hoped to see it given up in cases where the tone of charitable feeling on the part of the subscribers could rise to the higher standard of foregoing a privilege personally gratifying to themselves for the good of the candidates, the sole object of the charity. Much had been said as to the impossibility of 'forcing' the various institutions to abandon voting by the whole body of the subscribers. The answer to this was that the association did not attempt anything of the kind, but would persuade the boards of management carefully to consider and correct the abuses which it was admitted on all hands had overgrown the voting system.

Lord Lyttelton, speaking in favour of the objects of the association and the difficulties with which it had to contend, said, with regard to the question as to whether the charities under the present system of voting attained the object they had in view, that, there being a larger number of applicants than the charities could take, the principle of election must necessarily exist; but although it was possible for every one of the subscribers to go through the list, under the present system, in order to select the most fitting candidates, it was by no means probable that they would do so, it being far more likely that they would act upon the *ex parte* statements sent forth by the friends of the candidates instead of acting, as they should do, with care and impartiality. It was a great evil that selection was given to persons who could not exercise it in any satisfactory manner, and a still greater evil that the greater amount of poverty should be placed at a disadvantage by inability to put the canvassing machinery, which was costly, into operation at all. Although it might be a fact that the present system brought large amounts of subscriptions, he maintained that they could not look for the blessings of Heaven upon charities with such unworthy and selfish motives; for those who supported charities only in consequence of the present system did so from some selfish motives only, and such he would not support. The selection should, he thought, be left to a body of men in whose impartiality they could trust, who would admit the most deserving cases. Although there might be objections to placing the control in the hands of a committee, he looked upon it as the most efficient and impartial method of dispensing the benefits of the various charities.

The Dean of Westminster moved the adoption of the report, and in doing so said that for many years past he had felt strongly the evils of the existing system; and in anticipation of the objects of this association he had let it be widely known that in all cases he made his votes over to the committee.

Sir Cordy Burrows seconded the motion, expressing a hope that the association would extend its operations by instituting inquiries into the management of the various charities, in many of which the grossest abuses existed. Amongst these abused charities he especially mentioned Christ's Hospital.

Lord Lyttelton said, with reference to Christ's Hospital, that there was an admirable body, of whom the world was not worthy, called the Endowed Schools Commissioners (hear, hear), and if the world had supported that body in dealing with Christ's Hospital the abuses might have been remedied. The law under which that institution could be dealt with still existed, and it was therefore possible to take the matter in hand in the future.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson moved: 'That, taking into consideration, first, the large number of subscribers to voting charities who, within so short a time, have joined this association; secondly, the indication in several quarters of an approximation to its principles; and thirdly, the very numerous communications from all parts of the kingdom expressing strong condemnation of the present system of electing candidates to most of our charitable institutions, and proving the existence of a wide-spread dissatisfaction with the system, it is resolved that this association shall persevere in endeavouring to remedy the grievous abuses so loudly complained of.' He urged that the main object they had in view was investigation; and if it was thought that investigations upon which the lives of men depended could be trusted in the hands of twelve men, why should not investigations as to the most fitting recipients for charity be placed in the hands of a number of jurors also?

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilkinson, and carried.

Sir Charles Trevelyan next moved: 'As a large number of charitably disposed persons consider our great charities are virtually closed to them and to the cases in which they are interested, owing to the expense, labour, and loss of time required for canvassing the many thousand subscribers, and the larger number of subscribers the greater the difficulty, it is resolved that the public at large be invited to assist in obtaining such an alteration of the existing system as shall restore to them a common interest

in these noble charitable institutions.' He condemned the existing system of selection as a corrupt system of mendicancy, in which those most proficient in mendicancy, which always involved a certain amount of deception, were always the most successful. After mentioning that nearly all the 2,700 members of the association were subscribers to voting charities as an evidence that their operations were deserving of attention, he concluded by pointing to the necessity which existed for pecuniary support in order to carry to a successful issue the work they had in hand.

Sir Rutherford Alcock, in seconding the motion, dwelt at some length upon the evils of the voting system, mentioning that in the United Beneficent Society's voting papers there was one candidate making the 18th application, who was 81 years of age, whilst there were several from 72 to 75 who were making their 14th to 16th application. In reference to this he quoted Spenser's lines:—

Full little knowest thou that hast not tried
What hell it is in suing long to bide;
To fawn, to crouch, to wait, to ride, to run,
To speed, to give, to wait, to be undone.

The resolution was adopted, as were also votes of thanks to the Committee and to the Chairman.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEB. 20, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospital, &c.			
Kensington	3	4	5	12	1	1	2	5	1	5	19	7	1
Fulham	2	1	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	1
Paddington	1	1	3	5	2	3	1	1	6	1	15	10	1
Chelsea	1	2	3	6	1	2	1	7	1	9	14	2	1
St. George's	1	1	4	6	1	1	2	5	1	7	18	7	1
St. George's Division	1	4	5	10	1	4	6	10	1	10	38	10	1
Westminster do.	1	4	4	9	1	4	6	10	1	10	38	10	1
Westminster :-													
St. James & St. Anne's	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	2	8
St. Marylebone	2	2	1	5	7	6	13	5	2	2	27	10	6
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	8	4	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	4	8	3	1
South St. Pancras	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	9	2	2
Islington	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Strand	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Holborn	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
City	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Shoreditch	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Bethnal Green	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Poplar	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
St. Saviour's	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Newington	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
St. Olave's	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Lambeth :- North	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Lambeth :- South	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Battersea	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Camberwell :-													
Grove Lane	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	10	8
Totals	31	26	55	112	9	26	31	66	68	20	15	121	299

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of February 1875 was 36,904, and 61,568 received out-door relief, making a total of 98,472. This is a decrease of 745 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,839, 18,930, and 25,292 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 440. This is an increase of 38 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 102 on the corresponding day of last year.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its thirteenth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Major-General Bainbrigge, R.E., Colonel Eyers, Dr. Hawksley, Messrs. D. Conolly, F. Fuller, A. H. Hill, C. A. Miner, J. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson; Mr. J. M. Hutchinson, Visitor; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

A translation by Major-General Bainbrigge of a paper read at the Congress of Superintendents at Vienna, by Herr Reinhard, of Dresden, was submitted, and it was resolved that the Administrative Committee be requested to print this with Herr Moldenhawer's paper, and an address by Herr Riemer, of Hubertsburg, in Saxony.

The Committee then resumed consideration of Head II. a.:—'What more can be done through existing agencies, by improvements in system of working?'

After discussion, it was resolved, on Major-General Bainbrigge's motion:

'That the Committee think it highly desirable that blind children should be educated during a portion of their time with the sighted, and are of opinion that efforts should therefore be made to provide in elementary public schools for those not in special schools; also that, to induce teachers to receive blind children willingly, full information as to the details of their management in schools should be circulated, with an account of the results of this system in Scotland and in London.'

DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—The objects of Mr. Cross's Bill for facilitating the improvement of the dwellings of the working classes in large towns are summed up in the preamble as follows:—'Whereas various portions of many cities and boroughs are so built, and the buildings thereon are so densely inhabited, as to be highly injurious to the moral and physical welfare of the inhabitants: And whereas there are in such portions of cities and boroughs as aforesaid a great number of houses, courts, and alleys which, by reason of the want of light, air, ventilation, or of proper conveniences, or from other causes, are unfit for human habitation, and fevers and diseases are constantly generated there, causing death and loss of health, not only in the courts and alleys, but also in other parts of such cities and boroughs: And whereas it often happens that, owing to the above circumstances, and to the fact that such houses, courts, and alleys are the property of several owners, it is not in the power of any one owner to make such alterations as are necessary for the public health: And whereas it is necessary for the public health that many of such houses, courts, and alleys should be pulled down, and such portions of the said cities and boroughs should be reconstructed: And whereas in connection with the reconstruction of those portions of such cities and boroughs it is expedient that provision be made for dwellings for the working classes who may be displaced in consequence thereof.' The Bill empowers the local authority, which in the metropolis is the Metropolitan Board of Works, on being satisfied by official representation of the unhealthiness of a district, to make a scheme for its improvement, which is to be authorised by a provisional order, to be confirmed by Parliament. The local authority is then to carry it into execution, with power to sell or let, but not itself to undertake the rebuilding of the houses without the express approval of the confirming authority; which for the metropolis is the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and the Bill provides for the method in which local inquiries are to be conducted, land acquired, and expenses paid.

AN ILLUSTRATION.—We learn from the *Daily News* that on the 16th inst. Dr. Hardwicke resumed, at the Prince Alfred Tavern, Crowndale Road, St. Pancras, the inquest on the body of Mary Dubell, aged 70, who obtained a miserable and precarious living by stay-making, and who was found dead in the back kitchen of a house, 33 Munster Street, and whose death was alleged to have been brought about by the unhealthiness of the house in which she lived, although the landlord is a medical officer of health for one of the metropolitan districts. Mrs. Lucy Legart deposed to having known deceased four months. She worked for her living at stay-making, and was assisted with a small allowance by her relatives. On the 3rd instant witness made deceased's room, which was the kitchen, tidy, and went away. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day she was called by a lady visitor, and then found the deceased dead on the floor. Mrs. Ann Young, a lady visitor and missionary, stated that on calling to see deceased on the 3rd instant, she found her crouched up on the floor, with only her underclothing on, and quite dead. Although the deceased had a daughter who was married to a clergyman, witness held that her death was accelerated by want of food and other necessities of life. William Lovell, a locksmith, residing in the same house, said it contained six families in eight rooms. Deceased lived in the back kitchen, which was in a dirty and unhealthy state. Damp came through the walls, and deceased had to put pails to catch the water. There was stagnant water in the yard, and the

inmates suffered from the offensive smells in the house. A man and also a child had suffered from fever. Dr. Walter Smith stated he was sent for to see deceased on the day previous to her death, and his assistant attended, and reported to him that she complained of pain in the stomach, with colic, also that she seemed very poor, and he told her if she wanted further relief she ought to apply to the parish. Next day he heard she was dead, and refused to certify. The body was removed to the mortuary, and he made a post-mortem. The body was emaciated and so filthy dirty that he never witnessed such a sight in his life. Internally there were no signs of bronchitis. The liver and kidneys were healthy, and the immediate cause of death was, in his opinion, heart disease. The Coroner read a letter from William Clarke, a patient in University Hospital, formerly residing in the house, in which he stated that the stench in it was abominable, and he had frequently to leave the house and take a walk to avoid being poisoned by the foul drains. He thought if the flooring of the kitchens were taken up that stagnant filth would be found underneath. He believed the death of the deceased was due to or accelerated by the foul atmosphere of the house, which is farmed out in tenements, and the complaints of the lodgers were ignored. William Rouch, sanitary inspector of St. Pancras, stated that in consequence of complaints being made at the office on the 18th January he inspected the premises the same day, and found the walls of the back rooms were wet from defective stack pipes. The back kitchen, in which deceased resided, was exceedingly damp, and when she opened the door the stench was awful. The closet was without water supply, and the front area drain was untrapped. He gave notice to repair the water-pipe of the closet, the stack-pipe, and front area drains. On a subsequent inspection he found the repairs were done, and he believed that the evidence of the pails being put to catch water was exaggerated. On the 9th of February he accompanied Dr. Stevenson, the medical officer of health for St. Pancras, to view the premises, and found the yard flooded and the closet still without water, but both the water in the yard and closet were free from smell, and he believed the drain in the yard was stopped purposely. The jury had viewed the house, and some of them stated that the paper in the rooms and the staircase was decayed; and one member strongly remarked that the place was altogether so filthy that no gentleman would keep his dog there, and it was the worst place he had ever known a human being to inhabit. Dr. Gibbon, of Oxford Terrace, who is the medical officer of health for St. Andrew's, Holborn, as the owner of the house, stated that he had only come into the property since Christmas, and immediately the frost disappeared the water-closet and stack-pipe were repaired. The next house was occupied by a butcher, and his slaughter-house was under the level of the road. No doubt part of the smell might have arisen from that. Mr. Rouch, the inspector, contradicted this. He had inspected the slaughter-house, and found it sweet and clean. The Coroner remarked that the front kitchen, which was occupied, was covered with a grating, and that was illegal. Under the 35th section of the Sanitary Act power was given to the local authorities to register all houses let out by non-resident landlords, who were under a penalty of 40s. for not keeping their houses in repair, well supplied with water, drainage clear, &c. The jury ultimately returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony, and expressed a hope that the Sanitary Act would be enforced in all such cases.

THE SANITARY RECORD: A JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Every Saturday, price 4d. A Weekly Journal of the Progress of Hygiene of Cities, Towns, Rural Districts, Mines, Factories, and Habitations; the Food, Water, Gas Supply, and Drainage of Towns and Rural Districts; the Vital Statistics of Population; the Influence on Health of Trades and Occupations; and the Operation of Acts bearing upon Public Health.

THE SANITARY RECORD contains also Leaders, Notes of the Week, Reports, Reviews, Proceedings of Sanitary Authorities, Reports of Health Officers and Sanitary Associations, Law Reports and Commentaries, Answers to Correspondents, &c.

SMITH, ELDER, & Co., 15 Waterloo Place, S.W.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

33

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 129.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 3, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

A small number of posters announcing the Annual Meeting of the Society on the 10th inst., will be sent to-day to District Committees. The Council will be obliged if Committees will have the posters put up in their respective districts and made as public as possible. A few hand-bills will also be sent in addition to members' invitations.

The Newington Committee will in future meet weekly, at 6 P.M., on Fridays, instead of fortnightly.

Should any District Committee or Affiliated Association not require the volume on Foreign Poor Laws sent last week, the Council will be glad to have it returned to them.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Kensington Committee; E. Waller, Esq., Fulham; Major Yard, J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; Captain Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Lord William Compton, Major L. Prendergast, W. W. Moore, Esq., Major C. C. FitzRoy, P. Balli, Esq., St. George's; Captain L. M. Elliot, R.N., Westminster Union. (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho); Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; C. J. Samuda, Esq., North St. Pancras; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; F. Burdett Roberts, Esq., Islington; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, St. Giles' and Bloomsbury; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, Holborn; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; Rev. J. D. McGachan, Bethnal Green; Russell H. Barrington, Esq., Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., St. Olave's, Southwark; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; C. A. Barry, Esq., H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., Vice-President; Alanger Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq.,

Additional Members; total, 36. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., Secretary; Miss Martin, G. D. Veck, Esq., Visitors.

A letter was read from Major-General Bainbrigge, calling attention to the Army and Navy Pensioners' Employment Society, as a society by which pensioners were often effectually assisted.

A letter was read from Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, asking whether Vice-Presidents, who, under Rule 13, are "honorary members, entitled to attend the meetings of the Council but not to vote," were not entitled to move or second a resolution.

Consideration of the question was deferred.

EMPLOYMENT.

Major FitzRoy mentioned that he was informed that the Sister in charge of St. Mary's Mission, 68 Dean-street, Soho, had an opportunity of sending some respectable young women as servants to America; ages 12 to 25; wages £12 to £20.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending February 20, the receipts had been £30. 13s. 0d. for the General Fund, and £1 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,143. 11s. 7d. and £83. 13s. 9d. respectively.

Also that, in pursuance of the reference made to them on the 7th of December, they had appointed a Sub-committee 'to consider and report on the Reports of the District Committee Visitors, and of the Organising and Assistant Organising Secretary, with a view to strengthening and consolidating the Society's work in the several districts of the metropolis'; the following members to be asked to serve on the Sub-committee:—General Bainbrigge, Major C. C. FitzRoy, Miss Octavia Hill, and Messrs. Wightman Wood, Edgcombe, Russell Barrington, Crowder, Peters, Parry Woodcock, Hensley, and Fuller.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Finance Sub-committee on the accounts for 1874 and their estimate for 1875 were brought up from the Administrative Committee for information. It appeared that the estimate for expenditure from the General Fund for 1874 had been £2,697 and the expenditure £2,858, but that the latter sum had included £100 transferred to the District Committee Aid Fund. The estimate for 1875 was £2,760.

The expenditure from the District Committee Aid Fund had amounted to £1,697, including £190 granted towards Permanent Loan Funds.

Sir Charles Trevelyan expressed the thanks of the Council to General Cavenagh and the Finance Sub-committee for the careful watch they kept over the finances of the Society.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD.

Two letters from Mr. Francis Peek were brought up from the Administrative Committee, in which he offered to give £1,000 a year, for three years, to the Society, if it would co-operate with the members of the School Board, so far as to investigate the causes of the distress brought to light by their

visitors, and relieve certain classes of cases of which he gave instances.

A draft answer was submitted, accepting Mr. Peek's offer, subject to his approval of such arrangements as the Council should submit to him, and suggesting that before they formally proposed these a member of the Council and the Secretary should call on him.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson moved that the draft answer be adopted. The proposition was a very important one, and it was essential that any arrangement to be made should be in thorough accordance with the principles of the Society.

Sir Charles Trevelyan supported the motion. The proposal involved no change of plan. It would strengthen the hands of the Committees in the poorer Districts, and would develop the Society's system.

Mr. A. H. Hill said that there could be but one opinion about the liberality of the proposal, but he feared that serious harm might be done if the very poor were invited to come and make a claim on this fund. Every one would try to avail himself of it.

Mr. J. R. Hollond agreed with Mr. Hill as to the danger to be guarded against, but Mr. Peek's letters showed that he understood and approved the principles of the Society.

Mr. Phillips Jodrell hoped that there would be no specific appropriation to School Board cases; he did not see how this could be carried out; if Mr. Peek intended his contribution to be expended on the general purposes of the Society no difficulty would arise.

After some further discussion, the proposed answer was adopted.

The Annual Report was submitted in proof, and considered paragraph by paragraph. Various alterations were made, and the Secretary was instructed to submit two paragraphs to the Administrative Committee, on Thursday, for final consideration.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Feb. 27, 1875:—*Donations*: Sir John Gibbons, £1. 1s.; G. T. Ruck, Esq., £20. *Annual*: Thompson Donovan, Esq. £5; F. M. Gray, Esq., £5; Alan Lambert, Esq., £2. 2s.; H. Ludlam, Esq., £2. 2s.; W. M. Praed, Esq., £5. 6s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: F. M. Gray, Esq., £5.

The following business stands for Monday, March 8:—

To consider a recommendation of the Administrative Committee that the following Instruction to the Organising Secretary be adopted:

'That in all cases in which a request is received at the Central Office from a person having a residence in London, for inquiry into a case also resident within the metropolitan area, such request shall immediately be forwarded to the office of the District in which the Inquirer resides, to be dealt with in the usual manner. Further, that the Inquirer be notified of this on a form as follows:—

"Sir (or Madam)—
"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of _____ regarding _____ and have to inform you that your letter has been forwarded to the _____ Charity Organisation Committee, in which district you reside. They will make the inquiries as speedily as efficiency will permit, and report the result to you. The address of the office is _____"

Major FitzRoy to move: 'That whenever any recommendation is brought up by the Administrative Committee, or any motion is made by an individual, whereby expense will be incurred or additional work thrown upon the Central Office, an exact estimate of such expense or of such additional work be presented before any such recommendation or motion is discussed; and that such estimate be printed in the *Reporter* along with the notices of business for the ensuing week.

Mr. Phillips Jodrell to call attention to Information Paper No. 4, and to move that the latter part of it—'Reports'—be altered.

Sir Alexander Gordon to move: 'That the Administrative Committee be requested to consider the work of the Secretary's Department, and report whether any change in the staff is necessary, or any re-distribution of office work between the Secretary and the Organising Secretary.'

The Rev. H. I. Cummins to move: 'That the Proceedings of Council with regard to Voting Charities be removed from the list of the publications of the Society.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEB. 27, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
Kensington	6	6	8	20	1	3	3	5	113	19	42	16	10
Fulham	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	4	5	11
Paddington	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	4	4	8	13	10	4
Chelsea	6	1	6	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	11	10	1
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	3	1	4	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	6	9	1
Westminster do.	1	3	4	8	3	4	7	4	2	1	7	5	2
Westminster:—													
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	4
St. Marylebone	3	5	8	15	15	15	3	2	1	6	29	6	6
Hampstead	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
South St. Pancras	3	2	1	6	1	3	4	1	1	2	2	7	3
*Islington	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hackney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Strand	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Holborn	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shoreditch	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Bethnal Green	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Poplar	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
St. Saviour's	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Newington	1	2	2	5	1	1	1	4	1	5	11	2	3
St. Olave's	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	1	4
Lambeth:—													
North	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	7	3	3
South	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	7	3	3
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Battersea	5	2	5	1	1	1	2	3	1	5	10	2	4
Clapham	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	5	1	8
Canterbury:—													
Grove Lane	3	3	3	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	6	1	2
Peckham	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greenwich	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	6	10
Deptford	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	7
Woolwich	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
*Lewisham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eltham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	37	26	58	120	6	37	18	61	55	18	110	290	123

* No returns received from these Committees at time of going to press.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its fourteenth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Alsager Hay Hill, Esq. (in the chair), Sir Charles Trevelyan, Col. Fyers, Dr. Hawksley, Miss Erskine, Messrs. D. Conolly, F. Fuller, W. Harris, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson; Mr. J. M. Hutchinson, Visitor; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Committee resumed consideration of Head II. a:—'What more can be done through existing agencies, by improvements in system of working?'

After discussion, the amendment proposed by Mr. Tait was agreed to in the following form:—

'That the Committee recommend that the age up to which blind children should attend an elementary school be fifteen instead of thirteen—the age for the sighted; that after this school age arrangements should be made for continuing their education and teaching them trades, and that the training should be such as thoroughly to fit them for the trade or calling by which they are most likely eventually to support themselves.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of February 1875 was 36,952, and 61,399 received out-door relief, making a total of 98,351. This is a decrease of 121 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 10,194, 20,427, and 24,546 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 439. This is a decrease of 1 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 184 on the corresponding day of last year.

COMING MEETINGS.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, March 10, at 3 P.M., the Right Honorable the Lord Hatherley in the Chair. Lord Napier and Ettrick, the Right Hon. J. Stansfeld, M.P., the Dean of Winchester, Sir Sydney H. Waterlow, M.P., Sir J. H. Kennaway, M.P., Mr. Ernest Noel, M.P., Rev. W. G. Lewis, and others will take part in the proceedings.

The Annual Meeting of the North St. Pancras and Highgate Charity Organisation Committee will be held in the Theatre of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, South Grove, Highgate, on March 16, at 8 P.M., Colonel Wilkinson in the Chair.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Whitechapel Union, St. Saviour's, Southwark, Battersea, and Clapham Charity Organisation Committees.

Sixth Report of the Upper Norwood and South Dulwich Charity Organisation and Mendicity Society.

Inaugural Address delivered at the Statistical Society's Rooms, Somerset House Terrace, King's College, London, on Tuesday, 17th November, 1874, by the President, W. A. Guy, Esq., M.B., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., &c.

PROPOSED SELF-SUPPORTING HOSPITAL AT BRIGHTON.—We learn from the *Brighton Daily News* of Thursday, that a meeting was held at the Town Hall the previous day, for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a Provident and Self-Supporting Hospital. The meeting had been convened by a circular letter, which stated that 'By the establishment of such an institution, the prevalent abuses connected with our medical charities will be, to a considerable extent, prevented, while a stimulus will be given to thrift and self-dependence among a large section of our population.' It was signed by Mr. A. Creak, the chairman of the provisional committee, and by Mr. W. Wilkinson, the honorary secretary. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Creak.

The Chairman said the primary motive which had drawn most of them together was a conviction in their minds that for many years past our country had arrived at such a condition that it was imperatively necessary to reduce the amount of mendicity amongst us, and to inspire a spirit of thrift amongst the people. (Hear, hear.) In spite of the accumulation of wealth in the country, and the increased wages of the working classes, the sums spent on the relief of the poor had increased very much, and that one fact alone was quite sufficient to excite great concern in the minds of all thinking men as to the future of this country. Communications were opened with a number of gentlemen who held these sentiments, and it was felt that one important mode in dealing with this great national difficulty was to see that the charitable institutions of the country were not abused. (Hear, hear.) He would not enter into the character of the abuse, and he need only point out that the indefatigable exertions of the local Charity Organisation Society had been the means of showing them under their very eyes the existence of abuses to a great extent. One-fourth of the population of Brighton were receiving medical relief of a gratuitous kind, and it was surely time that some steps were taken to prevent this state of things. Having been asked to attend a meeting at the offices of Mr. Wilkinson in North Street, he was, *volens volens*, placed in the position of chairman. The gentlemen present at the meeting immediately began to compare notes and to lay down some general principles, and the first opinion which was generally expressed was that they did not desire to compete with, or become antagonistic to, any existing institution. (Hear, hear.) And another thing was, they did not wish to start another charitable institution. If the proposed institution was to succeed, it must be made self-supporting. (Hear, hear.) There were a vast number of persons who were unable to get the requisite quiet, care, and food in illness, and it was thought that by the establishment of a self-supporting institution it would diminish a great amount of misery and suffering. It was also felt that something was due to the medical staff. There was no profession that was so shamefully abused as theirs, and it was high time that those abuses should be remedied. The question for them to consider was, how to get to work. Was it possible to make the proposed institution a branch of some existing hospital? They found, however, that there were some considerable difficulties in the way. He believed it was the wish in some quarters to make it a branch of the Sussex County Hospital, and he understood that there was an attempt about to be made to establish a self-supporting dispensary in connection with the Sussex County Hospital.

Mr. W. Percival Boxall said the intention was to have the dispensary supported by small payments by the patients.

Sir Cordy Burrows: Then it will not be self-supporting.

The Chairman, continuing, thought no one was in a position to say so. It was the wish of the promoters of the scheme that the medical officers

should be paid for their services. In concluding his remarks, the Chairman said it was felt that they wanted to carry out the same principles which were observed by the various friendly societies. (Hear, hear.) He added that the proposed institution would cost something like £500 or £600 to start it.

Dr. Kebbell said that when the fever hospital was built in the course of the present year they would have thirty or forty beds at their disposal in the Sussex County Hospital; and it was now proposed to adopt the very same plan there as was contemplated by the promoters of the present scheme. He pointed out that they should bear in mind that at the hospital they had a whole staff, and when the changes were made it would only be necessary to have a few more nurses, the expense of which would be defrayed by the sums the patients would pay. He quite agreed with the Chairman that the whole of the charities were placed on the wrong basis. (Hear, hear.)

Colonel Penton moved the following proposition:—

That, having regard to the existence of a large and ever-increasing class above that eligible for gratuitous hospital relief, and yet on which in case of sickness the cost of medicine and surgical attendance and appliances, in the ordinary way, presses too heavily, it is desirable that a provident and self-supporting hospital be established at Brighton.

Mr. Marriage Wallis did not think a single gentleman could give a negative answer to this proposition. The subject deserved to be debated from every point of view. He hoped this would be the case, and that no ill-feeling would be introduced in the discussion. (Hear, hear.) Let there be a hearty co-operation in the promotion of the movement, and if it succeeded surely a great feeling would be manifested in the town, which would be the means of inducing other towns to follow their example. (Hear, hear.) If he thought that the movement would affect the hospital or the Brighton Dispensary or any other kindred institution in the town he should take no part in it. (Hear, hear.) He had great pleasure in seconding the proposition.

Mr. J. Curtis expressed his conviction that the step proposed to be taken would be one in the right direction; and his conviction was founded upon considerable experience of the working classes of the town. The friendly societies in Brighton had a membership of over 7,000 of the adult population of the town; and although these, by virtue of that membership, had made some provision for themselves and their families in times of sickness, they, when in distress, required more than the mere actual money payment and attendance of a medical gentleman to which they were entitled. They required comforts which their homes could not provide, and, single men especially, more careful nursing than their lodgings could afford. (Hear, hear.) That people, not members of such a society, would also far rather go, when sick, to an institution such as that suggested, than to one where they would be the recipients of charity, he illustrated by reference to his fourteen years' experience as secretary to the Eye Infirmary. While he, therefore, supported the motion, he wished it to be understood that he should not think of identifying himself with a movement of this character if it would by any means militate against that excellent institution—the Sussex County Hospital.

Mr. G. D. Ryder had not the slightest doubt of the value of the principle, for the embodiment of which the promoters of this movement contended; but in Brighton they must take care that they did not militate against existing institutions. This, he feared, would not be avoided, unless they saw first of all an attempt to carry out the principle in connection with the Sussex County Hospital; and they should therefore delay action in the matter till the governors of that hospital had considered the subject at their next meeting (hear, hear), which he believed they proposed to do.

Mr. J. Dennant, as hon. sec. of the Brighton and Hove Provident Dispensary, expressed his hearty sympathy with the object the promoters had in view; but he had some doubt as to the manner in which it should be attained. They had two classes of people with which to deal—those who availed themselves of the existing charitable institutions, and who ought to contribute to their support but did not, and those who objected to go, under any circumstances whatever, to charitable institutions. The Children's Hospital appeared to be endeavouring, as far as children were concerned, to meet the requirements of the poorer members of the second class, by allowing parents to contribute towards the maintenance of their children when in the hospital; and the Sussex County Hospital seemed desirous of introducing the same principle in the management of its affairs. Both institutions, he might however add, should go further still; they should consider not only the cost of the maintenance of patients, but also the remuneration due for medical attendance. (Hear, hear.) Otherwise they would continue to be relieving the pockets of the wealthy at the expense of the medical men. But the contemplated institution ought to deal with a class of people one grade higher than those who derived benefit from the present hospitals. (Hear, hear.) It ought to provide medical nursing for those poorer tradesmen, clerks, &c., who would go into self-supporting hospitals and be glad to pay quite enough to maintain them there and remunerate the medical staff, and he would not oppose a scheme to do that, but would rejoice to see such carried out.

After some further discussion, Mr. W. A. Stuckey urged that if an institution of the kind suggested was to be established, it should be done with unanimity; and that this might be ensured, he suggested that Mr. Haselwood should propose that the whole matter should be referred to a committee to report to a future meeting the grounds on which an hospital should be provided, and the details of the scheme. At present the character of the contemplated institution was very vague and indefinite.

Mr. J. E. Haselwood readily acted upon the suggestion, his idea having been that the subject should be referred to a committee. He moved that this should be done.

Dr. Dawson stated the number and classes of cases to which he had had to attend during the four years, 1871-72-73-74, as one of the junior members of the Provident Dispensary, and there were six physicians connected with that institution. The cases altogether numbered 2,283. Roughly divided they comprised 121 charwomen, 18 clerks, 60 cabmen and stablemen, 284 laundresses, 242 labourers and labourers' wives, 195 needlewomen, 33 nurses, 890 mechanics, 97 railway servants, and their wives and children, and 343 domestic servants. The number of mechanics was very large, and they each received 5s., 6s., or 7s. a day. These were the people who ought not to come for relief.

Mr. J. Dennant asked how these got their letters.

Dr. Dawson had nothing to do with that. (Laughter.) He added that he could not see how the County Hospital could be injured by a self-supporting institution of the kind proposed. The hospital was a charity, and it would be impossible to change its character into that of a provident dispensary. Besides, there was room in the town for two hospitals (cries of 'No! No!')—one at the west end as well as one at the east end; Cliftonville, a rising place, being far away from the County Hospital.

Mr. W. Percival Boxall, after observing that great difficulties would be connected with the carrying out of the project under consideration, referred to the bringing of the principle involved before the Governors of the Sussex County Hospital. The subject had been already broached by them, but it was such a difficult one that they scarcely knew how to meet it. At their meeting on Wednesday next, however, he proposed bringing forward a motion to the following effect:—

That a committee be nominated to take into consideration whether it will be expedient to carry out a proposition, in addition to the present arrangements of the hospital, by admitting patients by stated payments under such rules and regulations as may be considered necessary by the Committee of Management, and to recommend the same for the sanction and approval of the General Court of Governors of the Sussex County Hospital.

He had been prompted to move such a proposition by one case in particular coming under the notice of the governors of the hospital, and which illustrated the natural repugnance and wholesome pride which prevented many from receiving charitable relief when greatly requiring some assistance, and the assertion that, by the absence of the provident system at the hospital, a working man was much more favoured than the class immediately above him. He agreed with Mr. Haselwood, whose judgment he had before found to be valuable.

The first proposition was ultimately withdrawn, and Mr. Haselwood's amendment unanimously agreed to. The following gentlemen were appointed to act on the committee:—Colonel Penton, the Rev. R. P. Hooper, Drs. Dawson, Kebbell, Stephens, and Taaffe; Mr. Councillor Wood, and Messrs. F. H. Appach, W. Percival Boxall, Branwell, J. G. Cockburn, A. Creak, J. Curtis, J. Dennant, J. E. Haselwood, H. J. Athol Johnstone, Percy May, H. Moor, J. E. K. Morley, G. Tatham, Marriage Wallis, and W. Wilkinson.

BRIGHTON BENEVOLENT LOAN SOCIETY.—This society has recently issued its fortieth annual report. We extract the following passage:—'The comparison of this year's proceedings with the last is a favourable one. The profit on the year is £42. 0s. 8d., showing an increase of £11 over the last. The loans have increased by 19 in number, viz. from 545 to 564, and in amount by £242, viz. from £3,286 to £3,528. It is a subject deserving prominent notice, how great is the number of widows enjoying the benefit of this society. In the last year they have amounted to 86, and in the last five years the number assisted was 471, or an average of 94 per annum, a statement which will attract much sympathy for the society. The business before Parliament mentioned in the last year's report, for an extension of the privileges of enrolment for sums from the present limit of £15 up to £30, is in a fair way of accomplishment. Time did not admit of that or the Friendly Societies' Bill of the Government being carried through in the last Session, but the promise of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was freely given, that the measure was just, and in the succeeding Session should have the Government support. It is right to mention that the access to the Government obtained in this instance, was mainly due to the ready co-operation of the Charity Organisation Society of London. Officers of Philanthropic Institutions may remember with advantage that that society has the means and the desire to render essential service to all kindred institutions, and is therefore well deserving their notice, and their material support.'

THE COMMON COUNCIL ON HOUSES FOR WORKING MEN.—We learn from the *Times* that at the meeting of the Court of Common Council in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House on Thursday last, Mr. Edward Hart proposed a motion to the effect that as the execution of public improvements and other large works in populous places necessarily involved the displacement of a certain number of the working and poorer classes, it was in the opinion of the Court most desirable that the legislation of Parliament which authorised any such improvements or works should also impose the obligation of providing improved dwellings for the industrial poor. The motion gave rise to some discussion. Several members of the Court, on the one hand, pointed out the inherent difficulties in the City of London proper of reinstating the working population resident there after the loss of habitations comparatively near their various occupations, and which were from time to time taken down to make way for public improvements. Mr. T. J. Bedford, a leading member of the Court, on the other hand, argued that the necessity for housing the labouring classes near their work in a great city like London had become the question of the day, and he cited a case within his own personal knowledge, of a man of property, who from purely philanthropic motives had pulled down and rebuilt an old and decaying class of houses in the occupation of working men, with the incidental result of increasing the value of the property to the extent of 6 per cent. The motion of Mr. Hart in the result was adopted.

ERRATUM.—In last week's 'Reporter,' page 29, for 'Leeds Council Improvement Society' read 'Leeds Social Improvement Society.'

In fcp. 8vo. Price Two Shillings.

A HANDY-BOOK FOR VISITORS of the POOR in LONDON, with Chapters on Poor Law, Sanitary Law, and Charities. By CHARLES B. P. BOSANQUET, M.A., Secretary of the Council of the Charity Organisation Society.

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'The Charity Organisation Society have done good service, not only directly in the results actually produced by them in London, but also indirectly in the attention which they have secured everywhere to the whole difficult question of the administration of charity. In this last way "A Handy-Book for Visitors of the Poor in London" (Longmans), put together by their Secretary, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be found very useful. Its special information applies more particularly to London, and will be invaluable to those who are engaged in any way in ministering to the wants of the London poor; but the general principles and suggestions, as well as a good deal of the information about poor-laws, sanitary laws, provident societies, &c., may be studied with advantage by kindly-disposed people everywhere.'—*Guardian*.

'We have much pleasure in bringing to notice this very useful little publication, which will supply a need often felt. The writer is thoroughly well acquainted with the subject, and has condensed in it the result of much personal experience. From our own acquaintance with the London poor, and the difficulties which have to be encountered in the administration of judicious relief, we feel satisfied that the advice given in this little brochure is sound. We trust the perusal of this book will lead to a healthier course of action—not restraining, but guiding charity, and rendering it a blessing, not a curse.'—*Christian Observer*.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 130.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 10, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The Office of the Strand Committee will be open in future from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

The Stepney and Mile End Old Town Committee will in future hold a second meeting every week—at 11 A.M. on Wednesday. Mile End cases will be considered that day, and Stepney cases as at present, at the meeting on Tuesdays, at 4 P.M.

It is requested that in case of a District Committee addressing an inquiry, in error, to a wrong District Office, the Committee of that office will not only forward the application, but will inform the inquiring Committee to what office it has been sent.

A letter explaining the position of the Corps of Commissionaires has been recently written by Captain Walter to the Hon. Secretary of one of the District Committees, and it has been deemed desirable to embody the substance of it in the following memorandum:—

The Corps of Commissionaires is not to be regarded as in any sense a charitable institution. It is an association of independent men of good character, who occupy highly responsible situations, and receive remuneration of such a kind as to place them beyond the need of anything in the nature of charity. It is thus inconsistent with its fundamental principles that any applicant for admission should appear to be dependent upon charity, or to be relying upon testimonials furnished by benevolent societies or individuals. The only question considered is whether the applicant is likely to be a credit to the corps and an acquisition to his comrades, and the chief evidence as to this is sought for in the discharge papers of the regiment in which he has served. In the event of any pensioner entering the corps by the advice or assistance of the Charity Organisation Society, it is particularly requested that no mention may be made of the fact in the Society's reports, or to any official connected with the corps. A 'Quarterly Circular,' containing all particulars, can be obtained by sending a written application to the office of the corps, Exchange Court, 419A Strand.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; E. Waller, Esq., *Fulham*; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Captain Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lord William Compton, Major L. Prendergast, W. W. Moore, Esq., Major C. C. FitzRoy, Major Sanford, *St. George's*; Captain Elliot, R.N., H. Peto, Esq., *Westminster Union (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)*, Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*, F. Burdett Roberts, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Douglas Walker, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, *Holborn*; Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney and Mile End Old Town*; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., B. R. Balfour, Esq., *St. Olave's, Southwark*; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., *Lambeth*; S. Etches, Esq., *Clapham*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; G. Parker, Esq., *Lewisham*; Captain G. H. Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; W. Day, Esq., *Sydenham*; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., G. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 43. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*; H. Carr, Esq., *Visitor*.

POWERS OF VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Mr. Wilkinson's letter, asking whether Vice-Presidents who, under Rule 13, are "honorary members, entitled to attend the meetings of the Council, but not to vote," were not entitled to move or second a resolution, was further considered.

Sir Charles Trevelyan pointed out that it was desirable to make Vice-Presidentships as much of a reality as possible. It had been decided not to give them votes, out of regard for the representative character of the Council, but there was no reason why they should not have the power of moving and seconding resolutions, as well as of speaking.

Mr. A. H. Hill was of opinion that the rule took away the right of voting, but no other right.

The Chairman taking the same view, it was agreed that Vice-Presidents should in future be entitled to move and second resolutions.

PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

Mr. J. R. Hollond called attention to the action recently taken by the Paddington Committee in distributing the pamphlet 'The Doctor's Bill and No Doctor's Bill,' with the addresses of the local Provident Dispensaries pasted on the back of it.

It was suggested that copies of the dialogue should be given at the offices to persons whom the District Committees assisted in sickness.

Miss Collett asked whether any of the Committees knew anything of a Mr. Tattersall, curate to Mr. Coke, vicar of one of the parishes in Bethnal Green, who went about in different districts calling at private houses, asking for subscriptions to buy bread for the poor in Bethnal Green.

It was stated that Mr. Coke systematically raised large sums in this way, and declined to receive assistance from the Metro-

politan Visiting and Relief Association on their usual conditions.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending February 27 the receipts had been £40. 10s. for the General Fund, and £5 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,171. 16s. and £88. 13s. 9d. respectively.

Also that they had received a letter from the Whitechapel and St. George's East Committee, stating that they had passed a resolution in favour of forming separate Committees for the two Poor-law divisions at an early date.

INQUIRIES INTO CASES.

Major FitzRoy moved that the following Instruction to the Organising Secretary be adopted, on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee:

That in all cases in which a request is received at the Central Office from a person having a residence in London, for inquiry into a case also resident within the metropolitan area, such request shall immediately be forwarded to the office of the District in which the inquirer resides, to be dealt with in the usual manner. Further, that the inquirer be notified of this on a form as follows:—

'Sir (or Madam)—
'I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of _____ regarding _____ and have to inform you that your letter has been forwarded to the Charity Organisation Committee, in which District you reside. They will make the inquiries as speedily as efficiency will permit, and report the result to you. The address of the office is _____'

He had brought forward a very similar motion at the end of 1873, which had been first postponed for six months and then lost by a small majority. He held that his proposal was in accordance with the original plan of the Society, and that the balance of advantage was in favour of sending the request for inquiry back to the office of the District in which the inquirer resided, even when the person inquired about lived in another District. The inquiry would be transmitted to the proper Committee, and the inquirer would be put in communication once for all with the Committee of his own District.

Sir Charles Trevelyan agreed to the course proposed so far as cases of local interest were concerned; cases of general interest should, he thought, be sent to the Central Office; he suggested that the word 'ordinary' should be inserted before 'cases.'

Mr. A. H. Hill had always held that the Central Office should not supersede the branches, but neither should certain branches supersede the rest and be made local centres. He would move as an amendment that the word 'applicant' be substituted for 'inquirer' in line 4 of the recommendation, and 'the applicant resides' for 'you reside' in the proposed form.

Mr. Seton-Karr supported the original recommendation; it would diminish circumlocution and the tendency to centralisation, and would decrease the work at the Central Office.

Mr. Holland pointed out that the word 'ordinary' was not required, as the only cases inquired into from the Central Office were, first, extra-metropolitan cases, which the recommendation did not touch, and, secondly, special cases inquired into at the request or with the consent of the District Committee concerned.

Mr. Seton-Karr said that his Committee would gladly seek assistance from the Central Office in extra-metropolitan or difficult cases.

After some further discussion, Mr. Hill's amendment was put and lost, 6 voting for it, and the recommendation was adopted by 20 to 3.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENSE AND WORK.

Major FitzRoy moved:

That whenever any recommendation is brought up by the Administrative Committee, or any motion is made by an individual, whereby expense will be incurred or additional work thrown upon the Central Office, an exact

estimate of such expense or of such additional work be presented before any such recommendation or motion is discussed; and that such estimate be printed in the *Reporter* along with the notices of business for the ensuing week.

But after some discussion, in which the difficulty of complying with so stringent a rule was pointed out, the motion was negatived by 11 to 5.

REPORTS.

It was referred to the Administrative Committee, on Mr. Jodrell's motion, to consider and report as to the expediency of altering the latter part of Information Paper No. 4.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS.

Sir Alexander Gordon having given precedence to the Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. Cummins moved:

That the Proceedings of Council with regard to Voting Charities be removed from the list of the publications of the Society.

He was of opinion that, as another Association had been formed for the express purpose of reforming the Voting Charities, it was unnecessary that the Charity Organisation Society should continue to advertise a pamphlet on the subject. He had often had to state that the Society had only done what it was quite within its proper scope to do, viz. expressed its opinion with regard to a certain system, and then left the matter alone; but he was met by the statement that the paper was still advertised.

After considerable discussion, it being past 6 p.m., the Rev. H. I. Cummins withdrew the motion, stating that he would bring it forward again at a future time.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending March 6, 1875:—*Donations*: Mrs. W. S. Halsey, £2. 2s.; W. Kemble Esq., £10. *Annual*: Lieut.-General Cavenagh, £1. 1s.; Mrs. Ogilvy, £2. 2s.; E. M. Stone, Esq., £5. 5s.; E. Thornton Esq., £2. 2s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: The Earl of Pembroke, £100.

The following business stands for Monday, March 15:—

To consider a recommendation of the Administrative Committee—

'That Mr. Stephen Fuller be appointed a District Committee Visitor and an Additional Member of Council.'

Sir Alexander Gordon to move: 'That the Administrative Committee be requested to consider the work of the Secretary's Department, and report whether any change in the staff is necessary, or any re-distribution of office work between the Secretary and the Organising Secretary.'

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its fifteenth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major-General Bainbrigge, Colonel Fyers, Rev. T. E. S. Catterna, Rev. B. G. Johns, Messrs. T. Clarke, F. Fuller, W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, Edmund C. Johnson, C. A. Miner, Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson; Mr. J. M. Hutchinson, Visitor; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The consideration of Head II. was continued, with reference to improvements in the direction of securing permanent employment for the blind.

The following resolutions were agreed to.

'That in the organisation of blind labour the workers should be principally selected and employed according to their competence for the tasks allotted them, on the ordinary commercial principle.'

'That the workmen in workshops should be under the supervision of competent sighted foremen, and with the assistance of blind fellow-workers.'

The Committee then adjourned to Wednesday, March 17.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Report of the Alford (Canterbury) Poor Relief Association, in union with the Kent Mendicity Society. 1873-4.

Paper on Improved Dwellings, and their beneficial effect on Health and Morals, with Suggestions for their Extension, read at a meeting of the Statistical Society by C. Gatliff, Esq., F.S.S. Harrison & Sons.

A contribution to the History of the Origin of the Charity Organisation Society, by W. M. Wilkinson, Esq. T. Scott, Warwick Court, Holborn.

Report of the Committee of the Charity Voting Reform Association. Offices, 30 Charing Cross, S.W.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with		
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for Hospitals &c.	Class total
Kensington	1	5	6	12	..	1	3	4	2	..	7	..	9	25	6	2	16
Fulham	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	6
Paddington	1	..	2	3	..	1	1	2	6	1	4	..	11	16	8	7	..
Chelsea	4	..	1	5	..	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	12	10	2	1
St. George's:— St. George's Division. Westminster do.	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	2	3	..	..	..	3	25	6	6	..
Westminster:— St. James's & St. Anne's St. Marylebone	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	7	1	..	..	9	2	1	9	10
Hampstead	3	1	3	7	..	16	3	19	7	1	..	1	9	35	8	8	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	3	4	..	..	..
South St. Pancras	1	3	1	5	..	3	1	4	..	..	1	1	1	10	3	7	2
Islington	2	4	5	11	..	2	3	5	..	..	1	1	1	17	3	4	..
Hackney	5	1	1	7	1	1	1	3	5	..	..	..	5	13	12	6	3
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury Strand	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Holborn	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	4	4	..	..	..
City	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	5	1	17	2	..
Shoreditch	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Bethnal Green	1	1	3	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	6	..	..	4	..
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East. Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	1	1	2	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	4	2	4	..	..
Poplar	4	4	7	15	..	4	2	6	..	2	..	..	2	23	37	4	..
St. Saviour's	2	6	8	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	2	11	13	2	..
Newington	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	..
St. Olave's	1	3	4	1	3	..	4	..	1	1	2	4	12	3	4	..	..
Lambeth:— North	2	4	6	..	2	1	3	5	5	2	..	7	16	5	..	..	..
South	..	5	5	..	4	..	4	..	..	..	1	1	10	..	2	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney Battersea	..	3	3	..	2	..	2	..	3	..	..	3	11	4	..	4	..
Clapham	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	3	2	1	7
Camberwell:— Grove Lane	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	5	8	..	1	1	25
Peckham	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	5	3	..	..	16	..

The report of the annual meeting of the Edgbaston Charity Organisation and Mendicity Society, says the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, will be read with special interest by those really benevolent persons who, while desirous of putting a stop to the practices of begging impostors, wish also to guard against the too frequent neglect of the deserving poor. The society was formed some eight or nine years ago, and in the first instance only aimed

POOR LAW RELIEF AND VOLUNTARY CHARITY.—We take the following extract from Mr. Andrew Doyle's Introduction to the volume on *Poor Laws in Foreign Countries*, recently printed by the Local Government Board :—
 'The results of the Danish system of poor relief, as indeed of nearly all the countries to which these reports refer, must be sought, in the opinions of competent observers, in the direction and changes of poor-law legislation

and in the condition of the class of people who are directly affected by it, rather than in the numbers who are alleged to be in receipt of relief or of the sums assumed to be expended in their maintenance. "As no returns of paupers are transmitted from country parishes," Mr. Strachey remarks, "or towns to any central department, the number of persons in Denmark receiving public relief can only be indirectly, perhaps partially, ascertained." That the rate of pauperism and of expenditure is very high may be inferred from the opinions already quoted, and from the general dissatisfaction with which the administration of the poor law appears to have been regarded, and which led in 1869 to the appointment by the Crown of a Commission composed of large landowners, officials, and professional men. The conclusions come to by this Commission, and the nature of the reforms that they recommend, indicate the defects of the law and of its administration in Denmark as clearly as did the report of our own Royal Commission indicate the same results in England in 1834. Mr. Strachey thus briefly sums up the general conclusions of the Commission: "The duties of society to the pauper, it is observed, are not exhausted by the mere grant of material assistance; besides money and money's worth the needy man requires advice and moral support. To take proper effect, aid should be bestowed with accurate attention to times, individuals, degrees. The relief granted through an official public agency does not fulfil these conditions, being mechanical and careless in its application. In Copenhagen, e.g., says the report, it has not been found possible to carry out the existing rules for pauper relief. These are based on right principles, but they assume for their exercise an acquaintance with individual character, means, and circumstances which the relieving officials do not possess. The overseers do not classify and discriminate; glad to escape the odium which attaches to a too scrutinising distribution of the public bounty, or from accusations and suspicions of partiality, they fall into habits of blind and wholesale benevolence." This passage describes with great clearness some of the more striking defects of every poor-law system the administration of which is a compromise between voluntary charity and the relief of pauperism. A machinery of investigation and of administering relief which in a general and rough way may be regarded as sufficient for one object, if confined to that, is wholly unsuited to and insufficient for the purpose to which it is more generally applied. The remedy that is suggested by the Danish Commission is one that is theoretically recognised in many foreign systems, and of which for the first time in our history there appears to be a reasonable hope of recognition in England. That which the Charity Organisation Society is so earnestly endeavouring to do by voluntary agency in this country the Commission recommends to be done by legislation in Denmark. It suggests "the complete separation, by legislative enactment, of public and private charitable functions; the literal restriction of public relief to such individuals as are actually unable to work, that is to say, to children, aged and weak persons. Settlement to depend no longer on domicile, but exclusively on birthplace. The present territorial and administrative arrangements to be maintained. A large development to be given to the workhouse system. Outdoor relief to be sparingly allowed. Foreigners who have not been naturalised to have no claim on the parish. Casual foreign paupers to receive temporary local relief. The Committee further recommend that the official system be supported by the organisation, under legislative sanction of general voluntary relief. The financial basis of this would consist in the voluntary contributions of the charitably disposed, in certain donations which may with propriety be attributed to this object, and in the resources of the parish poor chests (previously described), augmented by certain small fees and fines. Management to be by an elective board. No charity to be dispensed to the recipients of public relief. Investigation of cases to be personal and severe; money to be given in exceptional instances only."

THE ARTISANS' DWELLINGS BILL.—At a meeting of the Social Science Association, with reference to this Bill, Mr. Godwin said:—For his own part, he had the strongest wish to render the Bill a good one and to help it forward. There were sites in all our large towns, sites in London, which were the hotbeds of disease, immorality, and death, and where circumstances made the interference of individuals or of societies unlikely, if not impossible. He would take, for example, the courts and alleys behind Drury Lane and Gray's Inn Lane, or that extraordinary and frightful part of London—the Golden Lane district. Nothing could be done with these as a building speculation, but with such powers as those given by the Bill they might soon be made to present a better form. There was one district in the City, it occurred to him to say, where improvement might possibly be effected without loss as a building speculation, even under present powers; he alluded to a remarkable congeries of courts bounded by Lothbury on the south and Moorgate Street on the west. Assisted by this Bill, a wonderful change could certainly be easily effected there. Knocking down a poor neighbourhood and putting up better houses had not usually been found profitable in a pecuniary point of view. Much of this, however, had resulted from obstacles thrown in the way, which might be got rid of under a proper Act of Parliament. But if these improvements did cost money, the money would be well spent, and in due time would bring back a good return.—*Builder.*

Publications of the Charity Organisation Society,

To be obtained at the Office of the Society, and through Messrs. Longmans, Paternoster Row, and all Booksellers.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 131.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 17, 1875.

DOUBLE NUMBER, PRICE 2d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

The Sub-Committee appointed on February 5 'to consider and report on the Reports of the District Committee Visitors, and the Organising and Assistant Organising Secretaries on visits to the District Offices, with a view to strengthening and consolidating the Society's work in the several districts of the Metropolis,' will be glad to see any Hon. Secretaries of District Committees as Visitors at its meetings. It meets on Fridays at 11, but will adjourn from the 19th instant to April 9.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, Kensington Committee; E. Waller, Esq., Fulham; Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Captain Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Lord William Compton, Major L. Prendergast, Major Sanford, W. W. Wright, Esq., Major C. C. FitzRoy, St. George's; Captain Elliot, R.N., H. Peto, Esq., Westminster Union (St. James's and St. Ann's, Soho); Major-General Blunt, C.B., St. Marylebone; Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; F. Burdett Roberts, Esq., Islington; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, St. Giles and Bloomsbury; Hamilton Hay Hill, Esq., Strand; Rev. H. G. Henderson, H. A. Herbert, Esq., Shoreditch; J. Sapsford, Esq., Bethnal Green; Russell H. Barrington, Esq., Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney and Mile End Old Town; T. B. Montgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's, Southwark; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; I. H. Cole, Esq., Deptford; G. Parker, Esq., Lewisham; Captain G. H. Gardner, R.N., Eltham; C. A. Barry, Esq., H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham; Almsger Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., G. Blount, Esq., Dr. Hawksley, W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 39. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries; Miss Edwards, Edgar Hyde, Esq., Visitors.

A letter was read from Capt. Walter, pointing out the mischief which cannot fail to arise from giving charitable assistance in money to pensioners.

All those who are in good health are perfectly able to earn a good living, and, as regards those who are suffering from the effects of service, &c., it is the duty of the State to look after them, and charitable gentlemen had better expend their money and energy in compelling the War Office to do its duty than in attempting to stand in its place.

Bad as the public-houses are, they do not do me so much mischief as charitable people, who ruin the self-respect and energy of those who but for the assistance of charitable persons would be compelled to work. No disease is so infectious or so destructive to the constitution as the habit of living on the industry of others.

The Secretary reported that a difficulty had arisen with regard to preparing some of the new Books and Forms, and that it had not yet been found possible to send out the sample-sheets.

Also that five letters for the Metropolitan Convalescent Institution had been received.

CASES.

A letter was read from the Whitechapel Committee, asking if anything was known of a Mrs. Channon, aged about 35, who was going about London with a sick child aged about 8, and who appeared for some years past to have been more or less dependent on charity and charitable 'homes.'

It was stated that Amelia Channon, or Shannon, was known to the Islington and Wandsworth Committees, as well as at the Central Office.

A letter was read from the St. Saviour's Committee, calling attention to the case of a Mrs. Gauster, or Jeuster, whose husband was in prison, and who they believed to be applying in various quarters for assistance, especially in Roman Catholic circles. The circumstances of the case were known to the St. Saviour's Committee, and they could not recommend it.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending March 6 the receipts had been £22. 12s. for the General Fund, and £100 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,183. 17s. 10d. and £188. 13s. 9d. respectively.

That they had resolved not to insert paid advertisements of charitable institutions in the Reporter.

And that they had expressed their approval of a proposed alteration of boundary between the St. Saviour's and Newington Committees, as both Committees were in one Poor-law division, and no departure from Poor-law boundaries would be required.

MR. FRANCIS PEEK'S OFFER.

A draft of the proposed arrangement with Mr. Peek in regard to his offer of February 24th was sent up by the Administrative Committee, in pursuance of a reference made to them at the last meeting.

It will be remembered that Mr. Peek offers to give £1,000 a-year for three years to the Society if it will co-operate with

the members of the School Board so far as to investigate the causes of the distress brought to light by their visitors, and to assist a certain class of cases which may be described as those of deserving persons whose cases can be permanently benefited by temporary aid.

The draft pointed out that it was already the duty of the District Committees to inquire into all cases of alleged distress to which their attention might be called, and to deal with those to the best of their judgment and ability. Mr. Peek asked for no action different from that which the Society ordinarily pursued, but desired to increase the ability of the Committees in the poorer districts to deal with such cases as the School Board authorities might refer to them. The contribution would be treated as a separate fund, and would be divided amongst the District Committees on application by them in proportion to the extra expenses to which co-operation with the School Board might put them.

It was stated that Mr. Peek did not wish any special action taken in the way of paying school fees, nor any inquiries made with reference to the question of payment or remission by the School Board, and that the District Committees would not be expected to relieve such cases as seemed to them more suitable for the Poor-law or a local charity.

The draft was considered in detail and agreed to. It was ordered that it should be sent to Mr. Peek for his approval, with a view to its transmission subsequently to the District Committees.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE VISITOR.

Mr. Stephen Fuller was appointed a District Committee Visitor and an Additional Member of Council, on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee.

A letter from Mr. Fuller was read in which he said that his wish was to visit the various Committees, and if there were any particular work worthy of imitation carried out in any one of them to recommend it to the notice of the others.

THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

It was resolved, on Sir Alexander Gordon's motion—

That the Administrative Committee be requested to consider the work of the Secretary's Department, and report whether any change in the staff is necessary, or any re-distribution of office work between the Secretary and the Organising Secretary.

The subject was ordered to be set down on the Agenda Paper for Thursday.

The following contributions were received during the week ending March 6, 1875:—*Donations*: S. Bidwell, Esq., £5. 5s.; Captain F. A. Boyce, £5. 5s.; Miss Burgoyne, £5; J. M. Corrie, Esq., £3. 3s.; O. Darwin, Esq., £1; The Earl of Derby, £10; The Lord Hatherley, £25; G. Hawkins, Esq., £1. 1s.; J. Noble, Esq., £50; W. H. Potter, Esq., £1. 1s.; T. Godolphin Rooper, Esq., £5; Rev. J. J. Thornley, 2s. 6d. *Annual*: Rev. C. T. Ackland, £1. 1s.; Miss D'Oyly, £5; W. Henty, Esq., £1. 1s.; J. C. Sharpe, Esq., £2. 2s.; Sir Harry Verney, Bart., £2. 2s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: The Lord Hatherley, £25.

The following business stands for Monday, March 22:—

To consider a recommendation of the Administrative Committee—

'That the sum of £37. 10s. be again granted to the East London Financial Committee as salary for a Collector for six months.'

Mr. R. H. Barrington to move: 'That it is desirable that the Supervision Sub-Committee be discontinued.'

Mr. Alsager Hay Hill to call attention to the Report of the Sub-Committee on Employment, and to make suggestions as to the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of March 1875 was 36,785, and 61,596 received out-door relief, making a total of 98,381. This is an increase of 55 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,853, 22,107, and 22,979 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 409. This is a decrease of 28 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 158 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by		Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undergoing Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans				
Kensington	11	7	4	22	6	1	7	2	31	20
Fulham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	4	3
Paddington	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	15	14
Chelsea	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	4	9
St. George's:—										
St. George's Division	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	21	10
Westminster do.	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	11
Westminster:—										
St. James & St. Anne's	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	6	4
St. Marylebone	5	5	10	20	6	2	8	2	27	15
Hampstead	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	9
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	2	1
South St. Pancras	2	4	2	15	5	5	10	1	21	12
Islington	2	1	3	6	3	1	4	1	7	12
Hackney	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	3
St. Giles & Bloomsbury Strand	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	6	2
Holborn	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	6	7
*City	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	9	2
Shoreditch	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	6	2
Bethnal Green	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	8	3
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	5	1	2	8	2	1	3	1	11	5
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	5	2
Poplar	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	4
St. Saviour's	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	10	3
Newington	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	11	2
St. Olave's	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	4	1
Lambeth:—										
North	2	5	7	14	6	1	7	1	17	4
South	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	3	3
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	3	4
Battersea	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	2	2
Clapham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	3	2
Camberwell:—										
Grove Lane	2	2	4	8	1	1	2	1	9	2
Peckham	2	2	4	8	1	1	2	1	1	2
Greenwich	4	4	8	16	3	3	6	1	7	1
Deptford	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	4	2
Woolwich	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	6
Lewisham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	3	6
Eltham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	10
Sydenham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	3	1
Total	31	22	60	113	6	31	68	52	17	7
									80	261
									147	93
									88	

* No returns received from this Committees at time of going to press.

CORRECTION.—The St. Olave's Committee find that their return of cases for the week ending March 6 should have stood as follows:—'Dismissed as ineligible 1,' 'Recommended to local agencies 3,' and not 'Dismissed 5,' 'Recommended 4.'

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Eighth Annual Report of the Halifax (Nova Scotia) Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

Der Erste Europäische Blindenlehrer Congress in Wien, 1873. Protokollarischer Bericht.

Blinden Institut auf der hohen Warte bei Wien. Gegründet von Ludw. Aug. Frankl, 1870.

On the Relation of the Blind to the World around them. By J. W. Klein. Extracted from 'Die Anstalten für Blinden in Wien,' translated by the Rev. William Taylor. 1859.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting was held in Willis's Rooms, St. James's, on the 10th inst., the Right Honorable Lord Hatherley presiding. The attendance was very large, and among those present on the platform were Lord Napier and Ettrick, the Right Hon. J. Stansfeld, M.P., Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth, M.P., Sir Charles Trevelyan, the Dean of Winchester, Bishop Beckles, the Rev. R. J. Simpson, the Rev. A. T. Ross, the Rev. W. G. Lewis, General Sir R. Wilbraham, General Sir Alexander Gordon, Mr. Thomas Hughes, Q.C., the Hon. C. W. Fremantle, General Bainbridge, and General Cavenagh.

The Secretary read letters regretting inability to attend from the Bishop of London, President of the Society; the Duke of Westminster, Mr. Barosa Pollock, the Bishop of Manchester, Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, and Sir John Kennaway. He stated that Lord Lichfield, Chairman of the Com-

was absent abroad, and that Sir Sydney Waterlow and Mr. Ernest who had hoped to be able to attend, were detained by the debate in the House of Commons on the Law of Hypothec.

The noble Chairman said that it was right that a Society like this should, year to year, give some account of the amount of assistance it had given, and some explanation to those who were not aware of what the Society was endeavouring to achieve. The object of the Society was indicated by its name. It was a Society for organising charity, not as some seemed to think, for suppressing it. The necessity of organisation was apparent to all, and organisation was the very reverse of isolation. An army was the familiar instance of organisation; without organisation that army would be merely an armed mob, more dangerous to the community than formidable to its foes, and it was needful for Organised charity to go forth as an army to stem the advance of those floods of evil which, in all large communities, would be found to be constantly recurring. In the metropolis, wherever one placed himself with a charitable purpose, he would always find abundance of matter on which to operate. The number of fellow-creatures within the confines of London made up a population of about 4,000,000—a number greater than that of the inhabitants of any other land, and a population larger than that of some Continental kingdoms. The large population, like all populations, found itself divided into many classes, and of these classes a large proportion would be found under the pressure of struggling hard for an existence. It was a matter of the greatest importance how to keep the working population from falling into destitution—from that station of honest labour in which they were able to support themselves and their belongings—a position in which their labourers were generally able to hold their own; but below the labourers were classes who stood upon the very verge of difficulty, and whose difficulties, if they were rightly and wisely aided at the proper time, might be successfully overcome; properly administered charity would enable families to overcome the pressure of temporary calamity, and to maintain their position; but if those people, thus reduced, were driven by the want of well-administered aid, into the ranks of those who lived by charity, the task of endeavouring to raise them was almost hopeless. (Hear, hear.)

People who were in what would prove to be temporary difficulties were a general organisation of charitable relief, fell from time to time, to that sadly depressed class whom it was an almost hopeless task to raise. (Hear, hear.) Some classes of the working people of the metropolis were, it should be remembered, earning wages which were not sufficient to keep them; some earned an amount which would enable them to keep themselves, and when some misfortune came, or some other calamity, they were overwhelmed. Such unlooked-for calamities might be instanced as those which occurred in the mining districts, causing deaths of bread-winners, or that of the inundation in London through the rising of the Thames, causing misery and distress, destruction of the homes of the poor and the loss of their property. There were many fitting and proper objects of charity constantly; and besides those thus arising, there were widows made poor by the loss of those upon whom they depended, orphans reduced to dependence by the deaths of their parents, the temporarily sick and permanent sick, the blind, the deaf and dumb. To deal with, and to use the means of dealing with all these necessitous classes presented a task for the Society without its entering upon that which it had suggested was its work—the unholy enterprise of 'Repressing Charity.' (Cheers.) The sources of charity, ever since the foundation of the world, had been perennial, and must be so, for charity was of divine origin, and there were ever ready those who would fill the vessels of grace as the prophet filled with oil the vessels of the widow; but the vessels were not always able to act with knowledge of the cases presented to them, and thus to make the most of those means of which they were stewards. And what the Charity Organisation Society desired to do, was not to dam up the sources of charity, but to direct them into those channels from which they might beneficially irrigate and fertilise the vast ground, instead of being diverted into foul channels and dismal places, ending in the workhouse, the jail, and the madhouse. (Cheers.) It was the real object of the Charity Organisation Society, and anyone who looked into the condition of this city, or who had lived there, as we have done, for half a century, must have found, as he had, the difficulty of finding the necessitous and suffering. (Hear, hear.) Sometimes the giver desired to ascertain, before he gave his alms, something about the person who sought his charity, and the answer would be, if the person was asked in Westminster, that the persons asked lived in the East End. (A laugh.) The charitable who made inquiries into the lives, even if those who begged lived in their district, were frequently told, 'So great had been the need of assistance in inquiry that our friends combined with him to have an agent of their own to inquire into the cases of applicants who came to them. Sometimes the agent had several of those who had combined to employ her had been sent to the same persons. Thus this organisation of charity showed that it would have been impossible for them to have found out as many persons as they did by organisation, that the persons they relieved were rapidly

brought or led to the worst form of mendicancy. (Hear, hear.) He had thus been led to think how the forces of the charitable could best be organised, and he begged them not to forget that while they had the Divine command to give, that command was not that they were to give without order, and order meant inquiry; for it was also ruled that whoso would not work, neither should he eat. (Cheers.) All that the Saviour and the Apostles did was done in order, that was, in thorough organisation. There was the organisation for preaching the Gospel, organisation for missions, organisation for feeding the hungry; in fact, this order or organisation was an emanation from that vast Divine law 'which ordereth all things.' (Cheers.) Now, what was this Society doing? This Society, seeing the innumerable channels of charity, was formed on the basis of having district agencies and a Central Council, through whom information regarding charities and persons applying for relief might be acquired by individuals. He could give an instance which occurred only the other day. He had an application of a distressing character from a person living at Wandsworth. The story looked true; but he could not inquire himself. He was not even aware in what district the street was, and he referred the case to the Charity Organisation Society, who at once obtained information, which was complete and satisfactory, through those capable of acquiring it. (Hear, hear.) That was the mode in which the Society worked, and a very simple mode it was; and when it was known that the Society had thirty-five district committees, corresponding, for the most part, with the areas of the Poor-law administration, it would be seen that the Society was an agency which could touch all parts of London, and say whether an applicant can be best served by means of this or that charitable institution, whether or not it would be proper to relieve him in this way or that way. The central body could communicate with the district committees to ask if a particular applicant was in temporary distress, such as could be relieved, or was a mere fraudulent beggar. It could communicate with the Poor-law authorities, and inquire whether the persons who applied for charitable aid had come under, or were not under, the Poor-laws. This knowledge was necessary in dealing with the cases which arose; and what the Society most desired was that it should be assisted by the public generally making use of the information now within reach, and especially by charitable institutions making use of the information which could be given them, to aid them in the proper distribution of their funds. This work of the Society tended to increase charity—to increase it properly and wisely, and in nowise to its diminution. (Hear, hear.) The next thing which the Society did from time to time was to investigate, on behalf of large institutions, the cases applying for relief, to see how far those institutions might be themselves justified in pursuing the object they had in view. The Society did not intrude assistance or advice, but gave these when asked for information; and it had acquired, in the course of its six years of operations, a vast amount of information respecting English and foreign charitable institutions. It would be seen by the Report that the Society had been asked to investigate the cases for out-door treatment at the Royal Free Hospital, where all comers were received without tickets, and the object of the inquiry was to see if the people who came for gratuitous advice and medicine had or had not the means of paying for what they thus took from charity. The inquiry took place with reference to about 640 of these patients, and of these nearly one-half, 49 per cent., were found to be cases which should never have applied to such a charity. (Hear, hear.) He did not say that these persons had money in their pockets at the moment sufficient to pay for what they took from charity, though, if they had not, it was, perhaps, because those funds had been applied in making them ill—(A laugh)—but it was found that all these were cases of persons who might have applied weekly payments to a provident dispensary, by which they might not only have had the advantage of medical advice and medicine, but the immense advantage of feeling that they had preserved their independence. (Hear, hear.) He knew instances of imposture arising by means of charities which it would be thought would be the least likely to be abused. Hospital tickets were taken from door to door as a means of begging. And another result of indiscriminate charity had happened within his own knowledge. Some winters ago the weather was very severe, and some persons were believed to have met their deaths through exposure to it. This shocked the public mind, and public subscriptions were at once forthcoming to institute refuges for all who asked for food and shelter. No questions were put, and all about the streets were taken in, lodged, and had food. The numbers increased rapidly, 400 and 500 a-night came; and after breakfast, which most of them had—though some went off without it—they were turned out into the streets again without any questioning. There was an amazing increase and pressure of distress at this time upon the hands of the Mendicity Society, in Red Lion Square, and then it was found that these so-called 'homeless' people came up from country districts adjacent to the East End of the metropolis, attracted by indiscriminate charity, and after breakfasting in the refuges went off to dine in Red Lion Square. (A laugh.) Before he was aware of these facts he invited one of the most active clergymen in Westminster to consider this matter; for, he thought, if this great distress existed at the East End, there surely would be a great deal of similar want in Westminster. The clergyman had more experience than himself, and inquired of the police, who stated that in the whole of Westminster

there had only been two persons found in the streets in several weeks without a shelter, and that the crowds at the East End refuges were the result of the course of proceeding adopted there. (Hear, hear.) These instances would show the necessity of learning what each charitable person and society were doing, what was necessary to be done, what was being done, and in what way charitable funds should be applied so as to really go to the relief of those who needed them. (Hear, hear.) Communication and co-operation between givers—societies and individuals—must have a good effect; and having seen much good result from co-operation between charities and the Poor-law, he hoped to see it still further extended. (Cheers.) The Charity Organisation Society was on very friendly terms with the Poor-law authorities, and the evidence of the good work done in this way so far was mentioned in the Local Government Board's last report, which made special reference to the work done by Miss Octavia Hill and Colonel Gardiner; and both Mr. Longley and Mr. Doyle had spoken of the work in their reports. (Hear, hear.) This work was, he was happy to say, making satisfactory progress, and he asked the public to assist in it. The great want was the want of volunteers to carry out the work to a successful issue. The Society was but in the sixth year of its existence. Those connected with it did not set up as professors of political economy, or desire to teach the public, *ex cathedra*, how to manage their charitable affairs; but they asked the public to be fellow-inquirers with them into the pursuit of that true method which they were yet investigating, and which they did not pretend they had yet reached. (Cheers.) The Society wanted, in each of the thirty-five districts of London, the hearty co-operation of those who could afford information, or of those who would ask for information, or to make use of the Society; for its only justification was its usefulness, and when it was no longer useful it could not expect to exist. (Hear, hear.) Before proceeding to urge the last point in his mind—that was, the claim of the Society for receiving aid in carrying on its work—he should like to point out some other agencies which seemed to him to be helpful in the particular objects this Society had before it. The one great evil which lay at the root of the present ill condition of the lower stratum of society was the condition of the dwellings of the poor. (Cheers.) It was unreasonable to expect that those who were brought up where they could have no possible means of learning and practising order and cleanliness, or of knowing what comfort was, could turn out clean or orderly. There was a constant neglect, even of the common decencies of life, in these 'homes.' Let them consider what would be the effect of such homes upon the poor girls brought up in these places, and yet these girls were to be the mothers of the next generation. While these homes continued it would be impossible for a large portion of the population ever to be brought up in a way that would insure their becoming reputable members of society. The meeting was not called now to consider that point, however,—most probably they would hear something about it from Sir Sydney Waterlow, who, it was to be hoped, would be present before the meeting was over. (Cheers.) Another means of doing good which had sprung up was the Provident Knowledge Society; and no one who had seen the want of thrift in the households, and the wasteful and improper expenditure, could doubt that this Provident Knowledge Society would be of vast utility. (Hear.) Then there was the Provident Knowledge Society's Bank, which did not tempt people and bribe them to make small savings by giving exorbitant interest, and pay them out their savings once a year; but proposed, he believed, not to give any interest at all, and urged the people to continue to save at the end of the year, as at other times. A difficult question which the Charity Organisation Society had dealt with was that of loans; and the Society wisely, instead of pauperising those who were temporarily depressed by giving small doles, endeavoured to raise them up by lending them a few pounds to recover tools, for instance, pledged in a time of sickness, and the people thus assisted were enabled again to commence the labour of life. (Cheers.) There had been such success with these loans, that on the total of £700 or £800 lent by one committee, the loss had not been more than one per cent. (Hear.) Even in an East End district of London (Shoreditch), of £108 lent, only 18s. had been lost 'by the partial failure of the experiment in three cases.' He ought to mention the Parochial Women's Fund as one of the means of teaching the people to help themselves. This fund did not give money, but collected it for those who could be induced to save, that they might lay it out in useful articles for the home and person. (Cheers.) This Society had thus been enabled to collect £13,000 in one year from the very poor in small driplets. (Cheers.) He would have desired to lay before the meeting other facts brought out by the Charity Organisation Society's operations, but some of those were manifest to all who lived or had lived in London. (Cheers.) No one could walk through the streets without being struck by the almost total absence of mendicity, and he claimed for the Charity Organisation Society a considerable share in bringing that about, for of all the means of fostering mendicity, sorrow, and sin there was no more efficient means than by giving money to those who had not earned it, and giving it without inquiry, or without ascertaining whether it was by vice or misfortune the applicant had become distressed. (Hear, hear.) It was doing a person a wrong to give him or her money which had not been earned, and he trusted that the efforts the Society had made to show the extent of that wrong would

meet with public approbation. The fact that the idle did not like the Society was a proof of its beneficial character, and he knew of several amusing instances of the manner in which that dislike had been expressed. A lady a short time ago gave a person a ticket, and the applicant replied, 'That's a very bad society; they get everything out about you, and then they use it against you.' (A laugh.) It was not a bad description of the treatment of those who deserved to be so treated. Of course the applicant did not stop to think that what was 'got out' about her must have been something which could not be used for her. The Society, he might add, though it did not undertake to give aid and relief itself, yet did so; and more than that, he would not have the meeting go away with the notion that the Society took upon itself to be so rigid that it would not relieve or listen to any undeserving persons. 'If we all had our deserts who should escape whipping?' It desired to raise men from the ground when it was possible to do so; and though men might have fallen through their own bad conduct, yet, if there was hope in them, the Society did not desert them, but did what could be done to provide them with some situation in which they could prove that the confidence and trust reposed in them had not been misplaced. (Cheers.) He trusted that the Charity Organisation Society, being an instrument not for controlling charity but for regulating and economising it, would be enabled to complete its work, and he desired the public, on their part, to be good enough to undertake the task of co-operating in the work. (Hear.) If anyone desired to know how that might be done, they might learn something from the Report of the branch in Marylebone. For that district of Marylebone there were 19 medical charities and 49 other general charities, and the Society there was in full and harmonious co-operation with those who administered the Poor-law. (Cheers.) Let those present see if they could not do something to favour and develop the Society, and he ventured to say that those who were strong, and able, not only to distribute their money in alms but to give their time to the Society by being fellow-labourers with those who had carried it on for these six years, would have more comfort in their charitable work, in the relief they afforded to their suffering fellow creatures, than in almost any other work they could do. (Loud cheers.)

The Report was taken as read, having been distributed among the audience.

Lord Napier and Ettrick said that he had been entrusted with the duty of moving the adoption of the Sixth Annual Report, but he did not intend to enter upon a detailed exposition of the statements which it embodied. The noble and learned Chairman, in his interesting address, had already anticipated some of the remarks which he might have made, and there were others to speak who had special knowledge of several of the subjects submitted for consideration. He would, however, allude to some topics which appeared to be reserved for his treatment; and first he would call attention to the position, the functions, and the claims of the District Committees. These bodies, thirty-five in number, were at once the source and the instruments of the central authority, and were the most important agents in the practical duties of the Society. Their activity was proved by the fact stated in the Report, that more than 12,000 cases of alleged destitution had been examined in the course of last year; and if this number was not so large as the number reported on a previous occasion, it was not owing to any relaxation in the exertions of the Committees, but to the greater prosperity of the community, which produced fewer cases for inquiry. But this was not all. The duty of the Committees was not only to work—it was their business to inspire confidence in the public, in the authorities, in the societies with which they desired to co-operate, in individuals devoted to philanthropic enterprise. It would be found in the Report that the Society, working through its Committees, stood in friendly and useful relations to the Boards of Guardians; their good offices had been claimed, as the noble and learned Chairman had stated, by one of the principal hospitals of the metropolis, and he trusted that they might be brought into profitable contact with the operations of the London School-board. Acting, as he did, on one of the Divisional Committees of the School-board, he heard from time to time the most distressing statements on the part of those who withheld their children from attendance at school; he had a painful sense of the difficulty of sifting those statements to the bottom, and often wished that he had an officer of the Society at his elbow to ascertain the truth. The same impression appeared to have been entertained by a member of the School-board distinguished for his philanthropy and good works, Mr. Francis Peek. This gentleman had made a communication to the Society with a view to the investigation of cases brought before the School-board, and had offered to place at the disposal of the Society in the prosecution of this duty the sum of £1,000 during three successive years. The Council were now in communication with Mr. Peek for the purpose of defining the methods by which his benevolent intentions might be carried into effect. If due regard was had to these facts, and others detailed in the Report, he was justified in affirming that the District Committees were both industrious and judicious—that they consulted the best interests of the poor, and possessed the confidence and sympathy of the charitable agencies. How much money the District Committees raised in their several spheres of exertion did not appear in the Report, but he hazarded little in stating that £16,000 had

ceived, of which two-fifths approximately were employed in main-
the machinery of the Society. It had been objected in some quarters
expense of organisation and agency was very great in proportion
amount of money actually laid out in relief—the amount spent in
ing by some assumed to be the test and index of the amount of
re. But this view was founded in an erroneous view of the nature
ctions of the Society. The capital duty of the Society lay in
consultation, and the circulation of knowledge; and he might
firm, that if the Society could attain its ideal, the perfect consti-
which it aimed, the whole of its expenditure would be on machinery
ing would be given in simple relief. It was, indeed, impossible
Society which sought for information, which accumulated and
d information, and which made that information accessible to
lie, could exist without offices and agents—without an ex-
form of material and moral organisation. Far from de-
to conceal this feature in their constitution, the Society
it. They were, however, not the less solicitous to obtain the
is assistance of the public where that form of aid could be pro-
employed, and with that view he earnestly invited persons of all
and of all professions and pursuits to grant their active, willing,
erated help to the Society, by enrolling themselves in the District
ces.

second point, the noble lord said, to which he would invite the
of the meeting was the earnest desire which the Society enter-
aid the movement for encouraging provident habits among the
he Society in this appeared not only as consulting, but as an active
and co-operated in a work which was doubly entitled to support;
as not only of a remedial but also of a preventive character. It
like at maintaining morality in the individual, and at intercepting
city of imposing burdens upon the community. The Society had
ast year granted upwards of one thousand loans, which probably
a disbursement of not less than £2,000; and the moralizing and
endency of the course adopted was proved by the punctuality of
ements, which had been noticed by the noble and learned Chair-
d by the small amount of losses which had been incurred. He
t refer at length to the institution of Penny Banks; but that was
which the Society had much at heart. (Hear, hear.)

speaker then addressed himself to the question of the Special Com-
of the Society, in connection with which he observed, that it had
mated by some that in forming Special Committees to inquire into
of general social interest the Society had, perhaps, transgressed
r limits, and stepped into the arena of politics. He did not think
action of the Society was open to this reproach, and he found its
in the subjects to which those Committees had devoted their
a. Those subjects were the condition of the dwellings of the poor,
institutions for the relief of the blind. Even in a general point of
Society might justly entertain the question of the dwellings of
strial classes. The insufficient and unsanitary condition of dwell-
at the root of much of the vice, disease, and crime which were the
ad companions of destitution, and which inflicted such heavy bur-
the public and private charitable agencies of the country. It was
ate task of the Society to investigate the remedies for such evils;
ntervention of the Society was particularly justified by a considera-
he various and partly conflicting character of the agencies now
for the improvement of the habitations of the working classes.
encies were of three kinds: The action of the Government working
the operation of existing laws—the action of endowed charitable
ns—the action of commercial companies, which were, however,
out a charitable element in their origin and regulations. The
tatives of these three forms of action were convoked and placed in
communication with each other. Their several methods were
ad and discussed. Information was invited from without, and the
is a large amount of mutual enlightenment, the diffusion of a spirit
sation, and representations to Government which were not unfruitful.
not claim for the Committee of Dwellings that they dictated or
guided the policy of Government, but he claimed for the Committee
y supplied the Government with such information and such views
led the Government of the urgency of the case. That urgency
nkly recognised; pledges were given which were promptly and
bly fulfilled, and the Special Committee were gratified to recognise
asure now before Parliament some of the features of a report
ad been some time before the public. In regard to the Special
es for the Blind, he need hardly defend the course taken by the

No society having charity for its object need make any apology
ing into the position of the most helpless class of mankind, and
th-inspired the most pathetic interest. But the support of the
is not only a sentimental but also an economical question. He
t say in a spirit of complaint that the blind were a burden—they
acred burden which all would be solicitous to support; but the
d long lived simply on the alms of the charitable, and it was part
lightened philanthropy not only to give them education and harm-
sures, and the means of leading virtuous and Christian lives, but

also to endue them with the faculty and dignity of self-support. The
Council of the Society had called together the representatives of the
various institutions for the relief of the blind, in order that they might
consult and inform each other, and compare the various means by which,
in different establishments and in different countries, their humane and
useful aims were followed and realised. He believed that the inquiries
thus instituted would be beneficial to the institutions, to the blind them-
selves, and to the community in general. (Hear, hear.)

The speaker then explained that there were three funds in the Society:
the General Council Fund, for the support of the general machinery; the
District Committee Fund, for local application; and a third fund, named
the District Committee Aid Fund, a regulating fund by which the super-
fluous resources of the richer districts could be distributed in aid of the
Committees in the poorer quarters of the town. By the munificence of
the Duke of Bedford and other benefactors of the Society, the Central Fund
had been well supplied, and some of the District Committee funds were
not unprosperous. Subscriptions were therefore earnestly solicited for the
Aid Fund, which was shown in the Report to be in an impoverished
condition.

The noble lord concluded by expressing his hope that the fact that there
was throughout the country a diminution of pauperism and crime, and in
some parts an improvement in the statistics of public health, would not
lead to the impression that there was less need for the philanthropic labours
of this Society and of other charitable agencies. The diminution of crime
and disease might, no doubt, in part be due to industrial schools, to im-
proved police, to sanitary works, but much more, he apprehended, must be
referred to commercial prosperity, and the amelioration therefore reposed
on a transitory and unsubstantial basis. Far from relaxing, we must
intensify our endeavours in order to secure and establish that which had
been already won. There was need for further and combined aggression
on the melancholy regions of vice, disease, poverty, and crime; and while
he recognised that there were many and various means of carrying on this
noble and holy war, he could present to them the Charity Organisation
Society as a useful and respectable instrument of an exceptional character
—which yielded to no other agency in efficacy and power for good. (Cheers.)

The Rev. W. G. Lewis, in the absence of Sir Sydney Waterlow, M.P.
seconded the motion for the adoption of the Report. He said that he had
to congratulate the promoters of that meeting on belonging to one of the
best abused associations in existence; he had heard the Charity Organisation
Society described as composed of miserable *doctrinaires*, and, indeed, since
his name appeared in the announcements of those who were to speak at the
meeting, he had had constant reminders that he was identifying himself with
a very hard-hearted Society. He could give some reasons why the Society
had fallen into such popular disfavour, at least among some. The Society
had addressed itself to a noble work, and had acted upon an extraordinary
plan of action, which exposed the miserable lack of principle which existed
in charity givers and receivers; for principle was wanting in givers who
gave to those who only asked, and of those whose true wants they knew
nothing. The work of the Society was not confined to showing that there
was a strong connection between 'mendacity' and 'mendicity,' or to counter-
acting the efforts of impostors; but it taught the higher purposes of human
life, showing that those who had the means should deal with their fellow-
creatures on a right principle. The Society was not regarded with favour
by the people who gave from sudden impulses, for they did not like to have
it made clear to them that this was not charity according to the Divine
law, and some who gave in this way did so in mere idleness, for it was
easier to give than to inquire. These people who thus acted had a strong
family likeness to that by any means unique character, the Unjust Judge,
spoken of in the parable, who did as the widow asked him in avenging her
of her adversaries, not that he was convinced she was right, but 'lest by
her continual coming she weary me.' (Hear, hear.) Charity to be charity
must proceed from a right motive, be actuated by a right spirit, and directed
to a right object; and when the Society endeavoured to show this, it inter-
fered with one of the most ancient occupations of the human family—
professional mendicancy. The speaker went on to show that the institution
of mendicancy had existed, indeed flourished, in many ages, and had been
celebrated in verse by the poets even down to the rhymes of the present
time, for had we not been taught to lisp in infant accents, 'Pity the sorrows
of a poor old man?' He drew attention to Martin Luther's 'Boke of
Vagabonds,' and traced out in the practices of the present day strong family
likeness to the deceptions which Martin Luther exposed. He related the history
of a discovered imposture on the part of a family who lived in his own
neighbourhood, a family who lived upon the first luxuries in season, and who,
on leaving the home in which they had conducted some of their operations,
left behind a box of letters, 400 in number, showing that they had carried
on a begging-letter correspondence with members of the Royal Family and
of the aristocracy, and had 'operated upon' many members of the House
of Commons. Then, too, clergymen had visitors who were in 'deep spiritual
distress,' and added that they needed, too, a 'little pecuniary assistance.'
(A laugh.) Only lately he (Mr. Lewis) had been the victim of one who
had fastened on him after vacillating between Archbishop Manning and
Mr. Spurgeon. The speaker bore his warm testimony to the zeal with which

the representative Committee of the Society in the parish of Kensington performed its duty, and spoke of the loving help given to the deserving poor. He had seen industrious labouring men, recovering from illness, sent to the seaside to recruit their strength; he knew of honest street-sellers, whose barrows had been restocked and who had been enabled to earn a living; women helped with sewing-machines and other means of obtaining a living; and, all in all, he congratulated the Society upon the work in which it was engaged, a work which, he believed, had the approval of more than human testimony, and was a work which cherished in the hearts of those who practised it the deep and noble sentiment of love to others. (Cheers.)

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Right Hon. J. Stansfeld, M.P., then rose to propose the second resolution,—

That co-operation between Charity and the Poor-law is most desirable, as tending to strengthen the administration of both, and to decrease pauperism.

He said that until he heard the remarks of the last speaker he was not aware of the unpopularity of the Society; he knew that it was very popular with some who were well able to judge, and as one who had had some connection with the administration of the Poor-laws, he could speak of the value of the work carried out by the Society in combination with the Poor-laws. (Cheers.) A volume had been recently issued—the one referred to by the noble and learned Chairman—containing a collection of reports of the operation of the Poor-laws in foreign countries. He had himself some responsibility for the collection of those reports. They were edited by Mr. Doyle, a gentleman of long experience in Poor-law matters, and one of the most enlightened of the inspectors of the Local Government Board. Mr. Doyle, in his introduction, compared the Poor-law system of England with that of Continental countries, and showed that in two countries only were the charges for the poor met by a special tax—these two being England and Denmark—and that only in Prussia, Denmark, and Sweden, did the right to demand maintenance exist by law. Mr. Senior's work took a somewhat different view of the English law, and one which seemed to him more practical and correct. As Mr. Doyle stated, the right which obtained in this country to proper relief was not a right which could be asserted in any court of law; but it was, as Mr. Senior showed, one which ruled, without dispute, in the administration of the Poor-law, subject only to the right of the Poor-law guardians to be the judges of the necessity existing in each case; and so, practically speaking, this country must be treated as under a law which gave every person a right of demanding, in case of need, the necessities of life. (Hear.) And in the interpretation of this right it was ruled that it not only included food, shelter, and clothes, but everything necessary in any condition of life—the most expensive medicine and nursing, the care of lunatics and the aged, as well as the treatment, the nursing, and the education of infants and children. So wide a system as this, as he need hardly say, was capable of doing great good, but if not soundly organised and carried out, would be productive of more harm than good. (Hear.) But, by the side of this system of legalised charity, there was a system of outside voluntary charity, unexampled in amount; and when it was known what vast sums were thus irregularly bestowed upon the poor, it would be seen that the whole thing needed systematising and organisation in order to avoid the double work, which could not be helped while each side kept its own work to itself, and that organisation would prevent the pauperisation which followed the careless administration of Poor-laws and charitable funds. Whence, he asked, did those charitable and legal agencies arise? And looking for the reason of their existence, he conceived that they owed their birth to the complex conditions of modern society. The wealthy had a sense of obligation—an obligation which they endeavoured to discharge by scattering relief, and the country generally endeavoured on its part to quit itself of its obligations by the enactment of the Poor-law. But neither the efforts of the public in the Poor-law nor the efforts of the wealthy in charities would do any real good unless wisely administered. These means of relief at best were but palliatives—they could not cure nor remove the evils. But more, there was a larger danger still, for in the lax and unscientific treatment of the poor in legal or charitable work it was extremely easy to do more harm than good. (Hear, hear.) Some of the soundest thinkers of this country—so great had been the evils from maladministration—had addressed their minds to consider the question, whether it would not be better for the poor of this country that there should neither be Poor-law nor charitable agencies. This question need not be discussed by the meeting, because it suggested an impossible hypothesis. (Hear, hear.) Charity sprang from motives which no good man or woman could be without, and it was impossible to stem its flow; and no State could exist in safety without a Poor-law of some description, or a State Organised Charity. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, the practical work was to deal with the charities. To minimise the dangers of lax administration was the object of the Charity Organisation Society—(Hear, hear)—and to this it had turned its attention, proving itself, as the noble and learned Chairman had said, a practical society. It was a Society one of whose functions was criticism, and it was an edu-

cational Society, in that it educated the minds of administrators of charities to the necessity of organisation to secure the good administration of the funds committed to their charge. (Hear, hear.) Then the Society, besides pointing out what charities could do in organisation, had pointed out the necessity for co-operation with the Poor-law, and had prepared the way for that necessary combination of the Poor-law with the charitable institutions of the country. The speaker then referred to a report issued by the Fulham and Hammersmith Committee, in which attention was called to the fact, that on a given day in June 1874 the paupers of England and Wales were put down as being only 735,000. These figures represented the numbers under the Poor-laws on a given day; but it was not an accurate representation of the amount of pauperism in the country; that was to say, of the numbers of persons who, in the course of a year had been relieved, and who, therefore, were on the brink of pauperism, and the Committee had come to the conclusion that the numbers were nearer four millions, or one-sixth of our population. (Hear.) He was glad to find that the Society was doing a large amount of practical work; and what it had done in regard to inquiring as to the applicants for medical assistance at the hospitals, proved the truth of the doubt which had often been expressed as to the necessitous condition of those who so applied, and showed how much better it would be to institute for the out-door patient system a system of provident dispensaries. (Hear.) That was the advice of the Charity Organisation Society, and it would be well if those who directed the affairs of the great London hospitals would take this into consideration. (Hear, hear.) The Report said:—

The object of the Society is not to become the great relief agency of London, but to make itself the servant of all other agencies, with a view to making the assistance they give effectual, and to economising their energies by promoting division of labour. The Reports show that an increasing number of charities and charitable individuals are learning to ask the District Offices to inquire into alleged cases of distress for them, and to advise them as to the best mode of assisting those whose cases admit of help; whilst signs are not wanting of progress in the very difficult work of bringing about what—according as it is looked at from one side or the other—may be called either co-operation amongst relief agencies or division of charitable labour.

He could not but think that it would be a very happy act on the part of the great charities of the metropolis if they would come to regard this Society as a kind of general agency for their use, and support its work out of their ample funds. As to the necessity of relations being organised between organised charity—assuming the charities to be organised—and the Poor-law, he would put it in two ways. Let it be considered that there was a Poor-law system which sanctioned out-relief—and he might say that he, in common with most who had studied and watched the subject, was very much in favour of a stricter system of out-relief. It was not possible to abolish out-relief; but, he would ask, did not this out-relief partake of the character and nature of charity, and tread upon the heels of charity; and, if it was not carefully administered, did it not become relief in aid of wages? (Hear, hear.) This being so, was it not true, that without some organisation between those who administered this out-relief and those who administered charity, there was every chance of work being done twice over, and an increase of those evil pauperising tendencies which it was most earnestly desired to diminish? (Hear.) If, on the other hand, in some part of the country a body of guardians desired not to give out-relief, they could only take that course if there was such an organisation of outside charity that they could venture to depend upon it, reserving to themselves the administration of the workhouse. (Hear.) In the volume which Mr. Doyle had compiled was a report by Mr. Strachey with regard to a commission in Denmark, and Mr. Doyle said:—

That which the Charity Organisation Society is so earnestly endeavouring to do by voluntary agency in this country the Committee recommends to be done by legislation in Denmark. It suggested the complete separation, by legislative enactment, of public and private charitable functions; the literal restriction of public relief to such individuals as are actually unable to work, that is to say, to children and aged and weak persons. Settlement to depend no longer on domicile, but exclusively on birthplace. The present territorial and administrative arrangements to be maintained. A large development to be given to the workhouse system. Out-door relief to be sparingly allowed. Foreigners who have not been naturalised to have no claim on the parish. Casual foreign paupers to receive temporary local relief. The Committee further recommended that the official system be supported by the organisation, under legislative sanction, of general voluntary relief. The financial basis of this would consist in the voluntary contributions of the charitably disposed, in certain donations which may with propriety be attributed to this object, and in the resources of the parish poor-chests (previously described), augmented by certain small fees and fines. Management to be by an elective board. No charity to be dispensed to the recipients of public relief. Investigation of cases to be personal and severe; money to be given in exceptional instances only.

It was easier to propose legislative enactments than to draft a bill, or to carry such proposals through Parliament; and, even if such were carried, it would be difficult to carry them into effect. But the more these questions were considered the more was seen the necessity for the operations of this Society, and therefore he felt that the appeals which had been made on behalf of the Society were sufficiently justified, and ought not to be made in vain. (Hear, hear.) He did not desire to damp the enthusiasm of those associated with the Society, but he would say that which they themselves knew to be true—that, after all they could succeed in doing in organising charity and the Poor-laws, the cure of poverty was to be found outside rather than inside the circles of charity and poor relief, for these

were only palliatives. The cure would depend on other work, which would not deal with existing pauperism, but would prevent its existence; for this they must look to improved dwellings for the poor, and to a completion of the system of national education. (Loud cheers.)

The Dean of Winchester seconded the motion, and said he was called upon to do so as the Chairman of one of the Associations affiliated to this great Charity Organisation Society. He had had some experience as to co-operation between charity and the Poor-law. He was for some time Chairman of a Board of Guardians, as well as clergyman of the parish for which that board sat, and he was often obliged to refuse relief when sitting in the chair as a guardian, and afterwards to consider the person entitled to relief when as clergyman he administered charity. (Hear.) Since going to Winchester he had been Chairman of the Charity Organisation Society of that town, and great good had been effected by it during the last two years. (Hear.) There was no town in England which was in a more demoralised condition in this respect than Winchester had been a few years ago. It was certainly improved now; not, he would say, through the Charity Organisation Society alone, but through the influence which the Society had exercised upon the people in that city to think before they acted in giving alms, and to consider whether they would not do more harm than good in giving to the passing beggar. (Hear, hear.) As he understood it, the object of the Society was not to give casual relief, but so to render sufficient aid as to give people a fresh start in life, or to help them permanently in some other way. A case occurred a short time ago in which a poor man, who could not have borne the expense of obtaining justice for himself, complained that the 'Benefit Society' to which he belonged refused to give him the weekly allowance to which he was entitled. The Charity Organisation Society undertook his case, and ascertained that there was a local branch of the Benefit Society in Winchester, but that the important central office was in Birmingham. The poor man could not go to Birmingham, as he would have been obliged to do, and the Charity Organisation Society employed a lawyer there, and another at Winchester, and these did their work so well that the man was reinstated and obtained a considerable sum—the money which ought to have been given as his weekly allowance. The result was, that the Charity Organisation Society of Winchester exposed the sham society, and both the lawyers refused to take one penny for their expenses on account of the great good done to the community. (Cheers.) He would add that there existed at Winchester a practice in regard to Poor-law operations which did not, perhaps, exist elsewhere. It so happened that in Winchester there were a number of small benefactions—small doles of sixpence a week some of them—and it was the general impression that these doles did infinite harm, and tended, by encouraging dependence, to increase pauperism. But what he had to complain of was that when a poor person had thus received perhaps five shillings, he was docked of that amount from his weekly relief at the Guardian Board, and so the charity went to the relief of property. The Charity Organisation Society considered that these doles should not be given to those in receipt of poor relief, but if they were given to the persons above the verge of pauperism they would be useful in assisting persons who were struggling to maintain themselves, often with much difficulty. (Hear.) Then Winchester had a Mendicity Society, and when it was established twenty years ago it gave considerable benefit to the real respectable wayfarers. Investigation, however, lately was made about sixty persons, taken at random from those who came to have the night's lodging and relief, and of the sixty only three were found to be proper recipients of the charity, and these were the only proper objects of relief at all. Of course a Mendicity Society could not 'test' these persons, as was the case at the Union Workhouse, by asking them work; and so a Mendicity Association drew people to Winchester who could give no account of whence they came or whither they were going, their names or ordinary means of subsistence; and the Mendicity Societies—at all events that of Winchester did—tended to increase at least the profession of 'tramps,' if not of actual pauperism, rather than act as a means of relief of actual distress. (Hear.) He regarded this society as one of the best means of encouraging real charity, and as a stimulus to the honest worker. All thankfully acknowledged that charity as inherent in natural and revealed religion, and was the bond of unity, which people were to help one another; but nothing more surely hindered its common interchange of kind feeling as the action of the fraudulent mendicant. (Hear.) There was no greater enemy to Christianity than the beggar who told a false story, and knew it to be false, for the deception as sooner or later discovered, and the consequence of the discovery was to fill the hearts of our fellow-Christians. He urged the importance of these Provincial Associations, even as regarded London; for as London was filled with the population from the country, those who came up from the untry towns should be made to know that their cases would be investigated, wherever they were, before they were relieved by the kindness of our neighbours. (Cheers.)

The motion was agreed to.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that the Society, notwithstanding the opposition mentioned by Mr. Lewis, had made satisfactory progress during the

five or six years of its existence, and no better proof of this could be given than the names of the distinguished men who had presided over its annual meetings. (Cheers.) But he must say that Lord Hatherley's accession to the chair had given him more pleasure than that of any of his predecessors. The Charity Organisation Society was charged with 'cold philosophy;' but Lord Hatherley was universally known to exercise a genial, personal charity—visiting the fatherless and widow in their affliction, holding out a helping hand to the deaf and dumb and blind—(Cheers)—and dispensing every seventh day the gift of knowledge, and especially of religious knowledge, to the young. A nobleman with these characteristics would not have identified himself with a 'cold and calculating policy' repressive of the best instincts which God had planted in man. Support like this imposed a serious responsibility upon the Society; but he could say, from considerable experience, that the Society had worked more in the spirit of a hard-worked public department, such as the Local Government Board or the Post Office, than of a charitable society; and it has had the advantage of two secretaries in Mr. Bosanquet and Mr. Ribton-Turner, to find whose equals recourse must be had to the best men in the best departments of the State. (Cheers.) If it had not been for Mr. Bosanquet and Mr. Ribton-Turner's perseverance, ability, energy, and self-sacrifice, the Society would not stand in its present high position. (Cheers.) Then, too, he must say on behalf of his colleagues on the Council, that for a time they used to be continually discussing general principles; but having well threshed and winnowed them out, they now seldom mentioned them. The Society had chosen its lines, and if these were not always 'pleasant,' the members of the Society were satisfied they were true lines, and that the good ship built upon them would hold its course throughout the world. The time had come when, instead of going on pouring water into buckets without bottoms, the condition of the poor should be permanently improved, by making them self-respecting and self-supporting. (Hear.) 'Self-help' was the motto of the Society. He might, upon that text, preach a sermon which would last till next day; but 'one thing at a time,' and the most important thing now before them was the reform of the system of medical relief. (Hear.) This was the most prolific source of pauperism in the metropolis. All required, at times, medical aid; and it was given at present to the entire working class, and to a wide margin of the lower middle class, on a purely eleemosynary principle; so that our hospitals and dispensaries had become training schools of mendicant pauperism. (Hear.) On behalf of the Society he assured the public that it would endeavour to justify their confidence and good opinion and he begged to move a vote of thanks to the noble Chairman for presiding. (Cheers.)

General Cavenagh cordially seconded the motion, and said that all interested in the well-being of the country and in the elevation of the poor owed a deep debt of gratitude to the noble and learned Chairman for his thoughtful and instructive address, and for presiding that day.

The motion was put by Sir Charles Trevelyan and carried unanimously.

Lord Hatherley, in acknowledging the vote, said that from the first he had seen how useful this Society might become. His old and valued friend and school-fellow (the Dean of Winchester) had told them of the evils which had existed in that old cathedral town, and which, he believed, existed in all cathedral towns, owing to the well-meant but ill-placed benevolence of their predecessors. (Hear, hear.) As a contrast, he might mention that his friend the Dean and he were deeply indebted to the kind prelate who founded the oldest foundation school in England in that same city of Winchester. Though the Dean and he did not receive gratuitous education, they had the advantage of his foundation there, and a corresponding advantage at Oxford. These foundations not only gave great assistance in acquiring knowledge to those who needed aid, but gathered round them learned instructors, who were able to instruct pupils outside the pale of the institution itself; and thus this one town presented examples of judicious and injudicious charity. (Hear, hear.) He hoped that the Charity Organisation Society would go on in its good work, preventing mischievous so-called charity from harming the population; and he was sure that instead of engendering a 'cold-hearted philosophy' it would cause charity to spread and be lasting, by enabling them to assist the poor without suspicion and distrust. (Hear, hear.) Those who gave without inquiry could not help suspecting that their charity was misplaced, and inquiry into the results of it soon caused a chill, even to the most charitably disposed. Then people sought to guard themselves by giving vicarious charity, and, by means of hospitals and other places, leaving others to do good for them; but now by means of this Society individual cases could be so thoroughly investigated, and the facts of every case could be so brought out, that one could again act, he would not say as a benefactor, but as a brother man. He trusted that every success would attend the Society in all its work. (Cheers.)

THE JEWISH "BOARD OF GUARDIANS."

Those who are interested in the cause of Charity Reform should read the report of the Jewish Board of Guardians for the past year, which has recently been presented to the annual meeting of their subscribers. It is well

known that this body bears a very faint analogy to the parochial Board which is known by that name. Besides the fundamental difference that the Jewish Board is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, upon which the Jewish poor have no legal claim at all, its relief function is much more extensive than that of the rate-supported Board. It embraces within its scope not only destitution but distress, and deals both with chronic cases, to which weekly or monthly allowances are made, and with cases of temporary distress, where help in time—given often with no grudging hand—may be expected to be of permanent benefit.

The first point noted in the report is a decline in the number of applicants from 2,072 in 1873 to 1,869 in 1874. As the number of those receiving fixed allowances remains the same, the decrease has arisen in the cases of temporary distress; and since there has been of late years an increase in the amount awarded to each case, the result may indicate that many have been helped to a position of independence. It should however be remarked that this decline in the number of applicants is coincident with a similar decline of pauperism throughout the metropolis, and may probably be attributed to the same general cause.

How to bring the various charitable agencies into co-operation with each other seems to be as difficult a problem in the Jewish community as it is outside; indeed, in the opinion of some, the difficulties are even greater, from the fact that in a comparatively small body every one is more or less, known, and the risk of imposture, and the need for systematic co-operation less apparent. The report for 1872 speaks thus of this question:—The Board was entrusted last year (1871) with tickets to the value of £38. 13s. 3d., out of a sum of above £2,000, which is annually distributed by two or three institutions within the course of the winter months. As will be seen the casual poor only entailed on the Board during the whole of the past year a cost of £1,345. 9s. 11d.; and although it would have been desirable, had the funds permitted, to have given more to each case, no deserving applicant was ever turned away. It has taken the Board years to inculcate habits of independence among the poor; but the chance of any permanent improvement must be seriously jeopardised, when, in three short months of each year, an unregistered distribution takes place of an amount 50 per cent. greater than the Board expends during the whole year in casual relief.

Since this was written some progress has been made, and the present report points out that arrangements for concerted action have been entered into with the Jewish Home and with the Committee of the Soup Kitchen. In the former case three members of each body have become members of the other, in the hope that a year's experience of each other's work may point the way to a closer co-operation; in the latter case the list of regular applicants at the soup kitchen is to be forwarded to the Board, and information exchanged as to each case, while the names and addresses of casual applicants (i.e. those who come without tickets) are to be taken down once or twice during the season, and forwarded to the Board for investigation.

Turning to the industrial aid given by the Board, it is gratifying to see that the conditions of the labour market are readily recognised in the selection of trades. The four branches into which the work of the industrial Committee divides itself, are:—

1. The loan of sewing machines.
2. The loan of tools and implements to artisans.
3. The apprenticing of youths to trades other than tailoring and cigar-making.
4. The training of a class of boys as shorthand writers.

On the first and second head no special remark is needed, but it is in carrying out their third object that the committee have met with their greatest difficulties. The trades of tailoring and cigar-making are much overstocked, and in consequence sadly underpaid, and the committee have therefore widely made known their readiness to apprentice boys to other trades, as cabinet-makers, jewellers, monumental stonemasons, and leather-bag makers. The committee, however, have not been able to wean the poor from trades to which they are accustomed, and only seven boys have as yet been apprenticed to the new trades. It is needless to add that the wisdom of the committee's scheme is in no way affected by its want of immediate success. For the shorthand class eleven of the best pupils in the Jewish School have been selected, and are now receiving instruction in this art.

Another point referred to is the total discontinuance of out-door medical relief. 'The result of this measure' (which was determined upon in 1873), says the report, 'has been satisfactory in a double aspect; it has eliminated from the attendants at the dispensary those who made use of it as a means of obtaining relief rather than medicine, while it has given the medical officer more leisure to attend to those who were really ill.'

Two points remain to be noticed. One is that relief in kind, which was originally intended to be the common form of relief, is being gradually given up, having been found less advantageous than was anticipated; and the other is that a change has taken place in the duties of the visiting committee, which is thus described: 'It has been found from year to year less beneficial to carry on the system of each visitor taking special cases under his care, and that more harm than good arises from recipients of charity

finding themselves under the special care of a visitor delegated by the board. In such cases the person to be relieved always manages to have some special tale of misfortune or of want to recite, and the intended good generally results in causing a constant expectation of relief, tending to check the energies of the poor towards supporting themselves.' Under these circumstances the visiting committee confine themselves to assisting the investigating committee.

J. R. H.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

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THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
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The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Administrative Committee will not meet to-morrow.

The Central Office will be closed on Good Friday, and re-opened on Easter Tuesday.

As the Council does not meet on Easter Monday, no Reporter will be issued next week.

District Committees are reminded that a fresh election of Representatives at the Council has to be made (under Rule X.) within one month after the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

The revised Books and Forms are now nearly ready, and copies can be ordered from Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., New Street Square, E.C. Sample sheets will shortly be sent out to District Committees and affiliated Associations.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, Kensington Committee; E. Waller, Esq., Fulham; Major Yard, Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; Lord William Compton, Major H. A. Sanford, W. W. Moore, Esq., St. George's; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; F. Burdett Roberts, Esq., Islington; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, Reginald Smith, Esq., St. Giles and Bloomsbury; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Hamilton Hay Hill, Esq., Strand; Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, Holborn; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bathurst Green; Rev. A. J. Ross, Russell H. Barrington, Esq., Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East; S. C. Bosanquet, Esq., F. Mont-

gomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's, Southwark; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; George Parker, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., Lewisham; Captain G. H. Gardner, R.N., Eltham; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., G. Blount, Esq., S. Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 37. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries; Miss Martin, Visitor.

The Secretary reported that Mr. R. Burnett had consented to act as an Honorary Secretary of the St. Olave's Committee, and that the Rev. J. Chadburn had been elected a representative of the Poplar Committee, *vice* Mr. Corner.

Also that the Chaplain of the Dudley Stuart Home had written to call attention to a young man of about twenty, calling himself John Thompson, who was going about Paddington and its neighbourhood, and making false statements as to the conditions of admission to the Home.

MISS STRIDE.

Attention was called to the reports in the morning papers of a statement made on Saturday, at the Bow Street Police Court, on behalf of Miss Stride. See *infra*, p. 52.

The Secretary explained that the statement made by Mr. Giffard with regard to an agent of the Society had reference to two visits which the Assistant Organising Secretary had paid to Miss Stride's Home two years ago, to make some inquiries from Miss Stride about a matter which did not concern herself. The Society had certainly not set anyone to watch her house, nor had any report been sent out at all resembling that received by Miss Stride, either in form or substance. There was no reason to suppose that any of the statements in the libel had been derived from the Society.

It was agreed that every effort should be made to discover the printer of the circular, and a wish was expressed that any person who had received one would forward it, with the envelope, to the Organising Secretary.

A DESERVING CASE.

The Secretary asked, on behalf of the Newington Committee, whether any member knew of any Home that would take in a blind woman of good character, who had recently lost her husband, and had a child 19 months old.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending March 13 the receipts had been £141. 13s. 10d. for the General Fund, and £25 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds had been £1,286. 7s. 6d. and £213. 13s. 9d. respectively.

That their attention had been called by the Secretary to the fact that, in consequence of the arrangement entered into with the Newport Market Refuge, and other changes, several of the Information Papers required alteration, and that they had ordered, subject to the approval of Council, that this opportunity be taken to reprint them in the more compact form of a District Committee Paper for the use of Honorary Secretaries.

Also that a letter had been received from Mr. Francis Peek, approving the draft arrangement which had been submitted to him, and that they had directed that this should now be sent out with a transmitting letter to the District Committees.

EAST LONDON COLLECTOR.

The recommendation of the Administrative Committee was considered—

That the sum of £37. 10s. be again granted to the East London Financial Committee, as salary for a Collector for six months.

A letter was read from the Rev. S. Barnett, as Hon. Secretary of the East End Financial Committee, stating that the collector had only collected about £160, but that he had done much to make the work of the Society known among the shopkeepers and small tradesmen. Most of the money had been raised in small sums: the Committees had not as yet succeeded in getting at the large employers.

The Rev. H. G. Henderson hoped that the grant would not tie the five Committees to the present plan of dividing the money received by the collector equally.

Mr. Russell Barrington thought it would be well that each Committee should receive what was collected in its own District. At present the Committees had not a sufficiently direct interest in what was obtained. They might find a way of approaching the employers. He believed that the general feeling was strongly in favour of a joint collector. If any Committee preferred a separate collector it could withdraw.

The recommendation was adopted, with a direction that the East End Financial Committee should be requested to consider whether it would be advantageous to alter the present mode of dividing the funds.

THE SUPERVISION SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr. Russell Barrington moved:

That it is desirable that the Supervision Sub-Committee be discontinued.

The Sub-Committee had confined itself in practice to supervising the Inquiry Department; he thought that this should be done by the Administrative Committee rather than by a permanent Sub-Committee. The Administrative Committee might have two meetings in the week if necessary.

Mr. J. R. Hollond called attention to the recommendation of the Administrative Committee on the subject (see *Notices* below). The duties of the Sub-Committee needed to be defined, but there was work enough for it to do.

Sir Alexander Gordon had attended the Sub-Committee regularly for some months. It was doing most useful work, and the fact of its being attended week after week by the same members was a great advantage, as they were able to keep the thread of the cases that came before them.

Mr. Wightman-Wood pointed out that large organisations must make much use of standing Committees.

The motion was withdrawn, and the Council adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending March 20, 1875:—*Donations*: E. Courage, Esq., £10; J. Disney, Esq., 8s.; Hon. Mrs. J. W. Malcolm, £1; Mrs. G. L. Prendergast, £1; 'Spinster Lady, late C.V.', £5; R. H. Vade Walpole, Esq., £5. *Annual*: Lady Crossley, £1. 1s.; Lieut.-Colonel Elliot C.B., £1. 1s.; Mrs. Rowland J. Venables, £2. 2s.; the Very Rev. the Dean of Winchester, £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: F. D. Mocatta, Esq., £15; Miss Pomeroy, £5; W. E. Welby, Esq., M.P., £3.

The following business stands for Monday, April 5:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee—

'1. That the sum of £10 due to the District Committee Aid Fund from Islington Committee be remitted.'

'2. That the work of the Supervision Sub-Committee be limited to the inquiry department of the Organising Secretary's work, and that the Committee be called the Inquiry Sub-Committee.'

Sir Alexander Gordon to move: 'That the following gentlemen be elected

Additional Members of Council for the coming twelve months: Sir Rutherford Alcock, Sir J. G. T. Sinclair, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major-General Bainbridge, Dr. Hawksley, and Messrs. Blount, Fuller, Hicks, Hughes, Phillips-Jodrell, Miner, and Wightman-Wood.'

Mr. J. R. Hollond to propose members of the Administrative Committee for the coming twelve months.

Mr. Alsager Hay Hill to call attention to the Report of the Sub-Committee on Employment, and to make suggestions as to the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
Kensington	8	6	1	15	..	..	4	2	5	11	29	9	7
Fulham	1	3	1	5	..	..	1	1	..	2	7	3	4
Paddington	1	2	2	5	..	..	5	2	1	8	17	18	11
Chelsea	1	1	..	2	1	3	1	1	1	3	10	11	4
St. George's:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. George's Division	..	2	2	..	1	2	4	1	..	1	29	9	4
Westminster do.	..	3	6	9	..	5	3	..	1	4	4	..	..
Westminster:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. James & St. Anne's	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
St. Marylebone	2	4	5	11	..	14	6	2	..	7	36	6	5
Hampstead	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	1	3	5	1	2
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South St. Pancras	..	3	3	6	..	1	..	1	..	1	8	1	3
Islington	3	1	..	4	1	6	..	..	..	..	11	11	1
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	1	..	3	4	2	6
Strand	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	5	7
Holborn	1	2	3	..	2	1	..	1	..	1	7	4	6
City	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	2	3	4	20
Shoreditch	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	6
Bethnal Green	..	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	..	2	9	3	1
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	3	4	1	8	2	1	2	5	..	1	17	9	..
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	2	..	7	9	..	4	..	4	..	1	14	5	2
Poplar	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	1	1
St. Saviour's	1	..	4	5	..	1	1	..	..	1	7	1	8
Newington	..	3	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	3	6	5	4
St. Olave's	..	1	2	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	7	6
Lambeth:—	..	1	3	4	2	1	3	4	..	4	15	3	3
South	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	2	3	3	2
Wandsworth & Putney	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	1
Battersea	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	2	3	1	1	1
Clapham	1	1	..	2	1	..	1	2	..	..	4	1	1
Clamberwell:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grove Lane	..	5	5	..	3	3	3	..	..	3	14	2	2
Peckham	..	2	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Greenwich	..	3	3	..	..	..	10	2	13	16	2	2	12
Deptford	..	..	..	1	..	1	4	..	4	5	1	1	4
Woolwich	1	3	..	4	..	..	1	1	..	2	6	..	1
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	3	3	4	7
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Sydenham	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	3	..	6
Total	29	37	61	127	11	33	32	76	50	28	12	11	101
											304	139	105
												97	

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of March 1875 was 36,869, and 62,091 received out-door relief, making a total of 98,960. This was an increase of 679 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,582, 20,093, and 21,190 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 412. This was an increase of 3 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 191 on the corresponding day of last year.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Fulham, Hackney, and St. Olave's Committees.

Report of the Council of the Glasgow Association for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity. 1874.

Annual Report of the Tenby Association for Organising Charitable Relief, 1874.

Annual Report of the Board of Guardians for the Relief of the Jewish Poor. 1874.

Annuaire Philanthropique Genevois. 1875. Publié sous les auspices de la Société Genevoise D'utilité Publique.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

ST. PANCRAZ AND HIGHGATE.—On Monday, the 15th inst., in connection with this Committee was held at the Literary Institute, South Grove, Highgate. In the absence of Lieutenant, the announced Chairman, in the early part of the evening, was taken (says the *St. Pancras Gazette*) by Mr. Lake, who in his speech referred to the objects of the Society, as set forth in the Charter, dwelling upon the more salient points, and pointing out some of the ways in which they might assist in the work.

Next, the Hon. Secretary of the Branch, next addressed the meeting at some length, and fully explained the aims and objects of the Society, stating that they were very much misunderstood by the public. He then stated the mode of action pursued by the Committee, referring to several deserving and undeserving cases which had been referred to the Committee during the year, and appealed for aid in the work. Speaking of grants and loans to poor people, he did not like the former as well as the latter. By the disbursement of money as loans without interest to the deserving poor, they had a spirit of self-reliance. 158 new names had been placed on the Register, and 383 cases had been brought before the Committee, £26, 18s. having been expended in grants, and £80. 1s. advanced. They relieved where they could and where they saw help was to be had. Their regular business was investigation. The cases he had a fair sample of those which came before them. The public assistance in the work, not only by contributions, but by their moral aid. He would counsel all before they gave away money to come to the Committee and have the cases inquired into, and would strongly recommend never to give money away in the streets, as a large amount was gratuitously given.

Mr. Wilkinson, who on arriving was cordially received, took the opportunity to apologise for being late. He understood that Mr. Lake had introduced the subject, and he needed not to bear testimony to the necessity of this nature. They must all feel the necessity for the collection of representative, and accumulation of evidence in matters of which would enable them to discriminate between bad and good, whether rich or benevolent they might be, if they only gave more to the beggar indiscriminately they really might do much to encourage the habits of beggary, and it might be better to abstain from charity.

He had been on the Committee, and witnessed the very way in which the cases were attended to, and the objects of the aid aimed. He could recommend it most heartily to their notice.

Mr. Ash moved the first resolution:—“That this Organisation, whilst it repress mendicancy, encourages, by means of public and private assistance, the efficient administration of benevolence.” Mr. Ash read the sentiment in an earnest speech, referring to the poverty which existed in its most dire form in the back streets, kitchens, courts, and alleys of the metropolis. He thought there were very few people who were now as compared with a few years back.

Mr. Mallet seconded the motion, and pointed out the many ways in which they might help the Society. They might join themselves, and be other women to join, as it was a work for which they were adapted. The majority of applications were made by women, and the demands for help came mostly from them. The tact and sympathy which was most valuable to this Society.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Ribton-Turner moved the second resolution: “That this meeting, in the principles of this Society, and pledges itself to heartily approve of, and he urged it in a comprehensive speech, which dealt with the aspects of the question rather than the local. He believed that of charity rested more with ladies than any other class. To the great importance of this movement he might quote a few figures. The West district of London, where he lived, only some 15 per cent. of the population were born in the district; 39 were born in London, and 46 in the country and elsewhere. This showed that less than one-fifth were born in London, and this rendered the dispensing of charity with very difficult. The Local Government Board gave us credit for 5,000 paupers in the country, viz. England and Wales, but they gave credit for the number of applications for relief made in the country, by single individuals and others, and it was ascertained that 10 millions of people, out of a population of 22 millions, in England and Wales, or about one-sixth, were in a semi-dependent condition. These figures would denote the vast amount of poverty that had increased, and how important it was that such relief should be wisely dispensed. These semi-dependent people were like a great millstone on the neck of the nation, as they were a standing source of danger to the country. These people could not see the riches all about them, but they were out wishing for a share of them. But, after all, he did not think that the money power that was wanted so much as more thinking. The Poor-law Guardians were as soft-hearted as they could be, but they were very difficult course to pursue, but he believed that the more they gave out-door relief, the more they were burdening the poor. But

there ought to be intelligent co-operation between the Poor-law Guardians and this Society. If a man was improvident, he ought to be made to accept the hard measures of the Poor-law, in order to drive him to provident habits. When people applied for relief there was always a screw loose somewhere. (No, no.) This question of charity was one of the most, if not the most, pressing questions of the day. Some solution was wanted of the problem how to do justice to the poor and to other classes of society at the same time.

The Rev. H. F. Mallet seconded the motion, and spoke on the subject from a moral and spiritual point of view, stating that he took a serious view of the matter before them.

Votes of thanks having been accorded to Mr. Lake for the use of the Institute, and to the Chairman for presiding, the meeting terminated.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its sixteenth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Major-General Bainbrigge, R.E., Colonel Fyers, Dr. Hawksley, Messrs. T. Clarke, W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, J. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson; Messrs. C. Coburn and J. M. Hutchinson, Visitors; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Secretary reported that through the courtesy of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy he had received two copies of the Report of the Congress of Teachers of the Blind, at Vienna, in 1873.

Also that Major-General Bainbrigge's translation of portions of this was in type, and would be sent to members shortly.

The consideration of Head II. was continued, with reference to improvements in the direction of securing permanent employment for the blind.

The following resolution was carried, on Mr. Harris's motion:—

“That workshops should be conducted by an experienced sighted manager, on the same principles as any ordinary well-conducted business.”

The Committee then adjourned to Wednesday, April 7.

HOSPITALS FOR ALL CLASSES.

The following letter appeared in the *Lancet* of the 13th instant:—

“Sir,—That hospitals are only for one class is an insular prejudice. Many years ago the present Registrar to the Admiralty, being on a mission to French Guiana on slave trade business, fell sick of fever. He was advised to go into hospital, where a healthy, airy room, with the best medical skill and nursing the colony could afford, soon enabled him to return to work. When the General Hospital at Madras was rebuilt, pleasant apartments overlooking the river were reserved for military officers and others waiting to embark for England for the restoration of their health. These examples followed the general practice of the Continent of Europe, and why should it not be naturalised among us? What a relief it would often be, even to a well-to-do family, if a sick member could be nursed at a neighbouring hospital; and how many unmarried ladies and gentlemen would obtain in this way advantages which their own homes could not afford! To set apart rooms in existing hospitals seems better, at any rate at first, than to construct a new hospital entirely for this purpose, as proposed in the last number of the *Lancet*. Full payment must of course be made, but this would be moderate compared with the services rendered. The indirect benefit to the hospitals, by making them popular, and calling attention to the details of their management, would also be very great.

“The practice in the United States will be seen from the following interesting extract from Sir Fowell Buxton's journal of his recent tour:—

“Boston, November 24, 1874.—In the afternoon I went with Dr. Clarke to see the Massachusetts Hospital, which has nothing particular about it except this, that it charges those who are able to pay. It has four classes of patients. 1st. Free beds, but not many. 2nd. Beds free in general, but on which certain persons who have given monies have a claim for their friends. 3rd. The beds constituting the great majority, for which a charge is made of a dollar a day, but part or all is sometimes remitted at the discretion of the governor, who is one of the acting medical officers. No difference is made in the privileges of these three classes, nor any asked for by the patients. 4th. Some private rooms, at five or six dollars a day, where I shall go if necessity requires it. Let — see this; not that I expect the London Hospital to adopt it. At all events, bankruptcy will come first.” Thus it appears that, with special exceptions, all pay who cannot prove their inability to do so, and that paying and non-paying patients occupy adjoining beds without any idea of their receiving unequal attention. Sir Fowell Buxton's allusion to the prejudice which induces us to submit to a chronic state of bankruptcy for most of our medical institutions, and to train our working population to dependence upon alms, rather than receive from them such payments as they are able to make, might be expanded into a book. I am, Sir, yours, &c., C. E. TREVELYAN.”

Those who were present at the Conference on Out-Patient Hospital Relief at the Society of Arts, in December 1871, will remember the remarks of Dr. Acland and Mr. Stansfeld on this subject. We take the following extracts from the Report of the Conference, which is printed at the end of the first Report of the Medical Committee of the Society:—

'At St. Louis, on the Mississippi, he (Dr. Acland) had visited a hospital where there were three classes of sick. First, those sent at the charge of the Town Council to the common wards; second, those who were in the same wards, paying the lowest rate for themselves; third, those who made remunerative payment, and had separate rooms. Something of this kind is wanted, either at our workhouses or at other hospitals.'

Upon which Mr. Stansfeld followed with:—'I was very much struck by the suggestion of Dr. Acland, that it might be well in the organisation of the hospitals and infirmaries, whether belonging to unions or parishes, or to towns, that provision should be made for the treatment in the same building and under the same management, not only of those who were professedly and acknowledged paupers, but also of the great mass of the community who could not afford at their own homes to secure the conveniences and accommodation which might be afforded to them in the hospitals, even if they contributed somewhat to the support of those institutions. That suggestion shall have my careful consideration.'

A FORGED LIBEL.

At Bow Street, on Saturday, an application was made to Mr. Flowers, on behalf of Miss Stride. Mr. Giffard, Q.C., acting upon the instructions of Messrs. Humphries & Morgan, stated that his client had, it was well known, been engaged for the last twenty years in reclaiming the fallen and unfortunate of her own sex. She was a lady of independent means, having at one time had £11,000, a great part of which she had expended in her charitable work. It might have been conjectured that she would have met with every encouragement from the various institutions having a similar object in view, and some time ago a person describing himself as an agent of the Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity, Buckingham Street, Strand, waited upon Miss Stride, at her 'Home,' in Hart Street, Bloomsbury, and every information was given to him, in the expectation that his object was to render her some assistance. Her hope of this was dispelled by an observation of the agent, towards the close of their interview, which led her to think that he was not favourably disposed towards her mission; and her attention was subsequently directed to the fact that her house was being constantly watched. Eventually a printed circular was sent to her, anonymously, the word 'disgusting' being written upon it, apparently to denote the writer's estimate of the same. The document was dated from the office of the said Society, 15 Buckingham Street, was marked 'Confidential,' and bore the names, 'C. B. P. Bosanquet, Sec., and C. J. Ribton-Turner, Org. Sec.' It was as follows:—'Re Miss Stride's Homes.—In answer to numerous inquiries, they are strongly recommended not to give anything to the so-called Homes. Having had reason to form an unfavourable opinion of Miss Stride a few months ago, our charity agent was sent to No. 17, Hart Street. His investigation was most unsatisfactory, and since then a strict watch has been kept over her, and this has been the means from time to time of suppressing large sums of money intended for her, and giving the money to worthier objects; and the following is her history:—About seven years ago she was in the employ of the Midnight Meeting movement, but was discharged for incompetency. She next obtained a situation as a mission woman in the Reformatory and Refuge Union, but was discharged for misconduct. Accompanied by her friend the Rev. George Hough, chaplain of Millbank Prison, she applied to a police magistrate for relief, when, through Hough's gross misrepresentations, the magistrate gave her money out of the poor-boxes, and the daily press pleaded her cause. The result was, they received nearly £5,000. A house was taken in Hart Street and magnificently furnished, where Stride and Hough lived together, with their connections, and two or three fallen women for servants, the whole of the public subscriptions being squandered in the most extravagant and expensive style of living. A Bill was introduced by us into the House by Lord Shaftesbury to amend the present vague laws, but was withdrawn on account of its being too late in the Session. At the commencement of an approaching Session it will be reintroduced, and as soon as it becomes law summary proceedings will be taken to close the so-called "Homes" and to remove Hough from the chaplaincy of Millbank.' It was hardly necessary to say that Miss Stride was ready to court the fullest investigation. Mr. Hough, who was chaplain of the Westminster House of Correction, not of Millbank, was also ready to come forward and deny the imputations cast upon him. Messrs. Humphries & Morgan sent one of their representatives to call upon Mr. Ribton-Turner, the Organising Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, and he repudiated all knowledge of the circular, and the following letter had been subsequently received from him in reply to a letter from those gentlemen:—

Gentlemen,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., accompanied by a copy of a printed document containing statements with regard to Miss Stride's Home, and professing to emanate from this office.

I have to-day laid them before the Administrative Committee of this Society, and they direct me to inform you that the document in question is spurious, that it has not been issued from this office, and that neither the Committee nor their officers know anything with regard to its authorship.—I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant (signed), C. J. Ribton-Turner, Organising Secretary.

As there was no clue to the printer of the libel, he feared Miss Stride could obtain no redress, and would have to be contented with the observations he had made.

Mr. Flowers regretted to have heard the statement of Mr. Giffard, and hoped sincerely that the writer of the libel would be found and brought to justice. If the author were not a coward, he would come forward like a man and accept the responsibility which she had challenged him to assume.

BLIND CHILDREN IN BOARD SCHOOLS.—We learn from the *Metropolitan* that at the meeting of the School Board on the 17th inst., a report was brought up from the School Management Committee, stating that the Board on the 15th April, 1874, had resolved that a circular letter should be addressed to the divisional committees, instructing them to take steps to induce blind children to attend the Board schools, and, when such children were in attendance, to notify the fact to the Society for Providing Home Teaching for the Blind (Home Teaching Society for the Blind), in order that the special education of the children might be provided for. The School Management Committee had recently had under consideration a report from the above society, and had also had an interview with the Secretary, Mr. G. Martin Tait, as to the result of the action taken under the above resolution. By the census returns for 1871, after deducting the children attending at the Blind Institutions, there could not be less than 120 blind children above five years of age in London, 80 of whom were on the books of the society, and were receiving regular visitation and instruction; 13 of the number being in attendance at Board schools, and 14 at other day-schools. Mr. Tait had undertaken to furnish the committee with the names of the children already at schools, which information would place the School Management Committee in a position to make a reference to the Bye-laws Committee with a view to further steps being taken with regard to the children not attending school. The committee, and also Mr. Tait, were of opinion that it would be well for the Board to appoint a teacher to visit at their several schools the blind children now at Board schools, and also those that might attend after further action had been taken, for the purpose of giving them the technical instruction which ordinary teachers are not qualified to impart. The committee therefore recommend that they might be empowered to authorise Mr. Tait to nominate a suitable teacher for appointment by the Board, at a salary of 30s. a week, exclusive of travelling expenses. The Rev. J. Rodgers gave notice of motion, in accordance with the recommendation of the committee.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

33.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 7, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

Stepney and Mile End Old Town Committee have their office at 45 Portland Street, and have opened at 598 Commercial Road E., near the Stepney Station, new cases, and a second office at 116 Mile End Road End cases.

Meetings of the St. Saviour's Committee are now held at office, No. 9 St. George's Circus, S.E., and not at the Hall.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Bart., F. J. S. Edgcombe, *Kensington Committee*; W. Mussared, Esq., *Fulham*; Major Yard, Sir R. M. Stephenson, *Paddington*; L. Aspinall, Esq., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lord W. Compton Prendergast, Major H. A. Sanford, Major C. C. FitzRoy, P. M. P., *St. George's*; Capt. Elliot, R.N., *Westminster (St. James's Park, Soho)*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., *St. Marylebone*; Hon. E. E. St. Giles and Bloomsbury; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill, Esq., *St. Giles and Bloomsbury*; C. L. Corkran, Esq., *Whitechapel*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Brown, Esq., Q.C., *Lambeth*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; I. H. H. Deptford; Captain Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; A. H. Hill, Esq., *St. George's*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Major-General R.E., S. Fuller, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 30. C. B. Quet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

Mr. Edgcombe was read from the St. George's Committee, pointing out that as the days lengthened more hands were likely to be found in the manufacturing districts.

The St. George's Committee, though they have no longer any money fund for their purposes, yet have a fund of information which will be of use to any Committee having suitable cases to recommend, viz. cases of children of a certain age.

It was stated that to render a family suitable there should be at least three children between the ages of eight and twelve, and one capable of working.

A letter was read from Mr. Edgcombe, stating that Miss Gordon, who had long acted as one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Kensington Committee, was a candidate for the office of Secretary.

The Secretary mentioned that Miss Collett, one of the Secretaries of the St. Pancras South Committee, was a candidate in her parish.

CERTIFICATES.

A letter was read from the Reading Charity Organisation Society, stating that a man had recently applied for relief at the office, and had produced a certificate from a District

Committee, stating that he was deserving of employment. The Reading Society had communicated with the metropolitan Committee concerned, and had learnt that the paper was given to the man as a recommendation for employment at certain works. He had not applied at these, and appeared to have used the letter for begging purposes.

The Secretary stated that the Administrative Committee agreed with the Reading Society in thinking this a good illustration of the inconvenience of putting a recommendation into the hands of an applicant, and had recommended them, in reply to a question, to detain any such recommendation in future until they had communicated with the person or Committee said to have given it.

WHITECHAPEL AND ST. GEORGE'S EAST.

The Secretary reported that separate Committees had been formed for the Whitechapel Union and for St. George-in-the-East, but that the Committees would continue to use the same office, 194 Commercial Road E.; that the Rev. Harry Jones had been elected Chairman, and Mr. W. M. Alexander, Hon. Secretary of the St. George-in-the-East Committee; and that the Hon. C. W. Fremantle had been elected Chairman, and C. L. Corkran, Esq., and C. Lavers Smith, Esq., Representatives of the Whitechapel Committee.

Also that several Committees had notified their re-election of their Representatives.

BOARDING OUT AND PAUPER SCHOOLS.

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented copies of Miss Smedley's book upon 'Boarding-out and Pauper Schools,' for transmission to the District Committees. He stated that it contained the principal papers on both sides of the question, and might be regarded in its general purport as a protest against the prevailing tendency to relax or obliterate the divine institution of the family by artificial human institutions, such as outdoor relief and indiscriminate charity, and what Miss Smedley called the 'Monster School System,' developed in the shape of vast pauper schools and middle-class orphanages; the injurious influence of these last was aggravated in most cases by the circumstance that admission to them depended not upon an investigation and comparison of claims, but upon the result of an expensive and uncertain canvass.

QUESTIONS.

The Secretary asked whether any of the District Committees besides Chelsea and St. George's knew anything of a Mrs. Kieran. Mrs. Kieran appeared to have the manners and education of a lady, and sometimes introduced herself by applying for assistance for another person.

Major FitzRoy asked whether it was considered that an annual grant of money to a widow for five or six years, to buy clothes for her children to enable them to attend school, was 'such temporary assistance as would be permanently useful.' He illustrated his question by cases that had come before his Committee.

The Chairman thought that each such case must be dealt with with reference to its special circumstances, and to the present year.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the two weeks ending March 27 the receipts had been £35. 16s. for the General Fund, and £23 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £1,070. 10s. 10d. and £199. 3s. 9d. respectively.

Also that a letter had been received from a gentleman in Norfolk, enclosing a memorandum form purporting to be issued from the Central Office of the Charity Organisation, and to be a request that an overdue subscription might be forwarded to a private address in the City; and that they had instructed the Organising Secretary to ascertain the origin of this application.

The Organising Secretary handed in a report, from which it appeared that some memorandum forms, with printed headings, of a kind used by the Council five years ago, had been accidentally delivered to a firm in the City by the printers who then served the Society. The clerks of this firm had amused themselves by sending several of these out to acquaintances of their own, with requests for payment of subscriptions alleged to have been promised. Much trouble and annoyance had been caused, but there did not appear to have been any fraudulent intent.

INQUIRIES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

A statement as to inquiries from the Central Office, with specimen cases, was brought up in proof, and ordered to be printed as Appendix VI. in the Annual Report.

The Secretary explained that, in pursuance of orders to that effect, only 500 copies of the Annual Report had been printed, in order that this statement might be added. Copies of the Annual Report would now be sent to all subscribers to the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A debt of £10 due from the Islington Committee was remitted.

Major FitzRoy suggested that the word 'Supervision' should be introduced into the next recommendation of the Administrative Committee. The Sub-Committee in question would supervise inquiries, but would not itself inquire.

The recommendation was adopted in the following form:—

That the work of the Supervision Sub-Committee be limited to the inquiry department of the Organising Secretary's work, and that the Committee be called the Inquiry Supervision Sub-Committee.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen were re-elected 'Additional Members' of Council, on Sir A. Gordon's motion, for the coming twelve months:—

Sir Rutherford Alcock, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major-General Bainbrigge, Dr. Hawksley, and Messrs. Blount, Willis-Bund, Fuller, Hicks, Hughes, Phillips Jodrell, Miner, and Wightman-Wood.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

Major FitzRoy moved, in the absence of Mr. J. R. Hollond, that the following members be placed on the Administrative Committee for the coming year:—

Lord William Compton, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Sir Alexander Gordon, Major Prendergast, Major Yard, Major FitzRoy, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Miss Collett, and Messrs. Douglas Brown, Edgcombe, Hensley, Hollond, Martin, Peters, Roberts, and Waller.

It was stated that all members of Council were free to attend and vote, but that it was necessary to have a list of names, to promote attendance, and to limit the number of notices when special notices had to be sent.

It being past 5 p.m., Mr. A. H. Hill asked leave to postpone calling the attention of the Council to the question of providing help by employment.

Mr. Fuller suggested that it would be advantageous if the District Committees would consider the subject first.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the two weeks ending Saturday April 3, 1875:—*Donations*: Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., £5; F. Willis & Sons, £2. 2s. *Quarterly*: Hon. W. W. Vernon, £5. *Annual*: Sir George Baker, £1. 1s.; Miss McClean, £5. 5s.; G. F. Duncombe, Esq., £2; Rev. C. N. Edgington, £1. 1s.; Capt. R. C. Mayne, R.N., £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., £10.

The following business stands for Monday, April 12:—

To consider recommendation of the Administrative Committee—

That a grant not exceeding £43 be made to the South St. Pancras Committee.

Mr. A. H. Hill to call attention to the Report of the Sub-Committee on Employment, and to make suggestions as to the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE TWO WEEKS ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undergoing	Open for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment Letters for Hospitals, &c.				
Kensington	2	3	10	15	2	2	2	1	3	20	5	7
Fulham	2	3	5	10	1	1	1	1	2	7	5	4
Paddington	1	2	7	10	4	4	11	1	21	35	28	3
Chelsea	2	2	2	1	1	3	5	1	2	9	17	4
St. George's	1	1	5	7	4	3	7	5	1	7	24	7
St. George's Division	3	6	6	15	4	4	9	3	1	13	53	4
Westminster	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	1	8
St. James & St. Anne's	9	1	12	22	13	7	20	8	3	11	53	11
St. Marylebone	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	1	8
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	1	8
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	1	8
South St. Pancras	2	2	2	6	1	1	2	2	2	10	2	2
Islington	4	4	4	12	1	1	2	2	2	14	7	4
Hackney	4	4	4	12	1	1	2	2	2	14	7	4
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	4	4	4	12	1	1	2	2	2	14	7	4
Strand	4	4	4	12	1	1	2	2	2	14	7	4
Holborn	2	2	2	6	1	1	2	2	2	10	2	2
City	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	6	1	2
Shoreditch	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	6	1	2
Bethnal Green	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	6	1	2
Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East	9	3	13	25	5	2	7	1	1	5	37	9
Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	5	4	9	18	1	1	2	1	1	11	11	11
Poplar	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
St. Saviour's	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Newington	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
St. Olave's	2	2	2	6	1	1	2	1	1	7	4	2
Lambeth	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Battersea	3	3	3	9	1	1	2	1	1	7	4	1
Clapham	5	5	5	15	1	1	2	1	1	9	4	2
Lamberwell	4	4	4	12	1	1	2	1	1	7	4	2
Grove Lane	3	3	3	9	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Eitham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	1	2
Sydenham	2	2	2	6	1	1	2	1	1	7	4	2
Total	47	35	109	191	6	49	36	91	78	31	16	17

* No return received from this Committee, at the time of going to press, for the week ending April 3.

COMING MEETING.

FULHAM.—The Annual Meeting of the Fulham and Hammersmith Committee will be held at the Latymer School, King Street East, Hammersmith, on Tuesday, April 20, at 8 p.m.; W. Gordon, Esq., M.P., in the chair.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

LONDON.—The annual meeting of the supporters of this committee was held on Wednesday, March 24, at the Cannon-street Hotel, Mr. Peek, one of the representatives of the City on the London Board, being called to preside in the place of the Right Honourable Mr. St. John, who was absent on account of illness. There were amongst others, Sir James Hamilton, Sir Macdonald Stephenson, Mr. Brady, the Revs. H. I. Cummins, R. J. Simpson, Harvey M. S. A. Walrond, Pascoe G. Hill, Messrs. H. B. Praed, M.P., J. Hamilton Hoare, and R. Walker.

The Chairman after saying that he deeply regretted the absence of Mr. St. John proceeded to call attention to the report, which, he said, he did not consider satisfactory for the City of London, as the sum of £394 was all that had been received during the year. This seemed a very inadequate sum for the City of London, but then, it might be answered, 'there were many poor in the City.' This was, to a certain extent, the case; but an important reason for the existence of the Society in the City was that a very large number of inquiries respecting applicants for relief were necessary. These inquiries came from all quarters, and it was necessary that the cases should be inquired into, for there was money given away in so-called charity, one-third of which, after inquiry, would be more effective than the whole sum was now. The Charity Organisation Society came into being because of the cases of distress which were investigated by those who investigated cases of so-called distress, that the money given away by charitable people without investigation did more harm than good; that under the system of indiscriminate giving to the undeserving, beggars and impostors flourished, and the poor drooped further into decay and misery, unknown and un-aided.

In the neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace, where he lived, being infested with beggars a few years ago—beggars who were as well as annoying—the same system had been adopted, and without effect, not only with regard to the beggars in the thorough-roads, but in regard to the pauperising influences, such as soup kitchens, set up in all the poor places which fringe on rich neighbourhoods, and so acted in the district surrounding the Crystal Palace as to make poor places nests of impostors. When he first went to live in the district, five years ago, he set about organising a Charity Organisation Society, and his efforts being warmly responded to, he was able to obtain an efficient officer, to whom a high salary was paid, as should be paid to a superior man (hear, hear)—five months hardly a beggar was to be found there; in five years he had only met some five beggars there. (Cheers.) If beggars were to be found there they strayed away again, but the deserving poor were made to make their wants known, and, as the report of the Society showed, the work was intended to be so effective that it should be impossible for a beggar to live, or for a deserving person to suffer the want of relief. (Cheers.) As to this particular branch for the City of London, the question would arise, was it necessary to have a branch in the City? His own experience, as a member of the London School Board, showed him that it was necessary. (Hear.) Though there was a very small number of very poor people in the City of London, that there existed within its precincts extreme poverty and penury. People were brought before him as one of the local committees for sending their children to school, and he found in the cases which he investigated so much suffering as made the heart bleed. Talk among these people for not sending their children to school! He said he wondered how they got on as well as they did, and the fact was, that he had only sent seven cases before the magistrates. The fact was, that their ignorance was something amazing, and they got into a state of torpor, from which they could only be aroused by the efforts of the humane, who must not be above giving their assistance to the poor, how they should overcome this difficulty or that trouble. The Society could erase all this or deal with these multiplied evils; but in its work was a great lever to this end. We had first to get rid of the imposture which existed, next to insure that before relief was given there should be inquiry. Then there should be committees of persons of the various classes who were willing to go down into these poor districts, to see these poor creatures by the hand. No amount of mere money would remedy the misery which existed—it would, indeed, make matters worse. Money was useless to this end, without time and without showing sympathy by personal intercourse that the desire was to raise them. The fact was, that a few coppers here and there, the charity of some, was useless to the poor, but they appreciated the efforts of all who tried to enter into their sufferings and considered the best way of relieving them from a state of dependence. He hoped that what had been done in London, and possibly elsewhere would be found possible in the City of London, so that an endeavour might be made to remove from the centre the reproach that the most grinding misery existed in the City of London. There ought not to be a single pauper or a single instance of misery in this City. It was to be hoped that this meeting would mark the commencement of a new life for the Charity Organisation

Society here—and that hereafter it might be said of the City that 'it is impossible for the impostor or beggar to live, or for a really deserving person to suffer the extremity of want.' (Cheers.)

Mr. H. B. Praed, M.P., moved the adoption of the report. This, he said, did not show much money given away, but the societies which gave away the most money did not always do the most good. The Society after investigating the cases of poor persons was able to direct them to the right sources of help. As there were in the City large numbers of bequests, it might appear as if the poor were amply provided for—and, indeed, they were perhaps too amply provided for—the only thing necessary being a perfect system of inquiry. It was necessary that the Charity Organisation Society should apply its system to the City as well as to the other parts of the Metropolis, for if the City were left out of the system it would be like a broken cog in the machine. He spoke from his own experience as a banker of the need of the Society. Formerly his firm were glad to give in order to get rid of an applicant, but now they only gave after investigation, and had found this of great advantage. He also urged firms to send their hospital letters to the Society, who, he said, would place them in right hands and so prevent the traffic in them.

Mr. Hamilton Hoare, who was received with cheers, seconded the motion. He pointed out that Thomas Carlyle had spoken of the Poor Law Act of 1834 as being altogether in a negative direction, and had indicated the need of some agency of a more positive character, such as the Charity Organisation Society now was. The speaker described the various divisions of the wage-earning class, and pointed out that below the section of working men who could have the advantages of benefit societies, and the dubious advantages of trades unions, were those who occasionally fell under one of the two agencies—the Poor Law or charity. The Poor Law dealt with utter destitution—often hopeless destitution, but the Charity Organisation dealt with merit and with cases in which there was hope. He urged the need of enforcing provident habits upon the poor, and concluded by saying that the purpose of the Society was to make charity more real, and to import into the action of charity giving and receiving the important principle of truth.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins proposed the second resolution—

That this meeting pledges itself to support the objects of the Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicancy, and is of opinion that it is desirable to have an efficient working committee of the Society in the City of London.

He said that he had a claim to speak on the question, as he had been incumbent of a City parish for 21 years. With a few intervals, too, he had been guardian of the poor for nearly the same time, and since this Committee had been in existence, he had been actively connected with it. He read the following extract from the report:—

The experience of the last two years has convinced them that, as compared with other districts, there is little actual destitution among the resident population of the City not met by the ordinary machinery of the Poor Law, but that what does exist does not come generally before the public gaze.

This might cause surprise, and there might be fear that there was some depth of poverty which was not yet discovered; but it was the fact that the prominent actual poverty was met by the Poor Law adequately and entirely; still there were cases in which people would die sooner than tell their distress to parish officers or guardians. He called attention to the startling fact, lately stated by Mr. Hedley, Poor-law Inspector, at the City of London Board of Guardians, that one in twelve of the resident population of the City was in receipt of Poor-law relief, as against about four per cent. throughout England, and in some parts only two per cent. Even this was not all, for the numerous charities in the City were the almoners of about £33,000 a year left for 'residents,' a sum about equal to the Poor-law relief. He urged that this ought not to be allowed to continue, and he appealed for personal help—not as almoners, but as personal advisers of the poor. He believed that the proportion receiving assistance might thus be materially reduced. He concluded an earnest and practical speech by drawing attention to the fact that Mr. Peek had offered to give £1,000 a year for three years to the Society, in order to enable it to deal with cases of distress which came before members of the School Board.

The Rev. Pascoe Hill seconded the motion, but asked if the Society denied the statement recently made at the Bow Street Police Court in connection with a libel on Miss Stride.

The Chairman said the Society entirely repudiated the libel. (Cheers.)

Mr. Ward asked if the Society had anything to do with the Charity Voting Reform Association.

The Chairman said that the Charity Voting Reform Association was an altogether separate body from the Charity Organisation Society. His own opinion was, that the Association was theoretically right but practically wrong.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins said that personally he agreed with Mr. Ward. He could not see his way to any better system, though there were evils connected with the voting system. The Council of the Society had considered the subject of charity voting in 1872; in doing this they had not gone beyond their province as a society for organising charity; they had passed a resolution and then they had left the matter.

Mr. Bosanquet, as secretary to the Council, explained with regard to Miss

Stride that about two years ago an assistant secretary of the Society, a gentleman by birth and manners, had had occasion to call on Miss Stride about a matter not relating to her own charity. The Society had, however, had inquiries addressed to them about Miss Stride's Home, and the gentleman who waited upon Miss Stride suggested to her that it would be well if she would print a statement showing the money received and expended. He left her quite amicably, but afterwards heard that Miss Stride was dissatisfied with his call, and subsequently Miss Stride published a letter in the *Evening Standard*, saying she thought the interview unnecessary. The Council replied in the same paper, stating what had passed, and that there was no intention of giving offence to Miss Stride. (Hear, hear.) Nothing had occurred beyond that; the Society had certainly not set any one to watch the Home, and with regard to this libel they were as much taken by surprise as anyone else when shown the paper purporting to be issued by the Council. As to charity voting, the Council had stated what its position was in its fifth annual report. It had taken no part in forming the Charity Voting Reform Association, though many of its members belonged to it.

The committee and officers were re-elected; and thanks having been voted to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

WANDSWORTH AND PUTNEY.—*Begging Letters.*—At the Wandsworth Police Court, on Friday, the 2nd inst. (says the *Daily Telegraph*), Samuel Smith, a gunmaker, living in Wandsworth, was brought up on remand, charged with attempting to obtain money by false pretences from Mr. Horace Broke, barrister, 14 Hyde-park Square, Paddington.—It was stated by Mr. Haynes, who appeared for the prosecution, instructed by the above Committee, that there was a case in which money had been obtained.—Mr. M. F. Wykeham-Martin, of Brighton, said that on the 14th of March last he received a letter stating, 'I should not take the liberty, but I have a distress in the house for £5 for rent, and I shall lose all if it is not paid by Tuesday next.' It was signed Samuel Smith, late Samuel and Charles Smith, gunmakers, 64 Princes Street, Leicester Square. Witness's father in his lifetime dealt with that firm. In consequence of the statement in the letter witness sent a cheque for a sovereign.—Edward Redwood, an appraiser, of Wandsworth, stated that the prisoner was his tenant. On the 24th of December last he levied a distress for rent on his goods, but it was paid in a few days afterwards. The letter was in the prisoner's handwriting.—The letter received by Mr. Broke was in the same handwriting, and was to the same effect. He did not send any money, but he placed it in the hands of the Charity Organisation Society for inquiry.—Mr. Broke said he formerly dealt with the firm, which became bankrupt.—In reply to the charge, the prisoner pleaded that, at the time he wrote the letters, he was not aware he was committing himself, as he was addressing old customers of his father's and some of his own. He had no intention of obtaining the money fraudulently, and he intended to pay it back.—Mr. Ingham committed him for trial.

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD PROVIDENT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

We learn from the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, that a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne, last week, in connection with this Society, the plan of which was described in the *Reporter* for November 4, 1874. The Chairman (Rev. Rowland East) pointed out the importance to the community of enabling men to obtain medical advice, as a matter of right, instead of their having to seek it as a favour. This could be secured by a moderate payment to an institution based on the co-operative principle. To become a member of the Newcastle and Gateshead Society, a man had to pay 3s. per week per year only; if his wife became a member 3s. per year more; and 1s. additional for each child. While they were unable to do without other institutions in the town, among them the Infirmary, the Convalescent Home, the Dispensary, and the Hospital for Sick Children—none of which, for a moment, would he underrate—yet it was not a pleasant thing for persons to be indebted to these institutions. It was better that a man should make an arrangement to pay for medical assistance just as he paid for his clothing, his bedding, or the education of his children. (Applause.) The Newcastle and Gateshead Society was only four months old, but still everything has a beginning, and they must not despise the day of small things. There were now about 1,500 members; but in order that the society might be put in motion, 1,500 more would be required. After careful calculation, and a careful examination of other institutions of the kind, it was thought that a medical man would be able to take under his charge about 3,000 people. The Chairman concluded by commending the society to careful consideration and support.

The Rev. W. B. East read letters of apology from the Mayor of Gateshead (G. Charlton, Esq.) and from Mr. Joseph Cowen, M.P., who expressed their heartiest sympathy with the society, and wished it wider-spread success and prosperity than had been given to it or any other society of the kind. A letter had also been received from Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., who with the greatest reluctance had been compelled to forego the pleasure of being present, because of the pressure of other duties. Of all the institutions in this town there was none, Mr. East added, with which Mr. Burt more cordially sympathised. The hon. secretary then submitted the proposition, 'That this Provident Medical Society is to be approved of be-

cause it is an extension of the Friendly Societies' principles.' He was convinced that a society which sought to ameliorate as much as possible the dangers and inconveniences of sickness among the working classes would in a short time meet with the approval of all who thought upon these matters.

Mr. Hamond, M.P., who was received with applause, moved the following resolution:—'The average death-rate of Newcastle, as compared with other towns of a similar character, warrants the formation of a society similar to the one we have met this evening to support.' For some years past, he said, the death-rate of this town, as in all places in the same position, having a large manufacturing and working population, had varied very considerably, sometimes being high, sometimes moderate, but never so low as it should be. That being so, it was right and proper, it was just, it was a duty to themselves and families as far as lay in their power, to lessen this mortality by the formation of societies such as the one which they were met to inaugurate. (Hear, hear.) Let them be provident and frugal in their characters, and above all things let them inculcate among themselves those habits of self-reliance which would render them as independent in the obtaining of a medical attendant as they were in other things.

The Vicar of Newcastle seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Holmes next moved—'That the Provident Medical Society of this town merits the encouragement and support of all thoughtful men.' Mr. Scholefield seconded the motion, which was likewise carried unanimously.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of March 1875 was 36,230, and 60,855 received out-door relief, making a total of 97,085. This was a decrease of 1,069 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,395, 19,564, and 21,190 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 370. This was a decrease of 51 on the return for the last day of the preceding week.

MISS STRIDE.—At the Bow Street Police Court on Saturday, March 27, Mr. George Lewis, jun., attended before Mr. Flowers, in company with Mr. Ribton Turner, and made the following statement:—He said that the Society of course had nothing to do with the publication of the libellous paper of which Mr. Giffard, on behalf of Miss Stride, had complained; but he (Mr. Lewis) desired it to be known that the Society had done their best in endeavouring to discover the author of the pamphlet. They had offered a reward of £10 to any person giving information about the author, and had requested any persons receiving copies of the said libel to forward them to the Society. No copies, however, had been sent, and it might be inferred that there was only one copy printed, and that that was sent to Miss Stride. Mr. Flowers said he was pleased to hear what Mr. Lewis had to say, although Mr. Giffard had himself shown that the Society repudiated the matter.

A CHARITY AGENT is Wanted by an East London Committee. Salary £100 a year.—Applications to be made by letter only, stating age and qualifications, to the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C., and marked outside 'Agent.'

THE SANITARY RECORD: A JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH. Every Saturday, price 4d. A Weekly Journal of the Progress of Hygiene of Cities, Towns, Rural Districts, Mines, Factories, and Habitations; the Food, Water, Gas Supply, and Drainage of Towns and Rural Districts; the Vital Statistics of Population; the Influence on Health of Trades and Occupations; and the Operation of Acts bearing upon Public Health.

THE SANITARY RECORD contains also Leaders, Notes of the Week, Reports, Reviews, Proceedings of Sanitary Authorities, Reports of Health Officers and Sanitary Associations, Law Reports and Commentaries, Answers to Correspondents, &c.

SMITH, ELDER, & Co., 15 Waterloo Place, S.W.

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Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 134.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 14, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The sample sheets of the revised books and forms have been sent out to the District Committees and the Affiliated Associations, and to a few other provincial societies.

The St. Olave's Committee have altered their office-hours from 11 to 1 to 12 to 2.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Dr. Anderson, *Kensington Committee*; Major Yerd, *Paddington*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lord W. Compton, Major Prendergast, Major Sanford, *St. George's*; Capt. Elliot, R.N., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., *St. Marylebone*; E. Bond, Esq., *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; F. Burdett Roberts, Esq., *Islington*; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, *St. Giles' and Bloomsbury*; H. H. Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Right Rev. Bishop Beckles, D.D., J. Sapsford, Esq., *Bethnal Green*; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; S. C. Bosanquet, Esq., *St. Saviour's, South-west*; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., *Lambeth*; J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; Captain Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; C. A. Barry, Esq., *Sydenham*; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., S. Fuller, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 30. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., *Secretary*.

TEMPORARY RELIEF.

A letter from the St. George's Committee was read, enclosing a typical case, and asking whether, in the opinion of the Council, Committees should give relief in such cases to enable the children to go to school. The woman in question had been deserted six years ago by her husband, had two children, and asked for 30s. to purchase clothing and boots for them, they could not attend school regularly for want of clothing.

The woman is of good character, and, looking to the fact that she is unable to be away from home the whole day, appears to earn as much as can reasonably be expected. The amount of her earnings, though sufficient to keep herself and family, so far as bare maintenance goes, without assistance from the parish, is insufficient to allow her to pay down a lump sum of money to provide her children with clothes and shoes to attend school. The Committee cannot, however, say that the gift of clothes would permanently benefit the case, as it would not enable the woman in any way to renew them when worn out.

It was agreed that the question should be considered at the next meeting.

REPRESENTATIVES.

The Secretary reported that the Fulham Committee had elected the Rev. H. Hayman and Mr. W. Mussared; that the Battersea Committee had elected Mr. Arthur Leveson Gower, and Mr. Frederick Green; that the Camberwell Committee had elected Mr. C. W. Chute and Mr. Edgar Hyde, and that several other Committees had re-elected their Representatives.

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented, on behalf of the late Mr. William Gibbs, a consolidated edition of the two pamphlets on the City Parochial Charities, published by Sir Charles in 1869 and 1871. Sir Charles stated that this was one of the last subjects in which Mr. Gibbs, who was so well known as a Christian philanthropist, interested himself, and the expense of the edition was paid by him. He thought it full time that attention should again be called to the magnificent fund, which, although belonging of right to the poorer inhabitants of London, who have been squeezed out of its ancient centre by the pressure of wealth and trade, and capable of being applied in many ways to their material, moral, and intellectual improvement, was, for the most part, misappropriated for the benefit of the rich in connection with a local parochial system which had long ceased to have any substantial existence. Sir Charles suggested that two copies of the pamphlet should be sent to each District Committee, and he also presented a copy of a Parochial Map of the City, the original compilation and publication of which, he said, had cost a large sum, but which might now be re-engraved at a moderate cost.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending April 3, the receipts had been £14. 7s. for the General Fund, £10 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £1,083. 17s. 5d. and £209. 3s. 9d. respectively.

Also that they had been informed by the Stepney and Mile End Committee that the parish of St. Philip's, Stepney, would in future form part of the Stepney, and not of the White-chapel District, and that it had been resolved that, as a step towards the separation of the Stepney and Mile End Old Town Districts, the business relating to the two Districts should be transacted at separate offices. (See Notice in last week's Reporter.)

Also that Charity Organisation Associations had been formed at Leamington and Saffron Walden.

MR. PEEK'S OFFER.

Replies were reported from several Committees to the circular recently sent to them with reference to Mr. Peek's offer, and it was ordered that they should be brought up together for consideration on Monday the 26th inst.

Consideration of the proposed grant to South St. Pancras was postponed at the request of the Hon. Secretary.

RELATIONS OF THE SOCIETY TO HELP BY EMPLOYMENT.

Mr. A. H. Hill called attention to the Report of the Sub-Committee on Employment, 1871. There was a great demand for labour then, and there was considerable demand for it now, but there were almost insuperable difficulties in getting the supply to meet the demand, owing chiefly to dislike to migration. This indicated that the desire of persons for work within a certain area must not be humoured. There was no need of large institutions to train children to work; children could now be absorbed in the labour-market as soon as they were old enough. There was great need of distributing labour, but this should be done commercially; charitable action always tended to congest it. The District Committees should not give men help to enable them 'to better themselves.' Men should do this for themselves. There was a tendency to introduce patronage instead of competition. Very little could be given in most cases beyond information. There should be careful investigation of the applicant's circumstances, and especially of the earnings of all members of his family, before any industrial help was given. Loafers should be very hardly dealt with. There were hardly any unemployed men who might not be gradually absorbed, if they would submit to hard conditions, such as Trade Societies insisted on their members submitting to. The Society should aim at compelling nondescripts to become real workers, and should not ask employers to take men on as a favour. Some of the best migration cases he had known were cases of men who had walked from London. He would move:—

That work should be treated as the best form of relief, but only accorded, as in all other cases, after the fullest investigation into the circumstances of the applicant.

After a short conversation the adjournment of the discussion was moved by Mr. Willis-Bund and agreed to.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday April 10, 1875:—*Donations*: 'Anonymous,' £10.; Mrs. Backhouse, £10.; The Brewer's Company, £15. 15s.; Right Hon. Gathorne Hardy, M.P., £9.; J. T. Ingham, Esq. (from the Wandsworth Poor Box), £10.; J. A. Kingdon, Esq., £1. 1s.; Major Lenox Prendergast, £2. *Annual*: Marrant Baker, Esq., £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: M. J. F. £2.

The following business stands for Monday, April 19:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee—

1. That a grant not exceeding £43 be made to the South St. Pancras Committee.
2. That a grant of £84 be made to the Stepney and Mile End Old Town Committee.

To consider a question submitted for the opinion of the Council by the St. George's Committee. See letter *supra*.

Mr. Willis-Bund to resume the adjourned discussion on the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment.

COMING MEETING.

FULHAM.—The Annual Meeting of the Fulham and Hammersmith Committee will be held at the Latymer School, King Street East, Hammersmith, on Tuesday, April 20, at 8 p.m.; W. Gordon, Esq., M.P., in the chair.

CHARITIES FOR WOMEN.—The *Labour News* of last week contains the first of a series of articles by 'L. M. H.' 'On Charitable and other Institutions for the Benefit of Women.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
Kensington	5	8	9	22	..	..	6	2	..	8	30	8	3
Fulham	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	2	2	6
Paddington	5	2	3	10	3	1	7	..	4	12	26	20	2
Chelsea	2	..	..	2	3	1	1	1	..	4	12	10	3
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	1	1	1	3	..	1	2	..	..	2	25	8	4
Westminster do.	1	..	5	6	..	2	6	..	..	2	..	..	..
Westminster:—													
St. James & St. Anne's	..	2	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	12
St. Marylebone	2	..	..	2	4	6	1	2	3	6	18	3	4
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
South St. Pancras	2	1	4	7	1	..	1	1	1	2	10	1	2
Islington	2	1	1	4	1	..	1	..	..	1	6	8	5
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	4	4	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	7	..	4
Strand	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	1	4
Holborn	2	..	1	3	..	1	2	..	..	2	6	7	10
City	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	10
Shoreditch	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	2
Bethnal Green	..	1	2	3	..	1	1	1	2	..	7	3	..
Whitechapel	2	..	2	4	..	1	1	..	..	..	6	1	..
St. George's-in-the-East	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
*Stepney Union & Mile End Old Town	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poplar	1	2	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	4	1	1
St. Saviour's	1	1	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	3	1	..
Newington	1	1	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	3	1	..
St. Olave's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
Lambeth:—North	2	..	4	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	2
South	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	4	..	..	..
*Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Battersea	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	2	3
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	13
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	2	2	..	3	..	3	2	..	..	2	11	..	2
Peckham	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	..	..
Greenwich	..	3	3	..	1	1	..	6	..	9	9	..	10
Deptford	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	2	1	3
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	2	2	5
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	3	..
Eitham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	30	18	51	99	1	21	41	16	4	75	214	84	78

* No returns received from these Committees at the time of going to press.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fifth week of March 1875 was 36,089, and 59,893 received out-door relief, making a total of 95,982. This was a decrease of 1,103 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 10,428, 20,667, and 22,293 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 395. This was an increase of 25 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 145 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

ST. GEORGE'S.—*False Pretences.*—At the Westminster Police Court, on Thursday, the 8th inst., Robert Wylie, 56, a labourer, who had been convicted of attempting to defraud the charitable, was charged at the instance of this Committee with obtaining 2s. by false and fraudulent pretences from Mrs. de Rothschild, of 6, Buckingham-gate. It appeared from the evidence that some days ago the prisoner called upon Mrs. de Rothschild, and presented a letter stating that he had been discharged from the hospital very recently, had a wife and children in the country, and wished for assistance to take him there. Inquiries being made, his story was found to be untrue. The prisoner repeatedly called for an answer, the last time being yesterday morning, when, after receiving 2s. from the housekeeper, he was apprehended. The prisoner said the money was taken out of his hand; he never put it in his pocket. Davis, the warrant officer, said the prisoner had been convicted before of a similar offence, and sentenced to six months' hard labour. Mr. Woolrych said he should convict the prisoner and send him to the Sessions to be sentenced by the Judge as an incorrigible rogue.

WORTH AND PUTNEY.—Begging Letters.—Samuel Smith, 35, gunsmith indicted at the Surrey Sessions for obtaining from Mr. Malcolm Wykeham Martin, residing at Brighton, a cheque for £1 by false

The facts of the case, which were reported in our last week's issue, have been proved, the jury found the prisoner guilty. Mr. E. Clark, solicitor for the Committee, said there was another indictment, but the verdict he did not propose to go into it. The prosecution was by the Charity Organisation Society, and he handed up a number of letters which showed that the prisoner had received from gentlemen enclosing remittances. The man said he had no doubt of the prisoner's guilt or of the usefulness of the Charity Organisation Society. There were letters from Sir T. Sir H. Beecher, and others.—In passing sentence, the learned judge said the prisoner had systematically misled the customers of his shop, and the Charity Organisation Society had acted very properly in bringing the case before the public. Mr. Wykeham Martin was probably induced to appear of his own accord, and there were others in the same boat. He sentenced the prisoner to twelve months' imprisonment, with

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

1. Report of the City Committee.

2. Report of the Chester Society for Organising Charitable Relief among Mendicancy, 1874.

3. Report of the Leeds Social Improvement Society, 1874.

4. Sanitary Record for April 3, containing a Paper on Provident Societies, by Alfred J. H. Crespi. 4d.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its seventeenth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central

were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Dr. Rev. T. E. S. Cutters, Messrs. T. Clarke, W. Harris, Alsager, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet.

Consideration of Head II. was continued, with reference to improve the direction of securing permanent employment for the Blind.

4 of Mr. W. Harris's resolution and the preamble were carried unanimously, in the following form:—

in order to secure remunerative and regular employment for the blind it is essential: 4. That only the amount actually earned should be under the head of wages, and that any further sum granted for the cost of maintenance or otherwise should be charged to a separate

REPORT OF PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF CHARITY.

1. Peter's, Eaton Square, Parochial Council have printed the following report:—

presenting a balance-sheet of our receipts and expenditure for 1874, the opportunity of calling the attention of our fellow-parishioners to which has been done by this Council during the past year, and principles upon which that work has been carried out.

principles are in effect the same as we have ever professed, and at the same time set forth in our reports and memoranda.

the objects have been briefly as follows:—The complete and disinterested relief of all the deserving poor belonging to the parish, the encouragement of thrift and self-reliance, the repression of pauperism and the detection of imposture.

we have endeavoured, by an organised plan of investigation into a registration of all applications, of all particulars resulting from and of all relief given, to ensure a just and economical distribution

of objects can, as we believe, only be carried out by the concentration of all the funds under the administration of one council, and are unattainable if funds flow through various independent channels.

it has been our earnest desire to make a comfortable provision for the old and deserving poor of the parish as may, through no fault of their own, have been unable to make a sufficient provision for their old age, that they may end their days among us in peace and comfort, without being subject to the demoralising effects which result from the look-out for tickets or casual doles.

the class of poor we have upon our books 48 cases, comprising (if we include old married couples) 55 persons, whose qualifications have been tested on the three essential points of age, residence, and respectability. The total sum expended during the past year upon this especially class of our poor amounts to £615. 6s. The limits which we have prescribed to ourselves—of 65 years of age and a continuous residence in the parish of seven years—we have been unable to relax, and we would gladly do so in some cases if our funds would permit;

more especially as it would diminish the number of a most distressing class of cases which has caused us much difficulty—cases which, though eminently respectable and deserving of relief, do yet fall so far short of our standard in the other necessary particulars as to disqualify them for the permanent relief which would alone be of use to them.

'We shall be happy to recommend such cases for the private relief for which they are most fitting objects, though we do not feel justified in placing them as a permanent burden on our funds.'

'IV. In dealing with temporary cases it is much less easy to lay down definite rules. The urgency of an immediate want may override all law, and each case has to be considered very much upon its own merits. Under this head we have expended the sum of £310. 17s. 11d., though the actual money does not at all express the amount of help which has been given in various ways.'

'During the year 1874, 612 applications have been received in behalf of 236 different families. Of these, 477 have been favourably received, and have been assisted either in money or kind, while 135 applications have been rejected as undeserving or unsuitable.'

'The largest items under this head will have been as follows:—

'(a) The sums expended upon a class of persons who can generally maintain themselves during the London season, but whose age and infirmity render their employment during the winter months precarious and uncertain.'

'(b) Cases of temporary distress, especially if it be the result of the illness of the bread-winner of the family; such cases are liberally relieved whenever the expenditure of such an amount as the Council can afford seems likely to lead to a permanent improvement in their position.'

'(c) The medical comforts granted (upon certificate) to those actually ill. The charges upon this last account amount to £115. 16s. 6d.'

'Assistance is given solely with reference to the merits of each case without regard to religious distinctions.'

'It is, of course, understood that assistance is given *only to the deserving poor*. Those who have by intemperance or misconduct lost their situations, or fallen into want, or who, being able-bodied, are out of work, are referred to the Guardians.'

'An office for the Council has been found indispensable, and has been taken at No. 23, Lower Belgrave Street. This has entailed additional expense, but was absolutely necessary for efficient working.'

'Meetings are held at the Council Room on Mondays and Thursdays, at 5.45 p.m., when cases are enquired into and dealt with.'

'The Honorary Secretary is at the office on these days, at 12.30 p.m., or would attend by appointment, and will be happy to give any information at his disposal.'

'The Council request that the case of any parishioner asking alms, or known to be in want, may be referred to them. Their books would often afford valuable information as to the antecedents of an applicant.'

VISITORS' DIFFICULTIES.—'London is a world in itself, and every part of it has something peculiar. This district is different from all my former districts in that it is an island of comparative poverty in the midst of an ocean of wealth. The gentry patronise it, employ it, visit it, and drop the overflowings of their charity into it, yet nowhere have I heard less kindly feelings expressed for the gentry. Much has been written and spoken at various times on the desirability of a greater commingling of rich and poor, and of the rich more frequently taking upon themselves the religious teaching of the poor, and I should be sorry to discourage it. But if not done very wisely it has a corrupting influence. Not every lady with benevolent intentions and the means of fulfilling them is fitted to cope with the London poor. The sight of a rich visitor awakens too often the cupidity of the visited; the poor plead, and the lady sympathises; the spirituality is soon absorbed in the temporality, and the relationship ends at last in a system of petting and patronising on the one side, and in deceiving and phlebotomising on the other; and in this district, in hiring a room, the first question sometimes is, not how much is the rent, but "what sort of a lady visitor have you got?" Thus the merely temporal benefits tend to obscure the spiritual, and to excite a spirit of mendicancy which it is desirable to suppress.'—Report of the Bayswater Missionary in the *City Mission Magazine*.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FOR GIRLS.—We take the following extract from the fourteenth Report of Miss Twining's Industrial Home for Girls:—'The demands from mistresses continue to be far beyond what we can supply, convincing us that no emigration is needed to provide for our surplus population of young girls, were they trained here so as to be fit for service. It is the *incapable* only who now are, or need be, inmates of our workhouses, or burdens on society, and by this we mean all those who have become so either by circumstances of their birth or subsequent misfortunes. In estimating the causes of failure in the various systems of education which have lately been discussed, we cannot help repeating the convictions expressed long ago, that far too little account is taken of the great disadvantages of the evil nature, physical as well as moral, inherited by a large proportion of the girls we have to deal with. The deficiencies of intellec-

tual and moral power, amounting to imbecility in many, the tempers, verging on insanity in various degrees, the purposeless want of will and principle and truthfulness, can surely be traced to a long inheritance of vice, with all its physical and moral results so closely interwoven and inter-lapping, that no one can define the limits of either, and which we are compelled to confess now after many years of experience and labour in this cause, will often prevail so as to defy the most careful training of years. To stop this inheritance, to check the antecedents of vice, and above all, of *runkennes*, in the present or the coming generation, will alone avail to make education successful, and this should be the aim of all true philanthropists, who, in carrying on, each their own little object and work (generally only that of palliating an evil which has its root and origin far off), are too apt to be engrossed by that alone, and perhaps by their very efforts may be encouraging the evil they would remedy. This is certainly the case when bad parents are relieved of the burden and responsibility of their children, and when relations of all degrees are encouraged by the abundant help offered to orphans to ignore their claims upon them for support.

SEAMEN'S AND FISHERMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

At the Spring Quarter Sessions of the Borough of Bedford, held on Monday, March 15, before Mr. J. T. Abdy, the Borough Recorder (says the *Bedfordshire Mercury*), Thomas Sherwood Young, 57, carpenter, was indicted for obtaining by false pretences of Mr. F. Howard, the sum of 5s., with intent to defraud, in the parish of St. Mary's, Bedford, on January 23. Prisoner pleaded guilty.

It will be remembered (see *Reporter* for February 17) that the prisoner represented himself to Mr. Howard as being collector for the Seamen's and Fishermen's Friend Society, and obtained from him 5s. On referring to a previous receipt Mr. Howard found that a similar 'annual' subscription had been paid six months previously. Inquiries were made, and it was found that no such society as the prisoner pretended to represent was in existence, and the prisoner was given into custody. On him was found a few shillings and a collecting book, containing the names of several Bedford people, from which it appeared that the proceeds of about a year's collecting amounted to more than £200.

Mr. Governor Roberts informed the court that the prisoner was before the magistrates at Ware on a similar charge in 1872, but it dropped to one of vagrancy, for which he was sentenced to three months.

The prisoner, with apparent emotion, read the following statement:—
'My Lord and gentlemen,—Being solemnly and deeply impressed with those weighty words of Holy Scriptures, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." I resolved before the Most High God that I would acknowledge my guilt and leave myself to the mercy of the court.' The prisoner went on to state that since the beginning of 1871 he had had much sickness and trouble in his family, and had had much difficulty in getting employment owing to partial loss of sight. 'I have done the best I could to get work,' he continued, 'and have worked at Deptford, at Northfleet, at Southend, and at Gravesend, but this has been chiefly with those that know me, and I would at any time rather be at my work. This crime is not from choice, but from want. Nevertheless, I do feel thankful, and I do bless God that He has brought me here, for here I have been led to discover my own sinfulness, and the great gulf into which I had fallen, presuming on the mercy of God and losing sight of his sovereignty and justice. I confess I did not see my wrong before, as I continued to go among the seamen and fishermen circulating tracts and reading the Scriptures to them; but since I have been in prison I have deeply searched into the Word of God, and have listened with eager attention to the sermons and addresses delivered by the chaplain.' 'I now ask with deep contrition of soul and sincere repentance forgiveness at the hands of the prosecutor Frederick Howard, Esq., and do as earnestly pray that the blessing pronounced by the Saviour, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy," may ever rest upon him and his. And now, my Lord and gentlemen of the jury, I implore mercy at your hands, not because that I have any merit, but because of my dear wife, do please look upon her affliction, her age, and her destitution, and do show me that mercy which you can. God helping me I will never come under the lash of the law again, but in honesty and uprightness I will walk before all men. In true penitence I implore mercy of you, for the sake of my poor wife I plead with you, she cannot work for herself, 60 years of age and afflicted, therefore the more do I plead that you would grant me some degree of mercy, and your humble servant a sincere penitent will ever pray.—THOMAS SHERWOOD YOUNG.'

The Recorder, in sentencing the prisoner, said, 'If I thought that all you had been reading was true, I might perhaps believe in your deep contrition, and perhaps have looked with as merciful an eye as I could upon your offence. But I have reason to believe that whatever that contrition may be it is but recently formed, for on a former occasion you were warned of the probable consequences that would ensue from your mode of living. In the address you have read, and upon which I shall make no comment, there were two sentences which caught my ears, and to which I must allude. You said "I would far rather have been at my trade than at this work";

and then "I could not see my wrong before." On a former occasion, when you were committed and warned of the consequence of your act, you said you would return to your work, and were determined to act in a different way. Therefore I cannot pay so much attention to the address you have given us as I might otherwise have done. It is a bad offence, and it is certainly not the first time, I think, by a good many. You have perverted charity and acted upon the kindly feeling of a gentleman whose name you have introduced into your address as one who you hope will have mercy upon you. You obtained from him money, and when he pointed out to you that there was grave suspicion about you, you endeavoured to hush those suspicions by false statements; and it was not till active steps and enquiries were made that you were found out. It was not from any contrition on your part. I don't want to dwell upon your actions, it would be unkind to do so, but I can't help making these remarks. I cannot deal with the offence lightly, because it is a serious one, and I must therefore sentence you to be kept in prison for one year.'

CASE OF GEORGE FREEMAN.—A man of this name applied to the Strand Committee in December 1874, and again in February 1875, stating that he was a widower, and had been a ship's surgeon, and that he had come from New Zealand some time before. He could not give the name of any reference, nor did he produce any ship's papers, saying, in the first instance, that such papers were not given to surgeons, and subsequently that the papers were on board the 'Atrato,' where they were retained as security for a debt of 10s. Upon inquiry, it was found that he had come home from New Zealand in the 'Atrato,' as a passenger, his passage-money having been paid by relations, and that his statement as to the debt of 10s. was correct. It was also discovered that he went out to New Zealand in the 'James Nichol Fleming,' having been engaged by the New Zealand Government as surgeon, to take charge of 350 emigrants during their voyage out to New Zealand, his remuneration for his services to be 10s. a head. On the voyage it was found that he was wholly incompetent as a medical man, and that he was also a great drunkard. In consequence of his incompetency he did not receive his remuneration from the Government. Charges of attempted immorality during the voyage were also brought against him. Before the investigation was completed, he was brought before Mr. Mansfield, on March 27, at the Marylebone Police Court, and charged with begging. It appeared that on March 18 he went into a jeweller's shop and asked for alms, and that a few minutes after he left the shop a gold watch was missed. As nothing could be proved respecting the watch, the prisoner was sentenced to a month's hard labour for begging.

CASE OF CREASY J. WHEELER.—*The Queen v. Patteson.* As will be seen on reference to the *Reporter* of November 18, 1874, this was a prosecution for libel instituted against the manager of the *Toronto Mail*. Reference was made to the Charity Organisation Society in the trial. The verdict, which was for the plaintiff, was reserved for the consideration of a superior tribunal. From the *Toronto Mail* of March 3, it appears that the result of judgments delivered, at great length, by the Chief Justice and two other Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench (Ontario) is that the previous conviction is quashed on the ground that the Attorney-General, who conducted the prosecution on behalf of the Ontario Government, had, in such a case as the one in question, no right to cause juries to stand aside. The defendant's counsel had at the trial deprecated in strong terms this rejection of certain jurors as tending to prejudice defendant's case.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 135.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 21, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

The Office hours of the City Committee will in future be from 10 to 4, instead of from 1 to 3.

Separate Committees have now been formed for Stepney and Mile End Old Town.

The address of the Stepney Office is 598, Commercial Road, E., Office-hours 10 to 11 and 4 to 5. The address of the Mile End Old Town Office is 116, Mile End Old Town, E.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; Miss Emma Howes, Fulham; J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Lord W. Compton, Major Prendergast, Major Sanford, W. Westby Moore, Esq., Major FitzRoy, St. George's; H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho); Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurics, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Miss Collett, C. J. Tarring, Esq., South St. Pancras; Sir Richard Wilbraham, K.C.B., Holborn; Rev. H. I. Cummins, City; J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran, Esq., C. Lavers Smith, Esq., Whitechapel; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; S. C. Bosanquet, Esq., F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's, Southwark; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; Edgar Hyde, Esq., T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; I. H. Cole, Esq., Deptford; G. Parker, Esq., J.P., Lewisham; Captain Gardner, R.N., Eltham; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., Vice-President; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; E. Thornton, Esq., Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., G. Blount, Esq., S. Fuller, Esq., T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 48. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries.

The Secretary reported that the Stepney Committee had elected Mrs. Barnett and Mr. O'Malley, and the Lewisham Committee Mr. George Parker and Mr. Arthur Annesley, as representatives; and that the Rev. W. H. Langhorne had been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Mile End Old Town Committee.

Mr. A. H. Hill called attention to the register of candidates for charity agentships kept at the Central Office; he doubted whether the existence of the register was known to all District Committees.

Mr. Stephen Fuller asked whether any member of the Council could furnish the Whitechapel Committee with four 'Surgical Aid' letters.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending April 10 the receipts had been £58. 17s. for the

General Fund, £52 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £1,139. 12s. 2d. and £261. 3s. 9d. respectively.

That they had elected Sir Alexander Gordon their Chairman.

Also, that they had supplied a number of notices, headed 'Caution to Travellers from India,' and having reference to certain impostors, to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A grant of £43 was made to the South St. Pancras Committee; also a grant of £84, to be divided between the Stepney and Mile End Old Town Committees.

TEMPORARY RELIEF AND PERMANENT BENEFIT.

The Committee then proceeded to consider a question submitted for their opinion by the St. George's Committee, of which notice was given in the last Reporter. A woman had been deserted six years ago by her husband, had two children, and asked for 30s. to purchase clothes and boots for them, as they could not attend school regularly for want of clothing.

The woman is of good character, and, looking to the fact that she is unable to be away from home the whole day, appears to earn as much as can reasonably be expected. The amount of her earnings, though sufficient to keep herself and family, so far as bare maintenance goes, without assistance from the parish, is insufficient to allow her to pay down a lump sum of money to provide her children with clothes and shoes to attend school. The Committee cannot, however, say that the gift of clothes would permanently benefit the case, as it would not enable the woman in any way to renew them when worn-out.

Sir Charles Trevelyan urged the importance of endeavouring permanently to improve the condition of the family. He referred to the large proportion of widows and deserted wives who were in receipt of parish relief, and argued that it was the duty of the Society to try and save people from becoming paupers, by dealing effectively with such cases as the one in question. He would have the District Committees keep families together, not send the children into institutions, as was too often done.

Mr. Miner knew the importance of such cases, from his experience as a member of a divisional Committee of the School Board. The present case was a very simple one, to his mind, and there were many others more or less similar in which help was needed. The law insisted on children going to school, and his School Board Committee had had to send many cases to the Guardians which had never before had parish relief, and were, in his opinion, more suitable for charitable assistance. If the Society did not take such cases up, a fresh agency would be formed on purpose to deal with them. He would move—

That District Committees should grant to poor industrious families not receiving parochial relief such assistance as they cannot obtain from other sources, and which, after due investigation, may be found necessary to enable them to send their children of a suitable age to school.

Mr. Wightman Wood referred to the desirability of the

opinion of the Council being taken by District Committees on questions of difficulty. At the same time this case did not seem to him very difficult. Taking the headings of the weekly return form, it was clear that such a case should not be rejected, but either referred or assisted. He would move, as an amendment—

That the St. George's Committee be informed that the Council is of opinion that, in the case put, the Committee should afford the relief required, either by obtaining it from the Guardians or otherwise, or failing that by a grant from their own fund.

Mr. A. H. Hill thought that, on Mr. Miner's own showing, the Guardians had already solved the difficulty by taking many such cases up. There was no evidence that 8s. a week was the best the woman could do for herself; she might go elsewhere and get more. He would move as a further amendment, when he had the opportunity—

That it is inexpedient to remove cases of the class quoted from the ordinary operation of the District Committee, acting at its discretion within the limits of its ascertained means, and in accordance with the general principles of this Society.

Mr. Phillips Jodrell suggested that it should also be shown that assistance, if given, would really make the applicant independent.

Mr. Mocatta said that the case was a type of thousands of others. As regarded desertion, the Guardians were, no doubt, right in dealing very strictly with it; the practice was increasing, and the Society must be careful how it ran counter to the policy of the Poor-law. But there were many similar cases of widows. Most of them were neither very deserving nor very undeserving, and it would be difficult to draw any line of distinction. As a manager of some very large schools, he had seen how the desire for relief had spread. Special cases should, he thought, be referred to private charity—ordinary cases to the Poor-law.

Mr. J. R. Hollond deprecated breaking down the feeling of self-respect which made persons unwilling to apply to the Guardians. A widow who had obtained relief for her children would be sure to apply for it for herself as soon as she was 60. He did not think that there would be any such influx of cases as was apprehended, and if there were, the Committee could resist applications at least as well as the Poor-law could. They might insist, after one such grant, that the applicant should lay something by in a clothing club.

Mr. Bond feared that such cases would come before the Committee much more frequently in consequence of Mr. Peek's gift. The Society was not primarily a relief Society, and great care must be taken that the Committees did not supplant other agencies, instead of supplementing them.

The Secretary explained that Mr. Peek's gift had reference to all cases of distress to which the School Board Committees might draw attention—not to clothing cases in particular; there had been some misconceptions about this; Mr. Peek spoke from a general, not from an educational, point of view.

Miss Hill pointed out that the woman in question had apparently been supporting herself and her children for six years; the children must have had some clothes during that time. A gigantic system of relief was springing up in connection with such cases. She feared that it was only impoverishing the poor and doing them no real good. It was the interests of the poor she wanted to protect, not the purses of the rich. She hoped Mr. Peek's donation would not extend the relief functions of the Society. Probably the best course with the present case would be to refer it to private charity.

Major Pittaloy explained, as Hon. Secretary of the St. George's Committee, that the woman had not herself applied; the case had been sent by the School Board Committee. She was sure to require assistance again from time to time. The children would cost more as they got older. Assistance had

been obtained for the present case from private persons, but this might not be possible in a poorer district, and it was not right that there should be one law for the rich and another for the poor districts. The matter narrowed itself down to the question whether it was a case in which temporary assistance would be permanently useful.

Mr. Peto moved the adjournment of the discussion, and the motion was put, and carried by 13 to 12.

The Secretary stated that the 'Suggested Rules for District Committees' on which the Manual was based, was the paper of the Society that bore most directly on the subject under discussion.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, April 17, 1875:—*Annual*: Miss F. M. Cross, £1. 1s.; Mrs. Pollard, £1. 1s.; J. Sawyer, Esq., £1. 1s.. *District Committee Aid Fund*: Messrs. Barclay & Co., £60; Messrs. Barnetts & Co., £25; Messrs. Bosanquet & Co., £20; Messrs. Glyn & Co., £50; Messrs. Roberts & Co., £50.

The following business stands for Monday, April 26:—

Mr. Peto to resume the adjourned discussion on the case submitted by the St. George's Committee for the opinion of the Council. (See above.)

Replies from District Committees to the circular of the Council with reference to Mr. Peek's offer to be brought up from the Administrative Committee. (See below.)

Mr. Willis-Bund to resume the adjourned discussion on the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment. (See *Reporter* for April 14.)

Mr. A. H. Hill to move: 'That Mr. Solly's letter, dated April 16, 1875, be entered on the Minutes, and that a marginal note be entered opposite the Resolution of December 27, 1869, referring forward to that letter, and also to Mr. Solly's letter dated August 28, 1869, to the Hon. Secretary of this Society, which is kept among the other letters of that date, as well as to copies of letters from Lord Lichfield and Lord Lyttelton, dated respectively June 11, 1872, and March 28, 1872, now handed in with Mr. Solly's letters.'

Mr. Edgecombe to move: 'That where an inquiry can be conveniently and safely carried on by post, it is recommended that the correspondence be conducted by the Committee of the District in which the applicant for assistance resides.'

The following are the Circular and Memorandum, with reference to Mr. Peek's offer, sent to the District Committees by the Council, and the reply received from the St. George's Committee:—

Central Office—15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to forward to your Committee the enclosed memorandum of arrangements which have been agreed on in connection with a very generous offer made by Mr. Francis Peek, and accepted by the Council.

You will observe that Mr. Peek does not ask that the District Committees of the Society should do any work that properly belongs to the School Board, nor that they should in any way change their present principles of action.

The Council propose shortly to communicate with the Chairman of the School Board, with a view to making the arrangements known to the Divisional Committees of the Board. They will be glad, therefore, to know, as soon as possible, whether you would wish to offer any suggestions as to the best mode of carrying out the proposed arrangements.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

CHAS. B. P. BOSANQUET, *Secretary*.

March 30, 1875.

Arrangements agreed on with Mr. Francis Peek, as to his offer of February 24, 1875.

1. It is already the duty of the District Committees of the Charity Organisation Society to inquire into all cases of alleged distress to which their attention may be called, and to deal with them to the best of their judgment and ability. Mr. Peek is anxious to increase the ability of the Committees in the poorer districts to deal with such cases as the School Board authorities may refer to them, and also to encourage the School Board authorities to make use of the Charity Organisation Committees.

2. Mr. Peek does not wish any special action taken in the way of paying school-fees, nor any inquiries made with reference to the question of payment or remission by the School Board; but he desires that the Divisional and Sub-divisional Committees of the School Board should be invited to refer persons, who appear to be in need of charitable assistance, to the Dis-

committees of the Charity Organisation Society, and that the clerks to Divisional Committee should be furnished with the Investigation of the Society, so as to make it easier for them to refer persons to all offices.

In cases of these persons will be inquired into like those of persons under any other circumstances, and dealt with strictly according to principles of the Society as set forth in its Manual. According to principles, no person is suitable for assistance from the funds of a Committee, unless there is likelihood of temporary relief being of benefit to the applicant. Cases in which relief would merely temporarily alleviate the distress must be left to the Poor-law or to private

Mr. Peek proposes to contribute the sum of £1,000 per annum for the funds of the Society, to promote these arrangements. His contribution will be treated by the Council as a separate fund, to be divided in the course of the year amongst the District Committees, on application by them, in proportion to the extra expense, whether of establishment or otherwise, to which co-operation with the Board Committees is putting them.

St. George's Charity Organisation Committee,
48 Buckingham Palace Road.

—This Committee have had under their consideration your communication of the 30th ult., requesting them to forward any suggestions to offer as to the carrying out of the arrangements which have been agreed on between Mr. Peek and the Central Council, as to the division of the sum of money given by that gentleman for the purposes of the Society in the particular way specified.

The Committee have no remarks to make upon paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the arrangements. They gather from those paragraphs, which are all of an explanatory character, that Mr. Peek does not wish to depart from the principles of relief adopted by the Society, but is simply desirous of furnishing the Local Committees in the poorer districts with the means to deal with cases referred to them by the several Divisional Boards in strict conformity with those principles.

In reference to the concluding paragraph of the arrangements, the Committee would venture to offer a suggestion.

The Committee fear that if the proposed arrangement of a separate fund adopted, it will soon follow that "School Board cases," as they are called, may be considered on different and perhaps laxer principles than ordinary cases. They feel that there should be no speciality with regard to cases sent by the School Board, but that they should be entered and dealt with, as they have been up to the present, like ordinary cases before the Society by any private individuals; and in this view would suggest that the simple plan would be to place Mr. Peek's donation to the credit of the District Committee Aid Fund, whence it should flow out as a matter of course in the direction it was most wanted, and in accordance with the wishes of strengthening the hands of the poorer districts. If the Council should consider it necessary to make any use with regard to Mr. Peek's money, this Committee would still be that it be placed to the credit of the District Committee Aid Fund; and any Committee showed that their general resources were exhausted, then, on making an application for assistance to the Council, they be allowed specially to mention the amount disbursed by them in the relief of cases sent by the School Board.

I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

C. C. FitzRoy,
Hon. Sec.

The Secretary, Charity Organisation Society,
April 7, 1875.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

GEORGE'S.—Case of Robert Wylie.—This man, whose case was in our last issue, is identical with Frank Carey, alias Robert Wiley, John McWilliams, alias William Noblett, who was sentenced to six months imprisonment, on June 6, 1874, for obtaining money under false pretences from Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., and Mr. Neville Grenville, M.P., *Reporter*, No. 101, p. 268. He was brought up again at the West-End Police Court, on the 15th inst., and committed to the Sessions to deal with as an incorrigible rogue. In both cases the prosecution was the action of the above Committee.

NOTES.—Claim against an Assurance Company.—At the Worshipful Police Court, on Saturday, the 17th inst., Mr. Joseph Frith, of this Committee, applied to Mr. Bushby, on behalf of the widow of a named Bignell, of Belgrave Place, Walworth Road. Bignell, it appeared from the statement of Mr. Frith, who produced a number of letters to support his case, had been insured for £11 4s., to be paid on his death, with the United Kingdom Assurance Corporation, 27a, Finsbury Square. Bignell paid 2d. a week premium to an agent who called, and the payments were entered week by week in a book

kept for that purpose. Bignell appeared to have joined the society during the first week in October 1873, but the policy issued to him by the society bore date the 27th, the payments having up to that time been claimed as a kind of entrance-fee. There was also a stipulation in the policy that if the assured should die before the expiration of twelve months from the time of entrance, only half the amount of the policy could be claimed. It appeared that it was the course of business of the United Kingdom Assurance Corporation not to require a medical examination of the assured, but to accept him upon his own statement of his health. Towards the close of the year Bignell's mind became affected, and he was sent to Caterham Asylum. He died there of general paralysis and exhaustion in the following April, the payments to the insurance office being kept up all the time by the wife. Bignell had thus died within a year of his insuring himself, and the wife only claimed the sum of £5 12s. This, however, the United Kingdom Assurance Corporation refused to pay, and the woman, who had a family to support, had up to the present time been kept out of her money. Mr. Barker, Hon. Secretary of the Charity Organisation Committee, Newington, had taken up the case; but the manager said that, after consideration, the corporation could not recognise the claim, as the deceased had misled them as to the state of his health at the time the insurance was effected. This was not the only case of the kind. A widow, named Reeves, had informed the Alderman at Guildhall that she had been refused the sum of £9, due on the death of her son, whose life she had insured for 1d. a week. That case was answered by the solicitors to the United Kingdom Assurance Corporation, but Mr. Alderman Finnis expressed his surprise that there was an assurance company which took 2d. a week from the poor people, and thought that such a class of society was prohibited by Act of Parliament. Mr. Frith said that up to this time Mrs. Reeves' claim had not been met. He wished to know if it was not possible to bring the manager or directors before the Court upon a summons in each case. Mr. Bushby thought that it was a case for the County Court.—*Times*.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by		Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undergoing Cases for Poor-law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Grants	Loans				
Kensington	4	3	4	11	1	1	3	5	1	3
Fulham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	3	6
Paddington	3	1	2	6	1	2	3	5	1	1
Chelsea	1	1	1	3	2	7	9	4	2	1
St. George's	1	1	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	1
St. George's Division	1	1	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	1
Westminster do.	1	1	3	5	1	2	3	6	3	3
Westminster	1	1	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	1
St. James's & St. Anne's	1	1	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	1
St. Marylebone	3	2	6	11	14	1	15	2	2	4
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
South St. Pancras	1	6	1	8	1	6	7	2	2	4
Islington	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Strand	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Holborn	2	2	4	8	1	1	3	3	1	1
City	2	2	4	8	1	1	3	3	1	1
Shoreditch	1	2	1	4	1	1	3	3	1	1
Bethnal Green	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Whitechapel	2	2	4	8	1	1	3	3	1	1
St. George's-in-the-East	2	1	3	6	1	1	3	3	1	1
Stepney Union	2	3	5	10	1	1	3	3	1	1
Mile End Old Town	1	2	3	6	1	1	3	3	1	1
Poplar	1	1	3	5	1	1	3	3	1	1
St. Saviour's	2	2	4	8	1	1	3	3	1	1
Newington	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
St. Olave's	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Lambeth	1	3	4	8	1	1	3	3	1	1
Wandsworth & Putney	1	3	4	8	1	1	3	3	1	1
Battersea	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Camberwell	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Grove Lane	3	3	6	12	1	1	3	3	1	1
Peckham	2	2	4	8	1	1	3	3	1	1
Greenwich	2	3	5	10	1	1	3	3	1	1
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Total	33	22	52	107	3	36	75	48	28	9

* No returns received from these Committees at the time of going to press.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its eighteenth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office. There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major-General Bainbrigge, Messrs. W. A. B. Hamilton, Alsager Hay Hill, W. R. Kemp, R. Bruce Reid, G. Martin Tait, W. M. Wilkinson, Mr. J. M. Hutchinson (visitor), and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

Mr. Martin Tait reported that the London School Board had empowered their School Management Committee to authorise him to nominate a teacher to visit the blind children in Board Schools to give technical instruction.

The Committee resumed consideration of Head II. a:—'What more can be done through existing agencies, by improvements in system of working?'

It was resolved, on Major-General Bainbrigge's motion:—

'That the Committee recommend that both blind boys and girls should, as early as possible, be instructed in exercises and employments suitable for developing the physical as well as mental powers, and especially fineness of touch, such as drill, gymnastics, knitting, netting, and sewing, with the view of fitting them for work in after-life, and furnishing them with employment when at home.'

It was also resolved, on Mr. Wilkinson's motion:—

'That election under the voting system is in an especial manner inapplicable to the institutions for the educational and industrial training of the blind; and that admission by selection, after a careful comparison of the merits of the different candidates, should form a necessary part of improvements in the system of working.'

It was agreed that the resolutions passed up to the present date should be printed consecutively and sent out to members.

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, March 27, 1875:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Edin.	Glasgow	Horsham	Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbleton	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	9	3	..	..	72	4	2	3	14	3	1	1
2. Undeserving	22	31	13	..	82	5	1	14	5	16	1	..
3. Cases for Poor-law, or otherwise ineligible	4	28	8	2	52	..	..	16	20	13	1	4
	35	62	21	2	206	9	3	33	39	32	3	5
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	27	1	10	..	..	2	..	7	..	4	..	..
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	7	3	..	9	36	..	..	11	1	..	..	2
3. Private Persons	5	13	4	3	83	..	..	2	5	2	3	..
	39	17	14	12	119	2	..	20	6	6	3	2
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	74	48	7	6	4	21	1	14	6	26	2	15
2. Loans	..	..	1	..	5	3	3	28	1	5	1	1
3. Employment	5	..	..	5	6	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
4. Letters for Hospitals, &c.	..	15	..	3	1	..	1	1	1	..	1	..
	79	63	8	14	16	24	5	45	8	31	4	16
	153	142	43	28	341	35	8	98	53	69	10	23
Reports sent out	17	69	..	..	132	..	..	43	8	..	2	6
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	4	20	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	3	..	..
Vagrants dealt with	9	704	23	265	1	26	182	137	22	..	286	..

DORSET MENDICITY SOCIETY.

(From the Dorset County Chronicle and Somersetshire Gazette.)

The fifth Annual Meeting of the Committee of this Society took place at the Shire Hall, Dorchester, on the 6th inst., under the presidency of Viscount Portman, Chairman of Quarter Sessions.

The Hon. Secretary read the following Report:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg to lay before you the Fifth Annual Report of the Dorset Mendicity Society, showing the state of vagrancy in this county for the year 1874. The number of admissions to the casual wards of our thirteen unions amounted, during the past twelve months, to 2,847—a reduction of over 74 per cent. as compared with the year previous to the establishment of this Society in 1869; whilst as regards the number of persons committed under the Vagrant Act, there is a decrease of 77 per cent. as compared with the same period. During the past year the Reports which have been received from other counties show that there has been an almost general increase of vagrancy throughout England. This has been felt to a slight extent in Dorset, the number of casual admissions being 247 more than in 1873. There is, however, good reason to believe that, as far as this county is concerned, this increase has been checked. The returns for the first quarter of the present year—viz. to March 31—show a decrease of 115 in the number of admissions to unions as compared with the corresponding period of 1874; and on the night of March 31 a census of vagrants was carefully taken, when it was found that there were only 14 in Dorset on that night.

They were distributed as follows:—In casual-wards, 10; in lodging-houses, 3; elsewhere, 1.

When this system was first established, it was said that as soon as the novelty had worn off, it would fail for want of public support. It is therefore satisfactory to be able to state, after five years' experience, that vagrancy has been reduced to the above-named very low limits, that beggars are rarely met with, and that the public do continue to support the Society and to make use of its tickets, in proof of which it appears that during 1874 3,702 tickets were received and exchanged for bread at our 73 relief stations. [The expenditure amounted to £57. 0s. 8d.] In conclusion, I beg to add that the 'Dorset system' has been recently adopted in the western division of Sussex, and that in Kent, where it has been in operation for four years, the Special Committee of Justices appointed to consider the state of vagrancy in that county report, 'That by its general adoption vagrancy would be repressed more effectually than by any other means at present devised.'

Trusting that these results may be considered satisfactory, I have the honour to be, my Lords and Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

AMYATT BROWN, Hon. Secretary.

The noble Chairman observed that they were very much indebted to the Chief Constable of the county for having organised such a system as this, which continued to be so well received by the public, and was so satisfactory in its working. It required both the co-operation of the public and the energy of the police to keep the vagrants in check. He (the noble Viscount) had seen some few tramps of a most wretched kind during the past quarter, but they seemed to be persons who came from afar. He sent one to gaol a fortnight ago. Some foolish body gave the man a shilling instead of bread, and he perpetrated violence, for which he was obliged to be committed. If he had received a bread-ticket instead of the shilling the violence would probably have been averted, and the man would not have been sent to gaol. The Society provided good protection against mischief, and this Report would probably be received with great satisfaction. (Applause.)

Mr. Littlehales said the Report reflected great credit upon the Chief Constable for having organised a system which seemed to be spreading over England. It began in Dorsetshire, as he understood.

The Hon. Secretary: Yes, this was the first county in England where it was adopted.

Mr. Littlehales remarked he had kept a regular account of the vagrants in his division of the county, and lately there had been very few; indeed, for several weeks there had been none; formerly there were very many.

The Hon. Secretary observed there was in the account an exceptional item for relief to a tramp, to enable him to return to his home. The man was anxious to return to Ireland, so his passage was paid to Cork. (Laughter.) He (Captain Amyatt Brown) did not know whether he was justified in paying the amount. The Hon. Secretary added that at any time when subscribers wished inquiries to be made as to tramps he should be glad to give all the assistance in his power. He was sorry to say, from his own experience, there was not, as a rule, the smallest foundation for the stories they related, the addresses and names they gave. He had occasionally written to parties whom they named, and the answer was they had never known of such persons. Captain Amyatt Brown said a similar society was about to be established in the eastern division of Sussex, and he had received the form of a ticket it was proposed to use there.

The Hon. W. H. B. Portman, M.P., moved the adoption of the Report.

Mr. John Floyer, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried *nem. con.*

This closed the proceedings of the meeting.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of April 1875 was 35,553, and 56,945 received outdoor relief, making a total of 92,498. This was a decrease of 3,484 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 12,389, 22,146, and 24,293 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 403. This was an increase of 8 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 140 on the corresponding day of last year.

A LADY GUARDIAN.—The ratepayers of Kensington have elected Miss Merington a Guardian. Miss Merington has long been known as an active worker amongst the poor.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 136.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 28, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

Two copies of the Annual Report of the Council (2nd edition), have been sent to all District Committees, and to the affiliated associations. Any further number can be supplied at 4d. each.

The weekly meeting of the St. George's-in-the-East Committee is held on Mondays, at 11.30 A.M.

The Office-hours of the Mile End Old Town Committee (116 Mile End Road, E.) are from 10 to 11 A.M., and from 4 to 5 P.M.

The weekly meeting of the Poplar Committee will in future be held on Wednesdays, at 3 P.M.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; Rev. H. Hayman, Fulham; Major Yard, Paddington; Lord Claud Hamilton, A. G. Middleton, Esq., W. Westby Moore, Esq., Hon. R. C. Moreton, Major FitzRoy, St. George's; H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Miss Collett, C. J. Tarring, Esq., South St. Pancras; F. Burrell Roberts, Esq., Islington; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Sir Richard Wilbraham, K.C.B., Holborn; Rev. H. G. Henderson, H. A. Herbert, Esq., Shoreditch; J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; C. Lavers Smith, Esq., Whitechapel; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Rev. R. J. Elliott, Poplar; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's, Southwark; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; F. Green, Esq., J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersea; E. Hyde, Esq., T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; I. H. Cole, Esq., Deptford; A. Annesley, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., Lewisham; A. Barry, Esq., Sydenham; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Stephen Fuller, Esq., T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 44. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries. C. Meysey Clive, Esq., Visitor.

A letter was read from Mr. D. A. Pearson, calling attention to the deficiency of hands of all kinds and ages for agricultural work in the north-east of Scotland.

The Secretary reported that the Hon. R. C. Moreton had been appointed an Hon. Secretary of the St. George's Committee, and that the Rev. A. J. Ross, and Mr. A. C. Mitchell had been elected representatives by the Mile End Committee.

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented cards of invitation to a meeting of the Association for the Oral Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, to be held at the Mansion House, on May 6, at 2.30 P.M.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen asked how many District Committees were without Honorary Secretaries.

It was stated, in reply, that the Whitechapel and Poplar

Committees were at present without Hon. Secretaries, but were desirous to find gentlemen willing to undertake that office.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending April 17 the receipts had been £3. 3s. for the General Fund, £145 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £1,095. 11s. 9d. and £264. 1s. 3d. respectively.

That they had elected Mr. J. R. Hollond their Vice-Chairman.

And that they would be glad to add any members of Council to the Inquiry Supervision Sub-Committee who could attend on Tuesdays at 2.30 P.M. for two hours.

TRAINING SCHOOLS AND ASYLUMS FOR IDIOTS.

Sir Charles Trevelyan gave notice of six resolutions to be moved by him at an early meeting of the Council after Whitsuntide. He said that the whole subject of the provision to be made for the training of improvable idiots, and for the management of those who only require to be sheltered and kindly cared for, was in a state of great confusion, and that these resolutions had been framed for the purpose of fixing in the public mind a simple, consistent plan to be worked up to by all parties concerned. He also suggested that the Earl of Devon, the Rev. Canon Hopkins, Mr. Millard, and a few other gentlemen interested in the subject, as well as the representatives of existing institutions, should be invited to assist in the discussion.

1st.—That, as by the census returns of 1871, there were in England and Wales 29,452 idiots or imbeciles, which number is admitted to be 25 per cent. below the mark, showing a total of 36,835, or 1 in every 621 of the population; and as the condition of many youthful idiots can be altogether altered and improved by adapted training, while a large proportion of the remainder are quite unfit to mix with ordinary members of society; and union-houses and lunatic asylums are, for many reasons, unsuitable receptacles for idiots, training schools should be provided for improvable, and permanent asylums for unimprovable idiots.

2nd.—That, in order to elicit the sympathy and active co-operation and support of the wealthy and charitable, the training schools should, as far as possible, be conducted upon the voluntary principle, and that with this object the managers of existing asylums depending upon public subscriptions for their support be invited to modify their rules so as to make their institutions available as part of a national system.

3rd.—That besides the general objections to the canvassing and voting system as a means of admission to charitable institutions, it is in an especial manner inapplicable to making provision for idiots, inasmuch as their successful treatment depends upon their being selected at the proper age to be placed either in a training school or permanent asylum, according to the nature of their respective cases.

4th.—That the Government be memorialised to allow the capitation grant of 4s. a week to be paid for poor idiots admitted into subscription training schools, in the same way as it is now allowed for pauper idiots placed in county lunatic asylums, and that further payments be made by friends who are able to do so, or by Boards of Guardians.

5th.—That exertions should be made to establish the necessary additional number of training schools on this principle throughout the country; and that permanent asylums for unimprovable cases needing supervision, shelter, and kind care, should be established upon the grounds of the county lunatic

asylums or elsewhere, either singly or for two counties combined, the expense of building and maintenance being defrayed out of the county-rates, aided by the Government capitation grant and by the contributions of the friends of the idiots or the Boards of Guardians.

6th.—That, to facilitate the establishment of training schools and permanent asylums, the Government be asked to introduce a bill especially for the regulation of idiot asylums, releasing such asylums from the stringent regulations of the Lunacy Act, 8 and 9 Vict., cap. 100, which was passed before an idiot asylum existed, such release being in accordance with the recommendations of the Lunacy Commissioners in their Report to the Lord Chancellor for the years 1865 and 1868.

TEMPORARY RELIEF AND PERMANENT BENEFIT.

Mr. Peto resumed the discussion on the case submitted by the St. George's Committee. A woman had been deserted six years ago by her husband, had two children, and 30s. was asked for to purchase clothes and boots for them, as they could not attend school regularly for want of clothing.

The woman is of good character; and, looking to the fact that she is unable to be away from home the whole day, appears to earn as much as can reasonably be expected. The amount of her earnings, though sufficient to keep herself and family, so far as bare maintenance goes, without assistance from the parish, is insufficient to allow her to pay down a lump sum of money to provide her children with clothes and shoes to attend school. The Committee cannot, however, say that the gift of clothes would permanently benefit the case, as it would not enable the woman in any way to renew them when worn out.

The case had been brought to the notice of the Committee by the Divisional Committee of the School Board, and the Committee asked whether in the opinion of the Council relief in the way of clothes or boots should be given to enable the children to go to school.

Mr. Miner had moved the following resolution:—

That District Committees should grant to poor industrious families not receiving parochial relief such assistance as they cannot obtain from other sources, and as, after due investigation, may be found necessary to enable them to send their children of a suitable age to school.

To which Mr. Wightman Wood had moved as an amendment:—

That the St. George's Committee be informed that the Council is of opinion that, in the case put, the Committee should afford the relief required, either by obtaining it from the Guardians or otherwise, or, failing that, by a grant from their own fund.

Notice had also been given by Mr. A. H. Hill of the following amendment:—

That it is inexpedient to remove cases of the class quoted from the ordinary operation of the District Committee, acting at its discretion within the limits of its ascertained means, and in accordance with the general principles of this Society.

Mr. Peto said that Mr. Miner had authorised him to ask that he might be allowed to add the following words to his resolution:—

Provided that assistance is granted only in cases where there is a likelihood of temporary relief being of permanent benefit.

Neither Mr. Miner nor he wished to alter the plan of the Society, but it was a part of this plan to give substantial assistance when it seemed probable that this would raise people to a condition of independence, and it was no less necessary to enable them to maintain their independence. Clothes were given to grown-up persons to enable them to get employment; why should they not be given to children?

Mr. Fuller thought that it would not be enough merely to give the 30s. asked for; the Committee should encourage the woman to put by some small sum each week in a clothing fund or penny bank, and should keep their eye on her, with a view to obtaining her better employment.

Mr. Edgcombe said that the real question was whether the St. George's Committee were at liberty to give relief with the knowledge that it would be required again in six months. The Committee pointed out that the relief would not be of permanent benefit. It was not the object of the Society to give relief, and it was not well adapted for relief-giving,

though in some exceptional cases it had to undertake it. He was against extending the relief functions of the Society.

The Rev. H. G. Henderson was of opinion that clothes should be given by Boards of Guardians in such cases. It could not be said that the woman was in a position of independence.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson thought that each case must be dealt with on its merits, and that failing other sources the Committee should assist.

After a few words from Mr. Maurice, the Rev. J. D. McGachen, Sir Alexander Gordon, Mr. Tidman, and Mr. Green, Mr. O'Malley urged that no general rule should be laid down. It was one of the hard cases which proverbially made bad law. The poor were very much in the position of the Israelites when they were required to make bricks without straw, but it would be changing the basis of the Society if it undertook to find straw for them. The St. George's Committee said that no permanent good would be done.

Mr. Edgar Hyde contended that the grant asked for would be of permanent benefit both to the woman and the children.

Sir Charles Trevelyan held that relief to such cases was in accordance with the rules of the Society. The public wished the Society to undertake the relief of the deserving poor as well as the organisation of charity.

Miss Octavia Hill thought that such cases could not be assisted without infringing the fundamental rules of the Society. It would be a grant in aid of the wages of an able-bodied woman with no prospect of permanently improving her position. Mr. Peek's offer did not alter the case. He did not wish the Society to change its principles.

Mr. Fuller and Miss Hill having handed in amendments, Mr. Wood's amendment was put and carried by 18 to 13.

Mr. Wood's amendment having thus become the substantive motion, Mr. Hill's amendment was put and carried by 13 to 10.

Mr. Fuller moved the following amendment:—

In answer to the question put by the St. George's Committee, the Council consider that clothing ought to be obtained, or, failing that, granted; that the woman should be encouraged to subscribe weekly to a clothing club according to her means; and that employment should be sought elsewhere at a higher rate.

This was put and lost by 13 to 8.

Miss Hill moved as another amendment:—

That the St. George's Committee having stated that temporary relief to the woman whose case is submitted by them is not likely to be permanently beneficial, the Council is of opinion that such a case cannot be assisted from the funds of the Society in accordance with the principles of the Society, though the case might with propriety be referred to individuals or local authorities, as is done in other cases where temporary relief is required.

At this point, the adjournment of the discussion, which had been moved twice before and lost, was moved again by Mr. A. H. Hill and carried.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, April 24, 1875:—*Annual*: J. Ewart, Esq., £2. 2s.; Dr. Ogle, 10s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: C. J. C., £5.

The following business stands for Monday, May 3:—

To consider recommendation of the Administrative Committee.

That a grant of £25 be made to the Bethnal Green Committee.

Adjourned discussion on the case submitted by the St. George's Committee to the Council. Amendment by Miss Octavia Hill on Mr. A. H. Hill's motion. (See above.)

Replies from District Committees to the circular of the Council with reference to Mr. Peek's offer to be brought up from the Administrative Committee. (See *Reporter* for April 21.)

Mr. Willis-Bund to resume the adjourned discussion on the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment. (See *Reporter* for April 14.)

Mr. A. H. Hill to move: 'That Mr. Solly's letter, dated April 16, 1875,

red on the Minutes, and that a marginal note be entered opposite solution of December 27, 1869, referring forward to that letter, and Mr. Solly's letter dated August 28, 1869, to the Hon. Secretary of ciety, which is kept among the other letters of that date, as well as ses of letters from Lord Lichfield and Lord Lyttelton, dated ively June 11, 1872, and March 28, 1872, now handed in with Mr. letters.'

• DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

RETURNED BY THE OF THE COMMITTEES LAST WEEK END- JURDAY, APRIL 5.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Underserving Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Authorities	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans					Employment Letters for Hospitals &c.	Class total		
ton	2	5	13	..	1	1	2	8	2	..	10	25	7	4			
ton	4	3	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	14	11	5			
ton	2	..	2	1	..	1	2	4	1	..	5	11	12	4			
ge's:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
orge's Division.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	9	8			
minster do.	1	2	5	..	1	..	1	4	..	..	4	11	2	1			
ster:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
nes' & St. Anne's	1	..	1	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3	4	4			
lebone	..	1	1	..	4	2	6	3	..	..	3	10	6	3			
ead	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	2	..	1			
St. Pancras and	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
ate	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	4	..	..			
St. Pancras	2	3	7	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	10	2	5			
1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	2	5	4			
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
& Bloomsbury	..	2	2	..	1	..	1	5	..	..	5	8	2	2			
1	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	4	1	8			
1	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	13			
ch.	1	2	3	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	2	3	1	7			
Green	..	2	2	..	3	1	4	3	1	..	4	7	1	5			
pel—	4	2	6	2	..	1	3	..	..	..	2	11	5	2			
pe's in-the-East	3	2	5	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	8	5	2			
Union	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	2	1	7			
d Old Town	1	5	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	6	1	..			
our's	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2			
ton's	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	3	..	1	4	6	..	1			
ton's	2	1	3	..	1	..	1	3	1	..	1	5	..	3			
h's:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	1			
North	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	1	1			
North & Patney	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	2	..	3	5	2	12			
sa	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	6	..	1			
sa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15			
well:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Lane	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	6	..	..			
au	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..			
ch	..	2	2	..	1	1	1	2	1	..	3	6	..	8			
1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	4	5	2	1			
th	3	3	6	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	4	7	..	2			
sa	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	4	6	5			
m	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2			
ham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	2	..	9			
tal.....	26	18	51	95	8	15	13	36	46	16	8	10	80	211	89	97	84

POPULITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan houses on the last day of the second week of April 1875 was 35,330, 941 received outdoor relief, making a total of 92,371. This was a net of 127 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding figures of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,504, 1,212, and 21,222 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 482. This was an increase of 79 on the return of the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 307 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

JAM (AND HAMMERSMITH) ANNUAL MEETING.—The third annual meeting of this Committee was held at Latymer School, King Street East, Hammersmith, on Tuesday evening last, April 20. The chair was taken at eight o'clock by W. Gordon, Esq., M.P.

to was a very small attendance of the public (says the *West London* *her*), but we noticed amongst those present several of the leading men of the district, including Mr. Churchwarden Mussared, E. Bird, J. Roberts, Esq., J. Lewis, Esq., J. Cromwell Swail, Esq., &c. Chairman said they were called together that evening to promote the of the Charity Organisation Society. Now what was charity? love; charity was brotherhood, and organisation was the means by every object was carried out. They were a great commercial people.

but there was an alarming amount of pauperism in the country, and they had assembled there to combat that poverty and carry out a system by which true charity could be bestowed upon the deserving, and by which also imposture could be detected. They could not proceed along the Broadway of Hammersmith without the fact staring them in the face. Some people, when they were solicited for alms, often put their hand in their pocket and assisted them, but that was misplaced charity, for it sent them to the public-house to indulge in the curse of drink and other vices. Of course there were exceptions, but the habit of bestowing pence indiscriminately on all who solicited them was a dangerous practice. Perhaps the applicant's wife was lying at home on a sick bed, without food, his children, if he had any, starving, while he was placing in the drawer of the publican what ought to go for nourishment for his wife and family. There was also a large class of people in their midst who had no visible means of gaining a livelihood. They might depend upon it that if some means were not speedily adopted something fearful would be the result, for the evil was increasing steadily. The Society whose cause he espoused was endeavouring to put a check to this, and they wanted the assistance of all those who wished to see the evil obliterated. He was sorry to hear that a difference existed among some parties with regard to the real objects of the Society; he was afraid they were not thoroughly understood. When Mr. Ribton-Turner called upon him he was reading a copy of the report on the dwellings of the poor issued by the Society, and he believed that if the Society had never done anything but publish that report they would have conferred a lasting benefit on the community at large. (Hear, hear.) Their object was to suppress mendicity, and to see alms justly distributed, and not given to those who, instead of using their strength, sinews, and arms to support themselves, lavished their earnings in the loushome atmosphere of the public-house. He would not detain them any longer, but would call upon Mr. Ernest Noel, M.P., to propose the first resolution on the agenda paper.

Mr. Ernest Noel then proposed the first resolution, viz., 'That the report now presented be adopted.' He said he had the honour of belonging to a Committee in another part of London, but it had done so little when compared to the Hammersmith and Fulham one, that he was almost ashamed to come there that night and face a Hammersmith audience. They were living in a glorious country—in a country famous for its riches, famous for its freedom; but although they were living in such a country as that, although they were residents of the wealthiest city in the world, they had to meet the astounding fact that more pauperism existed in it than in any other country on the face of the globe; and when they heard that, was it not sufficient to arouse the nation from its lethargy to confront it boldly, and strive to sweep the evil from its path? If other countries had such a state of pauperism prevailing—if France had, for instance—there would be a revolution in that country which would deluge the land with blood. They had not, like other countries, an enormous army to support, taking into its ranks a mass of young men, but they had the glaring evil of a shocking pauperism. Now, how had that pauperism come about? It was, he said, due to three causes. The first of these was, that they had a bad Poor-law—a false system of managing the poor. In proof of this he would state that in Scotland, a few years ago, they had adopted the English system of Poor-law, and with what result? Why, pauperism had increased to an alarming extent in that country, and they were now labouring under the burden. The second cause was drink; and the other, mistaken or misapplied charity. The Chairman had explained what mistaken charity was. There was, he knew, no greater luxury than the luxury of giving; but in some instances—he should rather say in many instances—the gift was productive of dire results. What was required was not absolute teetotalism, but temperance. He was not a teetotaler himself; but when drink was indulged in to a great extent it took all feeling of love out of a man, all self-respect, and made him a degraded creature. It was a very unpleasant thing for a man to have no prospect before him but the poor-house—to be a burden to other people, and compel those to sustain him who had themselves put by in the summer what was requisite for their maintenance during the winter season. Was it not a degradation for a man to see his father or mother supported by the parish, when he knew that a little forethought, a little carefulness, a little self-respect, would have saved it all? It is said in the best of books that a woman loves her child, but when a woman's better nature gave way to drink it made her careless of those the most dear to her. They believed that it was very kind to give alms to those whom they thought deserved them. But if they saw that the money thus given enabled them to indulge in vice—if they saw that the acts of kindness were productive of misery—would really injure the recipient, would it be right to do so? It was not for saving their purses that they were present that night; it was to confer a benefit on the public by endeavouring to organise a true system of charity. As an instance of misplaced charity he would relate an incident which occurred in his own parish. There was a labourer living there who possessed one of the kindest and best wives whom it was possible to have. But the husband was a canting hypocrite. He would come to a person with tears in his eyes, and tell them how ill his wife was, and when assistance was rendered him betake himself to the beer-house and there spend the money given him. He made inquiries and

found that he was practising an imposture. The man earned good wages for the country district in which he lived, namely, about 15s. per week—(laughter)—and out of that sum there would often go ten, sometimes twelve, and perhaps the whole fifteen shillings, to the beer-house, while his poor wife was left at home with her seven children. Well, he (the speaker) determined to put a stop to the man's behaviour; so he went round the parish and succeeded in stopping all sources of relief. Some said that it would be too bad to do that—the poor wife and children would starve; but he said it was better that they should starve than that the husband should carry on in such a manner. Well, one of the children did die from want of proper nourishment, and perhaps they would say that he was the murderer. However, the family left the parish; but he was determined to know more, so he followed them, and learned that a great improvement had taken place. He would not say that the man never got drunk, but he generally brought home ten or twelve shillings of his earnings.

Mr. Eastwick, C.B., said he had read the report, which was an able one. He hoped everyone in the room would take the trouble to read it. He had great pleasure in seconding the motion.

The motion was then put to the meeting, and declared by the Chairman to be unanimously carried.

At this juncture a gentleman in the audience rose up, and, addressing those on the platform, said he had read the report of the Society, and he certainly thought that it was full of misrepresentations. He (the speaker) had the honour of belonging to the 'Peterborough Benevolent Society,' which really had charity for its object, and which bestowed it. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman said he would like the gentleman who had just spoken to become one of their Committee. He appeared to know a good deal concerning the Society, but he should bear in mind that its object was the suppression of mendicancy.

Edward Bird, Esq., was then called upon to move the second resolution. He said he was pleased to do so, for he could speak as to the assistance rendered to himself and family when they desired to know the most deserving parties upon whom to bestow their charity. He was afraid the object of the Society was not thoroughly understood. It was not for giving relief, but for suppressing mendicancy. He then moved, 'That in order to combat the evils of pauperism, it is most desirable that there should be complete co-operation between every agency for the relief of the poor, and that the case of every applicant for charity should be thoroughly investigated.'

The motion having been seconded by the Rev. H. Hayman, the Chairman declared it carried.

Some objections to the principles of the Society having been made and replied to, and Mr. Ribton-Turner having read a letter recently written by George Atkins Brine, a well-known mendicant, now an inmate of the Sherbourne Workhouse, votes of thanks to the Trustees of the Latymer School and to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

BRISTOL AND CLIFTON CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

We learn from the *Western Daily Press* of the 23rd inst., that the annual meeting of this Society was held on Thursday afternoon, in the Grand Jury Room at the Guildhall, under the presidency of the Right Worshipful the Mayor (Mr. C. J. Thomas). Among those present were Col. Blunt, Col. Pears, Capt. Warren, Mr. F. G. Barnett (Hon. Sec.), Mr. S. Worsley, Mr. P. Worsley, Rev. Canon Cooper, Rev. E. A. Fuller, Rev. T. Graham, Rev. W. Bruce, Rev. T. H. Clark, Mr. Henry Naish, Rev. J. M. Brown, Miss Mary Carpenter, Miss L. Edwards, Rev. C. Brittan, Mr. A. N. Price, &c.

Mr. F. Gilmore Barnett (Hon. Secretary) read the report of the Committee. It urged that charity was 'designed to help others, not ourselves,' and that real good can only be done by considering every case on its merits, by carefully tracing out its history, by seeing if ignorance, want of thrift, carelessness, laziness, or accident was the cause of distress, and by taking such steps as may prevent a recurrence to poverty again. It was often a kindness to withhold immediate relief. There could be no doubt that under a proper organisation of charity the Committee would not have to give any relief at all. The endowed charities of Bristol amounted to upwards of £40,000 a year, and in addition there were the parochial charities, and the vast amount that is dispersed through private channels. However, until the various charities could give assistance in such a manner as would be of permanent benefit to the applicant, the Committee help, as far as the funds will allow, those cases which cannot adequately be assisted by any other agency. In conclusion, the report stated that at the Bristol office during the past year 488 cases had been investigated, of which 88 had been found to be undeserving; 53 begging letters had been received, and 14 had been found to be bad; 1,368 meals had been given. At Clifton the interest in the Society was increasing, and during the past year 222 cases had been investigated.

The Mayor, in moving the adoption of the report, said that he had lived long enough in the world to be somewhat jealous of new organisations and societies; but it seemed that was a working society, and had done good,

and was calculated to do more good. There were some of them intensely engaged in private and public business, and upon whom people called, pressing very urgent demands for charity; and he had no doubt that the charity of such persons was very often abused. It was, therefore, very good of a society like that to undertake the labour and give the time which persons in the position he indicated could not give to sift and investigate these cases. In his own experience the cases most difficult to deal with were those of persons whom they had known as having been in a better position in life. Occasionally such persons would rather starve and die than make public their needs. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. H. Naish (Governor of the Corporation of the Poor) seconded the resolution. He remarked that often they met with cases exciting sympathy, which yet when they were investigated turned out the worst cases. He advocated a great deal of minute inquiry in private charity, and instanced the manner in which the Poor-law Guardians sifted applications for relief to exemplify the mode in which charitable appeals might be tested. At present there was often too much private charity in one quarter, and scarcely any in another quarter. Such a society as theirs would tend to equalise matters, and they might, by supporting it, depend upon all cases being properly treated.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson (member of the Council of the London Society) delivered an address on the advantage of organising charity. He urged that there should be mutual interdependence between different associations throughout the country, so that they might compare notes on all cases pressed upon their attention. He referred at some length to the operations of the London Society, and said that its objects were to raise the poor and put down imposture.

At the close of the Rev. R. J. Simpson's address the Mayor tendered him the thanks of the audience.

The Rev. Canon Cooper moved a vote of thanks to his Worship for presiding, and said nothing was more unsatisfactory to anyone than to find they had given their money in charity to a cheat.

The Rev. T. Graham seconded the resolution.

The Rev. T. H. Clark, who eulogised the efforts of the Clifton Branch Association, and the Rev. E. A. Fuller supported the resolution, which was cordially adopted.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson acknowledged the compliment paid to him, and said that he had heard of a case in Edinburgh in which a woman appealing on behalf of an interment for her dead husband obtained four coffins from different charitable individuals.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 137.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 5, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Office-hours of the St. Saviour's Committee will in future be from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M., instead of from 9 to 11 A.M.

Applications by District Committees for grants from the District Committee Aid Fund should be accompanied by a statement of receipts and expenditure from the date of the last printed balance-sheet, and by an estimate of receipts and expenditure for the quarter for which a grant is asked.

As delay is frequently caused by inquiries between District Committees being misdirected, Hon. Secretaries are requested to observe the following particulars, and to have them indicated on their office-maps:—

1. A small detached portion of Chelsea, at the north-east corner of the parish of Kensington, is taken charge of by the Kensington Committee.
2. The Paddington district has been extended, so as to include that portion of Kilburn, on the west side of the Edgware Road, which lies between Kilburn Park Road and Willesden Lane.
3. The District of the North St. Pancras Committee is divided from that of the South St. Pancras Committee by a line commencing at Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, and running along Park Street, Camden Road (to Camden Station), and St. Paul's Road.
4. The St. Saviour's Committee has transferred a portion of its district to the Newington Committee, so that the Newington district, from St. Stephen's Church southwards, is bounded by the St. Olave's district.
5. The Brixton sub-district of the Lambeth Committee is separated from that of the Northern Committee by the London, Chatham and Dover Railway.
6. The boundary between Greenwich and Deptford is Deptford Creek.
7. The part of the parish of Camberwell taken charge of by the Peckham sub-office is bounded on the east by the western boundary of Deptford as far north as the Grand Surrey Canal, on the north by the Grand Surrey Canal as far as Trafalgar Road, on the west by a branch of the Canal, Eye Lane, western side of Peckham Rye, and a line running westward through Goose Green, and southward down Lordship Lane to Forest Hill, on the boundary of the Lewisham Union, and on the south by a portion of the Lewisham boundary.
8. The part of the Lewisham Union taken charge of by the Sydenham

Committee is bounded on the north by Brockley Lane to the eastern boundary of Camberwell, on the east by the Mid-Kent Railway, on the south by a portion of the Lewisham Union boundary, and on the west by the south-eastern boundary of Camberwell.

Letters of recommendation to the following hospitals can be obtained from the Secretary of the Council by the Honorary Secretary of any District Committee having suitable cases before it:—

In-patients:

Charing Cross, 6; King's College, 19; London, 23; North London, 4; St. George's, 16; Westminster, 7; City of London for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, 4; Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, 1; British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, 2; City of London Lying-in Hospital, 1; New Hospital for Women, 11; Royal Infirmary for Women and Children, 1; Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, 10; Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Chelsea, 1; North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, 3; National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, 33; Royal London Ophthalmic, 4; Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2; Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars, 4; London Homœopathic, 9.

Out-patients:

King's College, 38; London, 6; North London, 24; Westminster, 11; Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, 2; City of London for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, 50; North London Consumption, Tottenham Court Road and Hampstead, 24; Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, 15; New Hospital for Women, 18; Royal Infirmary for Women and Children, 1; British Lying-in Hospital, 12; City of London Lying-in Hospital, 4; General Lying-in Hospital, 2; Royal Maternity Charity, 10; Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, 47; North-Eastern Hospital for Children, 15; East London Hospital for Children, 9; Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis, 1; Royal South London Ophthalmic, 18; Royal Orthopaedic, 7; London Homœopathic, 4; Dental Hospital, 4; Public Dispensary, Stanhope Street, W.C., 2; Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Dispensary, 2; Farringdon General Dispensary, 16; Western City Dispensary, 46; City of London Truss Society, 2; Provident Surgical Appliance Society, 2.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Miss Emma Howes, *Fulham*; J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; W. W. Moore, Esq.; Major Fitz-Roy, Hon. R. C. Moreton, *St. George's*; Captain Elliot, R.N., H. Peto, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; F. Burdett Roberts, Esq., *Islington*; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, *St. Giles and Bloomsbury*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. H. P. Kelly, *Shoreditch*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran, Esq., *Whitechapel*; Mrs. Barnett, E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Lord Monteagle, Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End Old Town*; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., A. D. Graham, Esq., *St. Saviour's, Southwark*; B. R. Balfour, Esq., *St. Olave's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., *Lambeth*; R. M. Hensley, Esq., *Wandsworth and Putney*; A. Leveson-Gower, Esq., J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; E. Hyde, Esq., Rev. C. J. Meade, T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; G. Parker, Esq., *Lewisham*; Alsager Hay-Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Stephen Fuller, Esq., T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 42. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., *Secretary*; J. Dugdale, Esq., A. G. Middleton, Esq., *Visitors*.

The Secretary reported that more than 700 out of the 1,000 £10 shares, which the promoters of the National Penny Bank

had announced that they must dispose of before starting, had been taken.

PARISH STONEYARDS.

Mr. Edgcombe asked whether any members who were Guardians could give him any information as to the result of abolishing parish stoneyards.

The Rev. H. P. Kelly said that it had been found in Shoreditch that the old hands used to earn as much as 2s.—the maximum, whilst men who were new to the work could hardly earn 6d. Practised men found it idle, easy work. No ill results had followed from shutting up the yard.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending April 24 the receipts had been £2. 12s. for the General Fund, £5 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £975. 0s. 10d. and £269. 1s. 3d. respectively; that they had re-considered a suggestion made by the Books and Forms Sub-Committee, and had ordered that the words 'whether . . . furnishing Reports or,' be omitted from the Information Paper with reference to the Weekly Returns; and that they did not propose to meet on the 13th inst., as there would be no meeting of Council on the 17th, Whit-Monday.

RECOMMENDATION.

A grant of £25 was made to the Bethnal Green District on therecommendation of the Administrative Committee.

TEMPORARY RELIEF AND PERMANENT BENEFIT.

The Council then resumed consideration of the case submitted by the St. George's Committee. A woman had been deserted six years ago by her husband, having two children, and 30s. was asked for, to purchase clothes and boots for them, as they could not attend school regularly for want of clothing.

The woman is of good character; and, looking to the fact that she is unable to be away from home the whole day, appears to earn as much as can reasonably be expected. The amount of her earnings, though sufficient to keep herself and family, so far as bare maintenance goes, without assistance from the parish, is insufficient to allow her to pay down a lump sum of money to provide her children with clothes and shoes to attend school. The Committee cannot, however, say that the gift of clothes would permanently benefit the case, as it would not enable the woman in any way to renew them when worn-out.

The case had been brought to the notice of the Committee by the Divisional Committee of the School Board, and the Committee asked whether in the opinion of the Council 'relief in the way of clothes or boots should be given to enable the children to go to school.'

The following amendment, moved by Mr. A. H. Hill, had become the substantive motion:—

That it is inexpedient to remove cases of the class quoted from the ordinary operation of the District Committee, acting at its discretion within the limits of its ascertained means, and in accordance with the general principles of this Society.

To this Miss Octavia Hill had moved the following amendment:—

That the St. George's Committee having stated that temporary relief to the woman whose case is submitted by them is not likely to be permanently beneficial, the Council is of opinion that such a case cannot be assisted from the funds of the Society in accordance with the principles of the Society, though the case might with propriety be referred to individuals or local authorities, as is done in other cases where temporary relief is required.

A letter from the St. George's Committee was read, asking permission to withdraw the last sentence of the above extract from their letter.

Mr. A. H. Hill consented to modify his resolution, so as to make it read—

That whilst fully recognising the beneficial influence of a sound elementary education in promoting the permanent improvement of the poor, the Council consider that it is inexpedient to remove cases of the class quoted from the ordinary operation of the District Committee, acting at its dis-

cretion within the limits of its ascertained means, and in accordance with the general principles of the Society.

Miss Hill obtained permission to make her amendment read as follows:—

As it appears from the facts, as stated in the case submitted by the St. George's Committee, that temporary relief is not likely to be permanently beneficial, the Council is of opinion that the case could not be assisted from the funds of the Society in accordance with the principles of the Society, though it might with propriety be referred to individuals or local agencies, as is done in other cases where temporary relief is desirable, but not likely to be permanently beneficial.

The Rev. W. H. Langhorne urged that it was the duty of the Society to give relief to all cases suitable for charitable assistance, when there was no other agency able to give it. He thought that this was such a case.

Sir Charles Trevelyan supported this view, and pointed out that such cases as the present especially needed the careful investigation which the Society could give.

The Secretary thought that there was a real ambiguity in the words 'permanent use,' which were adopted in the Suggested Rules, and subsequently in the Manual. They might be understood to limit assistance to those persons only who could be set up by a single grant, or to include assistance which was substantial, as distinguished from that which merely alleviated. This seemed to him the real issue, and the two views were in some measure represented by the motion and the amendment.

Mr. Bond could not support Miss Hill's amendment. It was impossible to lay down a principle that would cover all cases in regard to temporary relief being permanently beneficial; he was in favour, therefore, of sending the matter back to the District Committee without precise definition.

The Rev. C. J. Meade thought that grants were given to many cases in which the prospect of permanent benefit was not clearer than in this. For instance, his Committee had made a grant to provide a sick child with milk.

Mr. Jodrell entreated the Council to be most careful how they relaxed their rules. Charitable relief administered by individuals could not be counted on, and therefore did not pauperise people so much as relief administered by a Committee. If care was not taken, the poor would come to look on the Society, as they already looked on the Hospitals, as possessing a fund in which they had a vested right. It was not a question whether education was of permanent use. The children would be educated, in any case. The question was whether the Committee should take the case out of the hands of the Guardians. Reference of the case to private charity was quite a different matter from relieving it out of the funds of the Committee.

Miss Hill's amendment was then put and lost, 10 voting for it, and 20 against it.

Mr. Wood said that Mr. Hill's resolution was no answer to the question from St. George's; so, whether it was carried or not, he would take the earliest opportunity of moving—

That the Council is of opinion that the case submitted by the St. George's Committee is one suitable for charitable assistance, and that the Committee should not leave such a case to the operation of the Poor-law, unless they have no available means of dealing with it, either by reference to others, or by a grant from their own funds, or otherwise.

The Chairman ruled that this motion could not then be put.

Mr. Hill's motion was put, and carried by 17 to 8.

A letter was read from Mr. Solly, stating that publicity had lately been given to a resolution passed by the Council on the 27th December, 1869, and pointing out that it was passed under a misapprehension, he having made no claim on the Society.

The resolution in question was as follows:—

That the present Council of the Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity, considering itself a new Council working a new society, cannot recognise any claims of any person connected with any previous society; neither does it consider itself justified in applying any funds

it may in future receive to any other object than that for which they were especially subscribed.

Mr. A. H. Hill having briefly explained the circumstances under which the resolution was passed, and the Secretary having stated that the resolution was passed in September (not December) 1869, it was resolved, on Mr. Hill's motion—

That Mr. Solly's letter, dated April 16, 1875, be entered on the Minutes, and that a marginal note be entered opposite the Resolution of September 27, 1869, referring forward to that letter, and also to Mr. Solly's letter dated August 28, 1869, to the Hon. Secretary of this Society, which is kept among the other letters of that date, as well as to copies of letters from Lord Lichfield and Lord Lyttelton, dated respectively June 11, 1872, and March 28, 1872, now handed in with Mr. Solly's letters.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, May 1, 1875:—*Donations:* A. Hooper, Esq., £5; A. H. M. Long, Esq., £2. 7s. 6d.; Dr. W. V. Lush, 10s. 6d.; A. Rose, Esq., £2. 2s.; Hon. Mrs. W. Tomline, £5. *Annual:* A. P. Fletcher, Esq., £5. 5s.; Miss Morse, £1. 1s.

The following business stands for Monday, May 10:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee—

1. That one-half of the contributions recently obtained from certain firms in the City be transferred to the City Committee.
2. That the Council pay half the costs in a suit, amounting to £10. 4s.
3. That a grant of £50, including a grant of £20 towards a Permanent Loan Fund, be made to the St. George's-in-the-East Committee.
4. That a grant of £20 be made to the Shoreditch Committee.

Replies from District Committees to the circular of the Council with reference to Mr. Peek's offer to be brought up from the Administrative Committee. (See Reporter for April 21.)

Mr. Willis-Bund to resume the adjourned discussion on the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment. (See Reporter for April 21.)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its twentieth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Dr. Hawkey, Dr. Moon, Messrs. T. Clarke, W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson.

It was resolved, on Mr. Tait's motion:—

'That the Committee meet in future (on Wednesdays) at 3.30 p.m.'

The Committee resumed consideration of Head II. a: 'What more can be done through existing agencies, by improvements in system of working?' It was resolved, on Mr. Tait's motion:—

'That it is too often a serious injury to the blind that articles made by them should be sold as "blind manufactures," and that it would be an improvement in the system of working Blind Institutions, and more conducive to the general welfare of the blind, if advantage were taken of the open market to secure the sale of such articles at their intrinsic market value.'

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Report of the Brighton Charity Organisation Society, 1874.

Third Annual Report of the Provident Knowledge Society.

Forty-third Report of the Royal Pimlico Dispensary, 1875.

Report of the Haverstock Hill and Malden Road Provident Dispensary, 1875.

Classified List of Reformatory and Preventive Institutions connected with the Reformatory and Refuge Union, 34 Parliament Street. 6d.

Stray Thoughts on London, by a Layman. (Elliot Stock.)

What has Christianity Done for the Poorer Classes? Three lectures delivered in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, on the evenings of Tuesdays, November 24, December 1, and December 8, 1874, by the Rev. J. Hannah, Vicar of Brighton. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.)

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of April 1875 was 35,041, and 56,766 received outdoor relief, making a total of 91,807. This was a decrease of 564 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,026, 17,741, and 21,484 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 474. This was a decrease of 8 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 322 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
Kensington	4	6	5	15	1	3	4	4	6	10	29	5	6
Fulham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	4	5	4	8
Paddington	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	4	5	4	8
Chelsea	1	3	4	8	2	2	1	1	1	1	7	8	2
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	1	1	4	6	4	8
Westminster do.	2	2	4	8	1	1	3	9	1	2	12	4	1
Westminster:—													
St. James & St. Anne's	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	6
St. Marylebone	2	3	4	9	4	5	9	2	3	5	23	4	7
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
South St. Pancras	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Islington	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Strand	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Holborn	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
City	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Shoreditch	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Bethnal Green	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Whitechapel	2	1	3	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	6	4	1
St. George's-in-the-East	2	2	2	6	1	3	4	1	1	1	6	9	1
Stepney	3	3	3	9	3	3	3	3	3	3	9	2	2
Mile End Old Town	2	2	2	6	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	1	1
Poplar	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2
St. Saviour's	3	3	3	9	5	1	6	2	2	2	11	3	1
*Newington	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
St. Olave's	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Lambeth:—													
North	6	6	6	18	1	1	3	2	2	2	16	3	8
South	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	1	1	1	6	3	2
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Battersea	1	4	5	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	1	1
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Woodwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Total	13	21	52	86	3	22	24	49	36	12	15	76	211

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

KENSINGTON.—*Vagrants.*—The following letters have been exchanged between the Honorary Secretary of this Committee and the Private Secretary of the President of the Local Government Board:—

Mr. Edgecombe wrote on February 9:—

'You have been good enough to say that if we would point out precisely in what manner the Poor-law Authorities could assist in putting down vagrancy, you would lay the matter before Mr. Selater-Booth, and ascertain if anything could be done to meet our views.'

'The Poor-law supplies the vagrants with supper, bed, and breakfast, but does not seem to us to make any sufficient provision for the exceptional case of a man who is in distress in the middle of the day, and who has a reasonable excuse for being on the road. We refer to men really on the tramp in search of work, destitute persons travelling to the house of some friend from whom they expect help, and the like. We are aware that such persons can obtain admission to the House by a process which involves some difficulty and delay; but on the supposition of the truth of the vagrant's story, detention in the workhouse will often seriously interfere with the objects he has in view, which is to arrive at some definite place as soon as possible.'

'Habitual begging impostors are aware of the difficulty, and are careful to make the most of it; consequently we fear it will be found impossible to put a stop to street-begging unless the benevolent are satisfied that a person who has a fair reason to be destitute at a distance from his home is certain to be relieved without being compelled to submit to what many of them will consider the unnecessary hardship of detention in the workhouse. We would suggest that the authorities of each Union be empowered to relieve with bread such vagrants as they shall think fit, after the imposition of a labour-test sufficiently severe to deter persons not really in urgent distress from applying. They would of course give no such relief

to any resident in their own Union, and in the exercise of their discretion they will probably refuse this form of relief to any habitual vagrants or other person whose story is obviously untrue; this would leave a very small remainder to be dealt with—for we are well aware that most vagrants are either unwilling to find work, or incapable of performing it—but it is the existence of this small remainder which makes it impossible for us wholly to suppress the practice of almsgiving in the streets.

'We have ourselves tried several plans to supply this want; for a considerable time we were in the habit of giving bread to be eaten on the premises to persons who seemed in distress, and told a plausible story; but as we had no means of applying a labour-test, and necessarily had not the familiarity with the habitual vagrants which is possessed by the workhouse officials, we have no doubt that in very many instances we gave to persons for whom such relief was not intended.

'We subsequently obtained permission of the Workhouse authorities to send on applicants to their stoneyard, where they were set to work and relieved at our expense. This arrangement, however, has been recently discontinued, in some degree owing to difficulties which might, perhaps, have been got over; but chiefly because we were not satisfied that the strict supervision, upon which the success of the whole system depended, could be exercised by officials who were not under our control, and were not responsible to their own masters for this portion of their work. We have conferred with some of the Guardians—with whom we have always been in close correspondence—and find that they do not consider themselves at liberty to give their officers any directions upon the matter, which, as they understand their instructions, is outside the work for which the Poor-law Regulations provide.

'We have therefore, for the present, been compelled to fall back on our old plan of giving relief at our own Office.

'We would wish to point out that, even supposing ourselves able to exercise the necessary discrimination, it is not desirable that such an important public duty should be left in the hands of private individuals like ourselves, for the following reasons:—Our views, modes of action, and ability to give relief may at any time undergo a change, and, however satisfactorily we may perform our self-imposed task, there will always remain many who will doubt our power or our discretion, or even be ignorant of our existence.

'We understand that it is likely to be objected that our suggestion involves the admission of the dangerous principle, that the State is to provide labour for the destitute. We would point out, however, that our proposed labour-task is not labour the equivalent of which is represented by the bread given, but is only a test of good faith destitution, and in this respect in no way differs from the stoneyard or workroom tests which are now daily being imposed on able-bodied paupers.

'It appears to us very desirable that the system should be introduced over the whole metropolis, but should the Local Government Board feel any doubt on the legal points involved, and be willing to allow the experiment to be tried in the Kensington Union, we will gladly pay any expenses that may be necessary to give it a fair trial.'

Mr. P. L. Sclater replied as follows, on April 8:—

'I am directed by the Local Government Board, with reference to your letter of the 9th of February last, to state that they have given full consideration to the suggestions of the Kensington Committee for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity, with regard to the relief of casual paupers at other hours than those provided for by the Metropolitan Houseless Poor Acts, but that the Board are not prepared to make such regulations as would be necessary to carry out the proposals of the Committee.'

ST. GEORGE'S.—*Case of Robert Wylie.*—On April 26, Robert Wylie, who was committed to the Sessions, at the instance of this Committee, for obtaining money under false pretences from Mrs. de Rothschild (see *Reporter*, pp. 68 and 62), was brought up at the Middlesex Sessions for sentence as an incorrigible rogue and vagabond. Several previous convictions were proved against him, and he was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

LADIES' SANITARY ASSOCIATION.—A course of thirteen lectures to ladies, on Physiology applied to Health and Education, will be given by Miss Chessar (member of the London School Board), at the Cavendish Rooms, 71 Mortimer Street, every Saturday, at 3 P.M., until July 24, when the last of the course will be delivered.

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FULHAM UNION—14 Devonshire Street, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—3 Leinster Street, W.
CHELSEA—6A Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Park Street, N.
HACKNEY—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur Street, W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
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CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
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WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDENHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards the expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' of the Council.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 138.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 12, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Central Office will be closed on Whit-Monday. There will, therefore, be no meeting of the Council next week, nor any meeting of the Administrative Committee to-morrow, Thursday. The Administrative Committee will meet as usual on Thursday the 20th. As there is no meeting of Council the Reporter will not be issued next week.

A few sets of the Annual Reports of the District Committees for 1874 are being bound up with the Sixth Annual Report of the Council. Copies can be had by application to the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, price 2s. 6d., or post-free for 3s. Those who wish for them are requested to give their orders at once.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Miss Merington, Kensington Committee; Miss Howes, Fulham; W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; R. Dundas, Esq., W. W. Moore, Esq., Major FitzRoy, Hon. R. C. Moreton, St. George's; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; F. Burdett Roberts, Esq., Islington; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, St. Giles's and Bloomsbury; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill, Esq., Strand; Rev. H. G. Henderson, H. A. Herbert, Esq., Shoreditch; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Lord Montagu, Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mile End Old Town; A. D. Graham, Esq., St. Saviour's, Southwark; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., Newington; B. R. Balfour, Esq., St. Olave's; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; S. Etches, Esq., Clapham; H. Hyde, Esq., T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-President; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Stephen Fuller, Esq., Dr. Hawksley, T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 39. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., Secretary.

A letter from General Bainbrigge was read, stating that the Greenwich Committee looked on widows of good character with children as being in the fringe of pauperism which they endeavoured by degrees but permanently, to cut off. It was desirable not to let such cases sink into the out-relief list, 'whilst, on the other hand, if all widows with two children got 30s. from the Committee, there would be a general lowering both of their wages and of their independence.' If a private person assisted them they could not rely on this continuing, as they would if the Committee took their case up. The Committee would, therefore, endeavour to find a private person to give old clothing to one child only, in such a case as that submitted by St. George's, and to pay fees.

A letter from Dr. West was read. Dr. West stated that the Committee of the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, had decided to receive none as out-patients whose parents were either earning more than 30s. a week wages, or receiving parish relief, and asked whether the Committees of the Society would undertake to verify the statements made on these points by applicants.

It was pointed out that the Society had already offered to give such assistance to charities, and the matter was referred to the Administrative Committee to consider in detail.

The Secretary reported that the St. George's Committee had appointed Mr. Robert Dundas to be one of their representatives during the absence of Major Sanford, and that the Islington Committee had appointed Mr. T. B. Spencer during the absence of Mr. Burdett Roberts.

Mr. Seton-Karr stated that he had recently been present at an ordinary weekly meeting of the Chester Charity Organisation Association; the meeting was well attended, and the Association seemed to be working on the same principles as the London Society.

QUESTIONS.

The Secretary asked, on behalf of the Whitechapel Committee, whether anything was known of Millicent Joslin, a woman of about 30, said to be deserted by her husband.

Mr. Seton-Karr asked whether anything was known of a woman named Daisy Cove, at present resident in Chelsea.

Major FitzRoy asked what success District Committees had had in getting individuals or special charities to take charge of deserving chronic cases. The St. George's Committee had recently obtained the names of several persons willing to make allowances to such cases.

Mr. Edgcombe said that the Kensington Committee had twice issued circulars on the subject, and had received several favourable replies. They thought it essential that the donor should be put in communication with the person benefited; they had no wish to establish a 'chronic case fund.'

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that much had been done in this way by the St. Peter's and the other Parochial Councils of Charity in the St. George's Union.

Miss Octavia Hill said that in the St. Mary's division of Marylebone it was found possible, now that doles had been

stopped, to make regular allowances from a local fund to all the deserving chronic cases.

Sir Charles Trevelyan called attention to the existence of an Educational Aid Society, for supplying clothes &c. in Deptford, and asked whether similar societies had been formed in other districts.

Mr. Miner said that a Committee had been formed for the district west of Soho Square. The Committee inquired carefully into cases, and made it a condition of their grants that those to whom they gave them should not go about seeking more relief.

Mr. Fuller believed that a society with the same object, which had existed for some time at Reading, had only had to spend about £10.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported that during the week ending May 1 the receipts had been £21. 6s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £782. 13s. 4d. and £244. 1s. 3d. respectively.

Also, that the Finance and Inquiry Supervision Sub-Committees had considered the reference made on March 17 with regard to the work of the Secretary's department, but had postponed their decision till the Committee on Visits to District Offices should have reported.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

It was agreed, on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee, that one-half of several donations recently obtained in the City for the District Committee Aid Fund should be transferred to the account of the City Committee.

Also, that a grant of £30 should be made to the St. George's East Committee for its general purposes, and a further grant of £20 towards a Permanent Loan Fund.

Also, that a grant of £20 should be made to the Shoreditch Committee.

The Secretary was instructed to call the attention of the St. George's East and Shoreditch Committees to the fact that members of those Committees were not present, as requested by Council, when the grants were made. [The representatives from Shoreditch came in subsequently.]

MR. PEEK'S OFFER.

Replies from thirteen District Committees to the circular issued by the Council with reference to Mr. Peek's offer of £1,000 a year, for three years, were brought up and read.

The reply from the St. George's Committee, suggesting that the contribution should be paid into the District Committee Aid Fund, was printed in the *Reporter* for April 21; the other letters dealt only with matters of detail, all expressing willingness to co-operate with the School Board so far as the plan of the Society allowed.

The Secretary stated that he had forwarded a copy of the letter from the St. George's Committee to Mr. Peek, and that Mr. Peek had suggested that the 5th paragraph of the 'arrangement' (printed in the same issue of the *Reporter*) should be altered so as to read as follows:—

This contribution will be paid into the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council, and will be granted out to the District Committees on application by them, special regard being had in future to the amount of expense incurred by each Committee in carrying out Mr. Peek's wishes as above stated.

The 5th clause in the original arrangement was as follows:—

This contribution will be treated by the Council as a separate fund, and will be divided, in the course of the year, amongst the District Committees, on application by them, in proportion to the extra expense, whether

in the way of establishment or otherwise, to which co-operation with the School Board Committees is putting them.

Mr. Wightman-Wood moved that the alteration be accepted.

Mr. Seton-Karr seconded the motion, which was supported by Sir Charles Trevelyan.

Mr. A. H. Hill wished that the contribution could be simply paid into the District Committee Aid Fund, so that, in the words of the St. George's Committee, it 'might flow out thence in the direction in which it was most wanted, and so fulfil Mr. Peek's wishes of strengthening the hands of the poor Committees.'

After some conversational discussion, the motion was put and carried, 20 voting for it.

The draft of a letter to the Chairman of the School Board was read and approved, and the Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, May 8, 1875:—*Donations*: Countess of Derby, £2; Mrs. Rooper, £1; A. F. Walter, Esq., £10. *Annual*: Lieut.-Colonel Lyon-Fremantle, £3; Marquis of Sligo, £5; Lieut. J. G. Uppleby, R.A., £1. 1s.

The following business stands for Monday, May 24:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee—

1. That the Council pay half the costs in a suit, amounting to £10. 4s.
2. That a clerk, on a salary not exceeding £100, in lieu of the two clerks now employed in the Organising Secretary's office at salaries of 25s. a week each, be sanctioned.
3. That the Inquiry Officer's salary be raised from 30s. a week to 35s.
4. That the Council pay the costs of a prosecution by the Wandsworth Committee, amounting to £14. 3s.
5. That a grant of £25 be made to the Mile End Old Town Committee towards a Permanent Loan Fund, on the usual conditions.

Mr. Willis-Bund to resume the adjourned discussion on the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment. (See *Reporter* for April 21.)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its twenty-first meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Major-General Bainbridge, Miss Erskine, Messrs. D. Conolly, Alsager Hay Hill, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, G. M. Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Committee took Head II. b into consideration:—'What more can be done through existing agencies—by opening up new employments?'

It was agreed that a list of employments should be brought up at a subsequent meeting, to be introduced by the following preamble:—

'That the Committee consider that the following employments are suitable for the Blind, provided they can be followed in suitable localities and within a convenient distance from their homes.'

It was resolved, on General Bainbridge's motion:—

'That this Committee, considering that workshops are among the most useful of existing agencies both for training and employing the Blind, recommend that they should be established in greater numbers, in order that in each populous district there may be one so placed that the blind work-people employed in it may not have too far to walk to it from their homes.'

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Strand and Holborn Committees.

The Original. By the late Thomas Walker, M.A. Fifth edition, edited and arranged under distinct heads, with additions, by Dr. W. A. Guy, F.R.S. Renshaw, 12s. 6d. (Presented by the Editor.)

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of April 1875 was 34,652, and 56,412 received outdoor relief, making a total of 91,064. This was a decrease of 743 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,380, 17,014, and 20,750 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 465. This was a decrease of 9 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 183 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CLASSIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE WEEK END- DAY, MAY 8.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underlying Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment Letters for Hospitals, &c.				
1. Division.	1	5	9	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	14	5	3
2. Division.	2	2	4	2	2	4	1	1	2	4	4	2	6
3. Division.	3	3	6	3	1	4	6	5	12	16	14	2	16
4. Division.	4	4	8	4	1	5	1	1	2	9	9	2	11
5. Division.	5	5	10	5	2	7	2	2	4	14	10	3	17
6. Division.	6	6	12	6	3	9	3	3	6	18	12	4	22
7. Division.	7	7	14	7	4	11	4	4	8	22	14	5	27
8. Division.	8	8	16	8	5	13	5	5	10	25	16	6	31
9. Division.	9	9	18	9	6	15	6	6	12	27	18	7	35
10. Division.	10	10	20	10	7	17	7	7	14	31	20	8	39
11. Division.	11	11	22	11	8	19	8	8	16	35	22	9	44
12. Division.	12	12	24	12	9	21	9	9	18	39	24	10	49
13. Division.	13	13	26	13	10	23	10	10	20	43	26	11	54
14. Division.	14	14	28	14	11	25	11	11	22	47	28	12	60
15. Division.	15	15	30	15	12	27	12	12	24	51	30	13	66
16. Division.	16	16	32	16	13	29	13	13	26	55	32	14	72
17. Division.	17	17	34	17	14	31	14	14	28	59	34	15	79
18. Division.	18	18	36	18	15	33	15	15	30	63	36	16	85
19. Division.	19	19	38	19	16	35	16	16	32	67	38	17	92
20. Division.	20	20	40	20	17	37	17	17	34	71	40	18	99
21. Division.	21	21	42	21	18	39	18	18	36	75	42	19	106
22. Division.	22	22	44	22	19	41	19	19	38	79	44	20	113
23. Division.	23	23	46	23	20	43	20	20	40	83	46	21	120
24. Division.	24	24	48	24	21	45	21	21	42	87	48	22	127
25. Division.	25	25	50	25	22	47	22	22	44	91	50	23	134
26. Division.	26	26	52	26	23	49	23	23	46	95	52	24	141
27. Division.	27	27	54	27	24	51	24	24	48	99	54	25	148
28. Division.	28	28	56	28	25	53	25	25	50	103	56	26	155
29. Division.	29	29	58	29	26	55	26	26	52	107	58	27	162
30. Division.	30	30	60	30	27	57	27	27	54	111	60	28	169
31. Division.	31	31	62	31	28	59	28	28	56	115	62	29	176
32. Division.	32	32	64	32	29	61	29	29	58	119	64	30	183
33. Division.	33	33	66	33	30	63	30	30	60	123	66	31	190
34. Division.	34	34	68	34	31	65	31	31	62	127	68	32	197
35. Division.	35	35	70	35	32	67	32	32	64	131	70	33	204
36. Division.	36	36	72	36	33	69	33	33	66	135	72	34	211
37. Division.	37	37	74	37	34	71	34	34	68	139	74	35	218
38. Division.	38	38	76	38	35	73	35	35	70	143	76	36	225
39. Division.	39	39	78	39	36	75	36	36	72	147	78	37	232
40. Division.	40	40	80	40	37	77	37	37	74	151	80	38	239
41. Division.	41	41	82	41	38	79	38	38	76	155	82	39	246
42. Division.	42	42	84	42	39	81	39	39	78	159	84	40	253
43. Division.	43	43	86	43	40	83	40	40	80	163	86	41	260
44. Division.	44	44	88	44	41	85	41	41	82	167	88	42	267
45. Division.	45	45	90	45	42	87	42	42	84	171	90	43	274
46. Division.	46	46	92	46	43	89	43	43	86	175	92	44	281
47. Division.	47	47	94	47	44	91	44	44	88	179	94	45	288
48. Division.	48	48	96	48	45	93	45	45	90	183	96	46	295
49. Division.	49	49	98	49	46	95	46	46	92	187	98	47	302
50. Division.	50	50	100	50	47	97	47	47	94	191	100	48	309
51. Division.	51	51	102	51	48	99	48	48	96	195	102	49	316
52. Division.	52	52	104	52	49	101	49	49	98	199	104	50	323
53. Division.	53	53	106	53	50	103	50	50	100	203	106	51	330
54. Division.	54	54	108	54	51	105	51	51	102	207	108	52	337
55. Division.	55	55	110	55	52	107	52	52	104	211	110	53	344
56. Division.	56	56	112	56	53	109	53	53	106	215	112	54	351
57. Division.	57	57	114	57	54	111	54	54	108	219	114	55	358
58. Division.	58	58	116	58	55	113	55	55	110	223	116	56	365
59. Division.	59	59	118	59	56	115	56	56	112	227	118	57	372
60. Division.	60	60	120	60	57	117	57	57	114	231	120	58	379
61. Division.	61	61	122	61	58	119	58	58	116	235	122	59	386
62. Division.	62	62	124	62	59	121	59	59	118	239	124	60	393
63. Division.	63	63	126	63	60	123	60	60	120	243	126	61	400
64. Division.	64	64	128	64	61	125	61	61	122	247	128	62	407
65. Division.	65	65	130	65	62	127	62	62	124	251	130	63	414
66. Division.	66	66	132	66	63	129	63	63	126	255	132	64	421
67. Division.	67	67	134	67	64	131	64	64	128	259	134	65	428
68. Division.	68	68	136	68	65	133	65	65	130	263	136	66	435
69. Division.	69	69	138	69	66	135	66	66	132	267	138	67	442
70. Division.	70	70	140	70	67	137	67	67	134	271	140	68	449
71. Division.	71	71	142	71	68	139	68	68	136	275	142	69	456
72. Division.	72	72	144	72	69	141	69	69	138	279	144	70	463
73. Division.	73	73	146	73	70	143	70	70	140	283	146	71	470
74. Division.	74	74	148	74	71	145	71	71	142	287	148	72	477
75. Division.	75	75	150	75	72	147	72	72	144	291	150	73	484
76. Division.	76	76	152	76	73	149	73	73	146	295	152	74	491
77. Division.	77	77	154	77	74	151	74	74	148	299	154	75	498
78. Division.	78	78	156	78	75	153	75	75	150	303	156	76	505
79. Division.	79	79	158	79	76	155	76	76	152	307	158	77	512
80. Division.	80	80	160	80	77	157	77	77	154	311	160	78	519
81. Division.	81	81	162	81	78	159	78	78	156	315	162	79	526
82. Division.	82	82	164	82	79	161	79	79	158	319	164	80	533
83. Division.	83	83	166	83	80	163	80	80	160	323	166	81	540
84. Division.	84	84	168	84	81	165	81	81	162	327	168	82	547
85. Division.	85	85	170	85	82	167	82	82	164	331	170	83	554
86. Division.	86	86	172	86	83	169	83	83	166	335	172	84	561
87. Division.	87	87	174	87	84	171	84	84	168	339	174	85	568
88. Division.	88	88	176	88	85	173	85	85	170	343	176	86	575
89. Division.	89	89	178	89	86	175	86	86	172	347	178	87	582
90. Division.	90	90	180	90	87	177	87	87	174	351	180	88	589
91. Division.	91	91	182	91	88	179	88	88	176	355	182	89	596
92. Division.	92	92	184	92	89	181	89	89	178	359	184	90	603
93. Division.	93	93	186	93	90	183	90	90	180	363	186	91	610
94. Division.	94	94	188	94	91	185	91	91	182	367	188	92	617
95. Division.	95	95	190	95	92	187	92	92	184	371	190	93	624
96. Division.	96	96	192	96	93	189	93	93	186	375	192	94	631
97. Division.	97	97	194	97	94	191	94	94	188	379	194	95	638
98. Division.	98	98	196	98	95	193	95	95	190	383	196	96	645
99. Division.	99	99	198	99	96	195	96	96	192	387	198	97	652
100. Division.	100	100	200	100	97	197	97	97	194	391	200	98	659
101. Division.	101	101	202	101	98	199	98	98	196	395	202	99	666
102. Division.	102	102	204	102	99	201	99	99	198	399	204	100	673
103. Division.	103	103	206	103	100	203	100	100	200	403	206	101	680
104. Division.	104	104	208	104	101	205	101	101	202	407	208	102	687
105. Division.	105	105	210	105	102	207	102	102	204	411	210	103	694
106. Division.	106	106	212	106	103	209	103	103	206	415	212	104	701
107. Division.	107	107	214	107	104	211	104	104	208	419	214	105	708
108. Division.	108	108	216	108	105	213	105	105	210	423	216	106	715
10													

Dr. Hawksley seconded the motion, which was carried, after being spoken to by Mr. Fuller and Mr. Bosanquet.

The next matter was—'To discuss the best mode of dealing with the large metropolitan pauper element, consisting of widows and children.'

Sir Charles Trevelyan moved, 1st.—That families, consisting of widows and children of the working age, should be assisted to remove to places where they can obtain constant employment on good wages. 2nd.—That the widowed mothers of young families, whose earnings are insufficient for their support and education, should receive such aid as may enable them to maintain and educate their children until they are old enough to work for themselves.

Sir Charles spoke at some length, and eventually, much opposition being shown to the second part of the resolution, the first only was put and carried, and the consideration of the second was adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

Thanks were voted, on Lord Claud Hamilton's motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, to the Duke of Westminster, for his kindness in allowing the meeting to be held at Grosvenor House; and this brought the proceedings to a conclusion.

THE CASE OF MRS. MARKS.—The Editor of the *School Board Chronicle* writes to the *Times*:—'Will you permit me to call attention to a point which has apparently been overlooked in connection with the case of Mrs. Marks, who applied to Sir Robert Carden on Saturday for protection against an officer of the London School Board? Mrs. Marks, it seems, has five children to provide for by the labour of her own hands, with the help of outdoor pauper relief; and her plan is to send two children, aged 9 and 7, to school, and to keep her eldest girl, aged 11, at home, to take care of the two children who are under school age. Thus the eldest girl gets no schooling. The purpose of the educational legislation of the last five years is that no children under 13 years of age shall grow up without education, and the Elementary Education Act (1870) Amendment Act, generally known as "The Education Act, 1873," as interpreted by the Local Government Board, makes special provision for cases like that of the eldest child of Mrs. Marks. According to that Act the outdoor relief received by Mrs. Marks is illegal so long as her eldest child is absent from school, and the amount might be disallowed by the auditor; but it is the duty of the Guardians, after taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, to allow Mrs. Marks a sufficient sum per week, in the shape of outdoor relief, to enable the poor woman to send her children of school age to school. Now, Mrs. Marks could for about 1s. a week and, say, one cheap meal per day, obtain the services of a girl over school age (13 years) to take care of the two infants, and, in accordance with the advice given the Guardians in similar cases by the Local Government Board, it is the constructive if not the absolute duty of the Guardians to allow Mrs. Marks, say, an additional 1s. 6d. a week to pay for the services of such a girl to mind the children, if that should appear to them to be the best and most economical method of enabling the eldest child of the house to attend school. I will mention only one corresponding case:—A poor woman—an outdoor pauper at Wrexham—wanted to keep a child, 11 years of age, at home for only six weeks, during her confinement, and the Local Government Board, on being applied to for advice, said the sickness of the parent did not appear to them to be a "reasonable excuse," within the meaning of the Act, for the non-attendance of the child at school, and they added—"The Board are, moreover, disposed to think that if the sickness of the parent be such as to require assistance, such assistance should be the subject of additional relief." So the law provides for the education of Mrs. Marks' little girl without driving the family reluctantly into the workhouse.'

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Friday, the 7th inst., Lord Easington gave notice that on that day month he would call attention to the case of Mrs. Marks, and move that the cordial co-operation of School Boards and Boards of Guardians was essential for the just and beneficial exercise of the powers conferred upon School Boards for enforcing school attendance.

THE POST OFFICE ORPHAN HOME INSTITUTE.—'The experience of another year,' says the Committee of the Post Office Orphan Home Institute, in his recently issued Report, 'has given additional proof of the advantages derived from the Boarding-out System which the Committee have from the first adopted, and they cannot refrain from here expressing their unqualified satisfaction at the manner in which it has operated in connection with this Institute, and their conviction that the system might with advantage be adopted by some of the large public charities. As previously observed, the appearance and demeanour of the children bear unmistakable testimony to the advantages of giving them a knowledge of home life and its duties; and the Committee consider that the present arrangement, by which the children are enabled to associate daily in domestic life with children of their own (and sometimes of a higher) grade, is to be preferred to that of their being trained in a vast central establish-

ment, where they can have little intercourse or acquaintance with that outside work-a-day world in which they will soon be compelled to take an important part. Under the Boarding-out System, discipline and order do not become synonyms for monotony and dullness, while the happiness and contentment which are stamped upon each countenance lead the Committee confidently to anticipate that many of these children will look back with pleasure upon the days when they were under the care of the institute, and regard them as amongst their dearest and tenderest associations.'

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

'The Charity Organisation Society have done good service, not only directly in the results actually produced by them in London, but also indirectly in the attention which they have secured everywhere to the whole difficult question of the administration of charity. In this last way "A Handy-Book for Visitors of the Poor in London" (Longmans), put together by their Secretary, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be found very useful. Its special information applies more particularly to London, and will be invaluable to those who are engaged in any way in ministering to the wants of the London poor; but the general principles and suggestions, as well as a good deal of the information about poor-laws, sanitary laws, provident societies, &c., may be studied with advantage by kindly disposed people everywhere.'—*Guardian*.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION

SOCIETY desire to invite the attention of those interested in the work they have in hand to their Collection of Reports of Charities, and works of reference on Poor Law and Charity, which may at all times be consulted at the Central Office, free of charge, together with the Reports and Suggestions of the Society on various Social Questions.

The Secretaries are authorised to furnish particulars with regard to Charitable Societies to persons desirous of such information.

The Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, &c., for distribution to suitable cases through the District Committees.

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Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 139.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 26, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
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The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

District Committees are requested to observe whether the information, especially as to office hours, in the last (eightieth) thousand of the Manual, recently sent to them, is accurate; and, if not, to furnish a correction at once to the Secretary of the Council.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, Kensington Committee; Miss Howen, Fulham; J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Chelsea; W. W. Moore, Esq., Major FitzRoy, Hon. R. C. Moreton, St. George's; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; F. B. Spencer, Esq., Islington; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, St. Giles's and Bloomsbury; Rev. H. I. Cummins, City; O. Laver Smith, Esq., Whitechapel; Mrs. Barnett, Stepney; Lord Montagu, Mile End Old Town; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., Islington; B. R. Balfour, Esq., St. Olave's; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; R. M. Hensley, Esq., Wandsworth; J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersea; E. Hyde, Esq., T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; I. H. Cole, Esq., Deptford; A. Annesley, Esq., Lewisham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-President; Mr. G. E. Trevelyan, G. Blount, Esq., S. Fuller, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 31. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Bates-Turner, Esq., Secretaries.

TEMPORARY RELIEF AND PERMANENT BENEFIT.

A letter was read from the St. George's Committee, requesting a further opinion from the Council as to the best mode for District Committees to deal with widows and deserted women with children.

The following draft reply, prepared by direction of the Administrative Committee, was read and ordered to be set down for consideration at the next meeting:—

1. I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 18th inst., asking for

a further opinion from the Council as to the mode in which District Committees should deal with applications on behalf of widows and deserted wives for clothing to enable their children to attend school.

2. It has been suggested that inasmuch as such applications are likely to be repeated if the children are young, this whole class of cases is excluded from direct assistance by District Committees by the rule which provides that they should only give assistance out of their own funds, 'in cases in which temporary assistance is likely to prove of permanent use.'

3. There is some ambiguity about the words 'permanent use,' but the Council are of opinion that they must not be confined to such assistance as will give people a fresh start, and so raise them above the necessity of applying again for help, but must be understood to include such benefit as is substantial and lasting in its nature. If, for instance, a grant of clothing is likely to save the family from continuous dependence on the parish, the grant may be fairly held to be of permanent use.

4. It is necessary therefore to treat each such case on its own merits, and in the first place to consider, supposing the need of assistance to be proved, whether it is a case for the Poor-law or for charity.

5. As education is now compulsory, the question is not whether the children shall be enabled to obtain education, but whether there is anything in the circumstances of the case, and especially in the mother's character and the nature of the home, to make it desirable that she should obtain assistance from charity rather than from the Guardians.

6. The Council would not wish to encourage the notion that a recipient of charity is in a very different position as regards independence from a recipient of parish relief, nor would they disregard the danger of charitable relief preparing the way for an application to the parish; but they are, nevertheless, of opinion that in this, as in other cases, provided that the mother is of good character, hard-working and thrifty, and has not hitherto—or any rate has not recently—received parish relief, charity may properly make an effort to save her from having to apply for this.

7. This is in accordance with the ordinary practice of the Society (see Manual, page 10), and is the more desirable in the case of children needing clothes, as, speaking generally, it is not the practice of Boards of Guardians to give clothes, still less a sum of money to purchase them; and relief, if given would probably take the form either of admission to the workhouse or of a weekly allowance.

8. In saying this the Council refer to widows. They are aware that Boards of Guardians are generally very unwilling to give any assistance outside the workhouses to deserted wives, and it is obviously desirable that Committees should be most careful not to lend themselves to any collusion between women professing to be deserted and their husbands, and should not systematically pursue a policy different from that which experience has led the best Boards of Guardians to adopt.

9. The Council desire me to call your attention to some other points which appear to them important.

It is to be observed that relief to these cases is relief in aid of wages, and it must be remembered that such relief has a tendency to keep down wages, and to retain labour where it is not wanted.

The latter consideration makes it essential that Committees should carefully consider, not only whether the mothers are hardworking, but whether they are well-advised in remaining where they are, and at their present work; if not they should on no account be assisted.

10. The tendency of relief to keep down wages is in proportion to the certainty with which the relief can be counted on, and the notoriety that attends it.

This affords an additional reason for District Committees adhering strictly to the ordinary rule of the Society, and only giving relief themselves in the last resort—when it cannot be obtained from private individuals or local charities.

It is exceedingly undesirable that it should come to be thought that a class of women who have already to accept wages which are hardly sufficient to keep them, can easily obtain assistance from the Committees of the Society; but the same degree of expectation will not be called out if the Committees for the most part obtain assistance for them from private individuals or from small local relief agencies.

11. The Council desire to suggest, in conclusion, that it is most important that the Society should steadily aim, especially in prosperous times, at encouraging provident habits among those whom it assists. Pains should therefore be taken to ascertain whether the applicant or her husband have made any considerable attempt to save money at any former time; and those to whom assistance is given should be urged to endeavour to put aside some small amount weekly in a penny bank or clothing club, so as to save themselves from having to make a similar application again.

A letter was read from General Bainbrigge, forwarding a synopsis of the work of the District Committees, and calling attention to the long period allowed to elapse before some of the Committees brought out their Annual Reports.

The letter and enclosure were referred to the Sub-Committee on Visits to District Offices.

The Secretary stated that a few sets of Reports of District Committees had been bound with the Report of the Council, and were about to be sent out to the District Committees and the Affiliated Societies.

Also that a Memorial was about to be sent to the City Companies, and that he would be glad to receive the names of any members of City Companies to whom it would be well to send information about the Society.

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented copies of a pamphlet explaining the resolutions with regard to Institutions for Idiots, of which he had given notice.

It was ordered that copies should be sent to the District Committees.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins mentioned that a paper on the City Parochial Charities would be read and discussed at Sion College to-morrow (Thursday), at 8 p.m.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported *inter alia* that during the two weeks ending May 15 the receipts had been £75 4s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £833 3s. 8d. and £76 13s. 3d. respectively.

Also that they were of opinion that while the Council should be prepared to give an opinion on any point of principle arising out of individual cases, there was great danger in drawing general conclusions from them, and treating them as typical cases; inasmuch as experience showed that such cases, when fully investigated, differed from one another in various details, all of which must be taken into consideration when applying the principles of the Society.

And that letters had been received from Leamington, Dublin, and Florence, with reference to the establishment of Charity Organisation or Mendicity Societies.

The Report was adopted. Special sanction was given for the issue of a circular to District Committees with reference to the proposed arrangement with the Children's Hospital.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

It was resolved, on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee, to pay half the costs of a suit undertaken by a private individual against a so-called Fire Escape Brigade for obtaining money on false pretences.

Also to pay the costs of a prosecution by the Wandsworth Committee. (See *Reporter*, p. 56.)

Mr. Hensley explained that the Wandsworth Committee had taken up the prosecution at the request of other District Committees. The begging-letter writer, who was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour, lived in the Wandsworth District, but those whom he had endeavoured to impose on were resident in other districts.

The recommendation that a clerk be engaged at a salary not exceeding £100, in lieu of two clerks at lower salaries,

and that the Inquiry Officer's salary be raised from 30s. a week to 35s., were also adopted; it having been explained that these changes had been recommended by the Finance and Supervision Sub-committees.

A grant of £25 was made to the Mile End Old Town Committee towards a Permanent Loan Fund, on the usual conditions, viz.:—(1) That it be kept separate from the General Fund of the Committee, and be appropriated exclusively to fresh loans; (2) that any losses that it may sustain be made good out of the General Fund; (3) that the Committee will exert themselves to increase the Permanent Loan Fund thus established.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, May 22, 1875:—*Donations*: London Knot of Friendly Brothers of St. Patrick, £10 10s.; Rev. G. P. Irby, 5s.; G. Crawley, Esq., £1; *Annual*: The Duke of Westminster, £50; Alsager Hay-Hill, Esq. (1874 and 1875), £2 2s.; Lieut.-Col. Gillum, £1 1s.; W. B. James, Esq., £1 1s.; *District Committee Aid Fund*: Mrs. Collie, £1.

The following business stands for Monday, May 31:—

Sir Alexander Gordon to move that Mr. U. J. Kay-Shuttleworth, M.P., be asked to accept the office of Vice-President of the Society.

To consider proposed reply to a letter from the St. George's Committee. (See p. 77.)

Mr. Willis-Bund to resume the adjourned discussion on the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment. (See *Reporter* for April 21.)

Mr. Edgcombe to move: 'That where an inquiry can be conveniently and safely carried on by post, it is recommended that the correspondence be conducted by the Committee of the District in which the applicant for assistance resides.'

MR. PECK'S OFFER.—At the meeting of the London School Board on the 12th inst. a letter was read from the Council of the Charity Organisation informing the Board that Mr. Francis Peek had offered to give £1,000 a year for three years to the Society on the condition that its District Committees would investigate and deal in accordance with their principles with all cases of distress referred to them by the Divisional Committees of the School Board. Such reference was already open to the Divisional Committees under the rules of the Society, apart from any special arrangement; but the generous offer of Mr. Peek seemed to give an opportunity for initiating a closer co-operation between the School Board and the Society, and the Council proposed to send papers explaining the arrangement for issue to the Divisional Committees, that action might be commenced under this plan. The Chairman, in moving that the letter should be referred to the Bylaws Committee, with power to enter into communication with the Society, expressed his pleasure (amid applause) that a member of the Board should have stepped forward to give this practical means of aiding the deserving poor, in addition to the aid he had given to the Board in other directions. Mr. Currie seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The next ordinary meeting of the Bylaws Committee is on the 3rd of June.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

PADDINGTON.—*Flowers for the Sick Poor*.—We take the following letter from the *Bayswater Chronicle*:—'Sir,—In your report of last Wednesday's proceedings at the Paddington Board of Guardians, reference is made to the flowers sent to the Workhouse Infirmary. It may interest your readers to know that the flowers come from the "Paddington Flower Mission." Some kind people have promised to send weekly supplies of cut flowers throughout the spring and summer. These flowers are received, unpacked, and distributed by several ladies, on Thursday mornings, to the Infirmary, St. Mary's Hospital, and a number of charitable institutions in the neighbourhood, as well as to many sick and suffering individuals in their own homes. The Paddington Charity Organisation Committee have kindly granted the use of a room in their premises, 3 Leinster Street, for this work. A lady who regularly visits the Infirmary has been good enough to make Thursday her day, in order that she may distribute the flowers to the inmates, who express themselves very grateful for the thought and consideration shown for them by persons who have never seen them. Most of the flowers are wild, and gathered by village school children; thus a new bond is formed between town and country, and between different classes of society. Many kindly feelings and sympathies are awakened in various directions, and much innocent pleasure afforded at a very small cost. Any contributions of flowers or money towards the expenses will be gratefully received by 'FLOWER MISSION.'

NEWINGTON.—This Committee has recently received a grant of £20 from the Magistrates of the Lambeth Police Court.

Their Report contains, amongst other matters too numerous for further allusion, a quotation from a letter addressed to the Manager by Mr. Ribton-Turner, on the subject of a possible International Conference on Charitable Relief, and states that, with the view of making the principles of the Society more widely known, the Bureau has sent copies of its *Bulletin Mensuel* to societies in many foreign countries.

The numbers of this paper recently received contain notices of various kinds of charitable work which are growing up in Geneva. The 'Ladies' Dispensary,' which appears to be an association for the temporary relief of the sick poor, and which, out of a total expenditure of £716, expends £596 in meat and other kinds of food; the Night Refuge, which has increased its capital to £1,000, in 250 shares of £4 each; and the Swiss Benevolent Societies of London, St. Petersburg, and Alexandria, are all referred to in its pages, which contain also articles and correspondence on subjects connected with charity and providence. One of the articles dwells most forcibly upon the evils of relief which only temporarily assuages suffering, and points to a striking contrast between this mode of attempting to relieve what might be called the 'social disease, distress,' and that adopted by a wise physician in endeavouring to cure, by careful diagnosis and treatment, the physical ailments of a sick person.

Like London, Geneva is now supplied, through the laudable exertions of its 'Société d'Utilité Publique,' with a Guide to its charities, giving, in somewhat full detail particulars of no less than 211 institutions more or less of a charitable or philanthropic nature. An examination of the classified index appended to this very neat little hand-book shows that there are, in this district of 68,170* inhabitants, no less than 58 institutions purely for charitable relief. In addition to these, three are of a general nature, 53 are for instruction and education, 18 for the promotion of labour, 12 deal with co-operation and domestic economy, and last, but happily not least, 67 are of a distinctly provident character. Religious, literary, and artistic associations are excluded from the Guide.—H. H. G.

* In 1870.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.—In the House of Commons, on the 21st inst., Sir J. McKenna gave notice that on the 15th of June he would move, as an amendment to Mr. Fawcett's motion:—'That it is inexpedient to fetter the reasonable discretion of the local authorities, or that of the Local Government Board, by a resolution of this House in reference to the administration of out-door relief, until some better system shall have been approved by the House as a substitute for the present practice.'

HOW TO DEAL WITH IMPROVIDENCE.—The Vice-Chairman of a Guardian Board writes to a contemporary, says the *Metropolitan*, on the subject of of drink. He says:—'As matters at present stand, the improvident or drunken workman has the certainty of relief in sickness and old age in his own home, accompanied usually by the luxuries of meat, beer, and spirits. Let him once be equally certain that these things will only be provided in the union-house, and he will think a good many times before he wastes in idleness or drink the excellent wages which any healthy and able-bodied person may now obtain. Some years' experience has convinced me that it is high time that restrictions were placed by law on out-relief. I would begin with prohibiting out-door medical relief to all persons between seven and seventy. And I would only relieve those aged persons out of the house who could prove that life-long infirmity had prevented their securing a deferred Government annuity.'

STONE-YARD RELIEF.—At the meeting of the Kensington Board of Guardians, on the 20th inst., the Board, after some discussion, adopted the following motion on this subject by Mr. Edgcombe:—'That it be an instruction to the Relief Committee to refrain, as a rule, from giving stone-yard relief in cases of periodical recurrence, the Board being of opinion that in such cases the house should be offered, as they arise generally from the improvidence of the men while in work, on account of the prospect of the stone-yard when the work ceases.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of May 1875 was 34,221, and 55,131 received outdoor relief, making a total of 89,352. This was a decrease of 799 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,576, 17,390, and 20,599 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 497. This was an increase of 69 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 136 on the corresponding day of last year.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

81

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 140.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 2, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

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4. By repressing mendicity.

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The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

A few sets of the Annual Reports of the District Committees, for 1874, have been bound up with the Sixth Annual Report of the Council. Copies can be had by application to the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, price 2s. 6d., or postage 3s. Those who wish for them are requested to give their orders at once.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Kensington Committee; Rev. H. Hayman, Fulham; J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. J. Seton-Karr, Chelsea; Lord William Compton, Major Prendergast, Hon. R. C. Moreton, W. W. Moore, Esq., St. George's; H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; T. B. Spencer, Esq., Islington; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, St. Giles's and Bloomsbury; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Rev. H. G. Anderson, Shoreditch; Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Hon. C. W. Gurnam, Whitechapel; A. G. Crowder, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mile End Old Town; B. R. Balfour, Esq., St. Giles; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., Lambeth; E. Hyde, Esq., T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; A. Annesley, Esq., G. Parker, Esq., Lewisham; Alsager Hay-Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Stephen Fuller, Esq., Additional Members; total, 32. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., Secretary.

A letter was read from St. George's, Hanover Square, stating that Mr. W. W. Moore would act as an Honorary Secretary during Major FitzRoy's absence.

A letter was read from St. George's East, stating that the Rev. Dr. Dendy had been elected to represent the Committee at the Council.

A letter was read from a lady at the head of a large institution in the Midland Counties, offering, after July 30, to take

two orphan children—a boy and a girl—free, on the recommendation of the Society; and others at 4s. weekly for girls and 5s. for boys. The children to have lost both parents and to be above ten.

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE AID FUND.

The Secretary called attention to the fact that if the Council adopted the recommendation of the Administrative Committee at their next meeting, as to a grant to Whitechapel, the District Committee Aid Fund would be exhausted. It was desirable that this should be made known to the friends of the Society at once, as several Committees would require grants during the summer and autumn.

Mr. J. R. Hollond called attention to the inconvenience of sending inquiries about applicants open by the halfpenny post.

Mr. A. H. Hill asked whether anything was known of the St. Andrew's Provident Dispensary, St. Giles's.

Mr. Seton Karr asked whether anything was known of a Mr. Yates, who had been issuing appeals for Free Dinners at Marchmont Hall.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported *inter alia* that during the week ending May 22 the receipts had been £12. 16s. for the General Fund, and £1 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £720. 6s. and £52. 11s. 3d. respectively.

That they had prepared a form of statement of accounts to be filled up by District Committees applying for grants.

And that it had been proposed to them to establish a Committee at Bow for the northern half of the Poplar Union: a course which they thought desirable if sufficient local support could be obtained.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Sir Charles Trevelyan gave notice that he would move the resolutions with reference to institutions for Idiots of which he had given notice (See Reporter for April 28), on June the 21st. He proposed, with the permission of the Council, to ask about twelve gentlemen who were specially interested in the subject, to attend that day as visitors.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

It was resolved on Sir Alexander Gordon's motion, seconded by Sir Charles Trevelyan, to ask Mr. U. J. Kay-Shuttleworth, M.P., to accept a Vice-Presidentship of the Society.

It was thought that the present time, when the Home Secretary's Dwellings Bill had passed through the House of Commons, afforded a suitable opportunity for recognising Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth's services as a member of the Dwellings Committee, and subsequently in calling the attention of the House of Commons to the recommendations of the Committee.

TEMPORARY RELIEF AND PERMANENT BENEFIT.

The Council then proceeded to consider the draft reply to the letter read last week from the St. George's Committee, requesting a further opinion as to the mode in which District Committees should deal with applications from widows and deserted wives with children for clothing, to enable their children to attend school.

General Cavenagh pointed out that it was not expedient that a Committee should ask the Council for an opinion on an individual case; there would always be attendant circumstances as to which the Council would not have full information. The Council might very properly be asked for an opinion on a question of principle.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson moved the adoption of the draft reply printed in the last *Reporter*. The pith of the reply was contained in paragraphs 2 and 3. These showed that there was nothing in the rules of the Society to prevent the cases in question being dealt with on their merits.

Sir Charles Trevelyan seconded the motion. The draft before them showed the usefulness of the long discussion they had had on the St. George's case, but he agreed with the resolution brought up last week as to the danger of drawing general conclusions from so-called 'typical cases,' and overlooking the differences among them.

Mr. A. H. Hill agreed that the draft reply was excellent; he spoke as the mover of the resolution which had failed to satisfy the St. George's Committee.

Lord William Compton did not think the reply so satisfactory. The point of it seemed to him to be that each case was to be treated on its merits. But a new class of cases was being brought up, and the question was whether they would get any permanent benefit from the clothes and boots for which they applied. How were they to be prevented finding their way to the pawn-shop? He would move as an amendment on the proposed reply:—

That in all cases in which the family may be proved to be perfectly deserving, the Council is of opinion it would be in accordance with the principles of the Society to furnish clothing to children for the purpose of enabling them to attend school.

Mr. Hyde seconded the amendment.

Mr. Hollond feared that passing the amendment would have a tendency to prevent Committees weighing the merits of each case. The Council might lay down the considerations by which Committees should be guided, but the Committees must apply them.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen hoped the amendment would not be carried. If a notion once got abroad that clothes and boots could be had for the asking, the Society would be overwhelmed with applications; boots would be taken from children who had them, that new ones might be got. Such news soon spread, and a sum like that which Mr. Peek proposed to give would seem endless to the poor.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson thought that there were many deserving poor persons who might want assistance once in a way, but would not have to come a second time.

The amendment having been withdrawn, the draft reply was adopted, as printed in our last issue.

The Council then adjourned.

The following business stands for Monday, June 7:—

To consider recommendation of the Administrative Committee.

That a grant of £35 for general expenses, and of £20 as an addition to the Permanent Loan Fund, be made to the Whitechapel Committee.

Mr. Willis-Bund to resume the adjourned discussion on the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment. (See *Reporter* for April 21.)

Mr. Edgcombe to move: 'That where an inquiry can be conveniently and safely carried on by post, it is recommended that the correspondence be conducted by the Committee of the District in which the applicant resides.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under-servicing	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
Kensington	4	4	5	13	2	2	6	1	6	21	6	3	3
Fulham	2	1	3	6	2	2	2	1	4	7	1	3	4
Paddington	1	4	5	10	2	2	5	3	6	23	5	1	1
Chelsea	1	1	1	3	2	3	1	4	5	9	8	1	1
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	2	13	7	4	1
Westminster do.	2	1	4	7	1	1	1	1	1	13	2	1	1
Westminster:—													
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	1	2	4	2	2	1	1	1	5	1	1	6
St. Marylebone	1	1	3	5	7	12	2	1	4	21	4	11	1
Hampstead	3	1	4	8	2	2	2	1	3	7	1	13	3
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	2	4	3	1	1
South St. Pancras	5	5	5	15	1	2	3	2	2	20	5	4	1
Islington	1	6	7	14	2	3	2	1	3	10	3	3	1
Hackney	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	5	1
Strand	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	15	1
Holborn	2	2	2	6	4	2	2	2	2	8	6	3	1
City	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	2	3	5	1	3	1
Shoreditch	1	3	5	9	2	2	1	3	6	11	1	7	4
Bethnal Green	1	2	4	7	1	2	2	1	3	10	1	5	1
Whitechapel	2	2	3	7	2	1	2	2	2	10	1	5	1
St. George's-in-the-East	1	2	3	6	2	1	3	1	1	6	1	2	1
Stepney	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	1
Mile End Old Town	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1
Poplar	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	1
St. Saviour's	3	1	4	8	2	2	1	1	6	5	11	1	3
Newington	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	1	2	5	1	1	1
St. Olave's	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	1	2	5	1	1	1
Lambeth:— North	2	2	2	6	1	1	3	1	3	6	1	4	1
South	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Wandsworth & Putney	5	5	5	15	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	1	5
Battersea	5	5	5	15	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	1	5
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	7	2	1	1
Peckham	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	3	4	1	2	1
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	3	6	4	2	1
Lewisham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	12	1
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Total	26	21	60	107	7	24	40	10	14	24	88	242	77

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

PADDINGTON.—*Impostor*.—This Committee states that a man giving the name of Thomas Thompson is going round the district using the name of the Rev. T. J. Rowsell as a reference, though he is unknown to him, and professing to need a letter for the Dudley Stuart Home, and to require assistance until he gets admittance. Mr. Rowsell has warned his congregation, and wrote to the *Times* on the 3rd inst. regarding the matter. This impostor is described as 25 years of age, pleasant looking, well spoken, darkish eyes, quiet demeanour. He has already imposed upon several people.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Pastoral Address and Report of St. Jude's, Whitechapel. By the Rev. S. A. Barnett, vicar. 1874-5.
Classified List of the Charitable and Benevolent Institutions of Hastings and St. Leonards. 1875, 6d.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of May 1875 was 33,783, and 54,291 received out-door relief, making a total of 88,074. This was a decrease of 1,278 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,114, 17,629, and 20,958 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 403. This was a decrease of 94 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 226 on the corresponding day of last year.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the blind its twenty-third meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central

were present:—Sir Charles Trevelyan (in the chair), Rev. T. E. us, Messrs. Shadwell, G. M. Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. Bosanquet, Secretary,

Committee continued consideration of Head II. c:—‘What more can be brought existing agencies by co-operation amongst the agencies. resolved, on Mr. Wilkinson’s motion:—

such co-operation among the agencies and throughout the country best carried out by their sending representatives to a permanent such council not to interfere with the autonomy of the different

ORGANISATION OF CHARITY IN COPENHAGEN.

Organising Secretary has recently received the following information Secretary of the Copenhagen Charitable Relief Association—a the constitution of which, as will be seen, somewhat resembles the Charity Organisation Society. The Chairman of the Association, visit paid by him to London in 1872, took the opportunity of himself intimately acquainted with the working of the Charity Organisation Society:—

SIR,—I have the honour of thanking you in the name of our sending us a constant supply of the papers and other publications by the Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing r; and especially for the ‘List of Charity Organisation and other’ lately forwarded to our President, V. Oldenburg, Esq., Vice-of Police. We should have presented you with our thanks earlier, I not desired to take this opportunity of communicating additional on concerning our Society, which might possibly be of some and which has only now been completed.

us probably been already stated by our President, the different for Charitable Relief, which had hitherto acted independently metropolis, formed, on the 1st November of last year, one great the ‘Kjöbenhavns Understøttelsesforening,’ the operations of tend over the whole city. As will appear from the rules, which the honour of forwarding, the object of the Society is the improvement of the condition of the deserving poor, particularly of such as might in their endeavour to support themselves by their own exertions. if is given without regard to position, creed, or age. No one gives support from the Public Pauper Establishment obtains help Society.

Society has but one fund, into which all the receipts, consisting of r contributions are paid; but the area of operations is divided into districts, which are sub-divided into circles, each having its Chair-its Investigators. Each Investigator has his number of poor, whom duty to inspect and guide. The cases of relief are generally distributed in the districts; but are laid before the Council when the relief to, or exceeds 200 kroner (£11).

It appears from the enclosed list, the Society has 400 acting members, upon the whole, making good progress, though it may yet have difficulty overcome. It has already done much good, and we hope that in may succeed so far that no deserving applicant shall go to ruin for help from the Society.

As the rules of the Society and the list of members, I take the enclosing an appeal for support for the Society, which has been distributed. Our yearly Report, and whatever else we may publish, wise be forwarded in future. It is unnecessary to add that we always be willing to give any information and assistance that may be; and that we shall do everything in our power to keep up the relations with your Society which we value so highly.

‘I am, &c., (Signed) CH. SHAW (Barrister), Secretary.’

principles of the Association may be further understood from the account abstracted from the papers sent to the Organising

Charitable Association of Copenhagen is divided into 14 districts; district has several sub-divisions, some 3, some 5, some 6; one as 9, one 11, and one 17 sub-divisions.

Each district has a similar number of representatives, except when two, that of Treasurer and Secretary, or Vice-president and Treasurer, stand to the same individual, and each sub-division has a Manager. These, with each district are connected bands of men and women, registrars, varying in number from 10 to 60. Medical men, &c., are attached to some of the districts. Altogether, about 1000 are engaged in the work of the Association.

At the intention of the Association to prevent the public from the abuse of benevolence, or to step in between the giver and the poor knows; but in cases where the donor has no personal knowledge of the applicant, the Association offers its services.

The object of the Association is to bring order and system into the whole work of benevolence. It wishes so to arrange it that no indigent person, who can or will work, shall from want of the necessary means, be compelled to sink into utter destitution. It is not intended to grant regular assistance (pensions, &c.), but to help such as are willing to help themselves.

To every donor of not less than 25 kroner (29s. 2d.), the Society is willing to supply a plate, which may be fixed near the entrance, indicating that the owner or tenant is a contributor to the Association. This may be useful to shopkeepers, who are frequently overrun by applicants. The latter, seeing the plate, will know that instead of being directly assisted they will be referred to the Association.

REMEDIAL TREATMENT.—We take the following extract from an article in the *East London Observer* on the Report of the Whitechapel and St. George’s East Committee:—‘BENEVOLENCE AND BENEFICENCE.—We apprehend that no one would be altogether satisfied, in the event of the serious illness of a friend, by the assurance that the doctor in attendance was the most kind-hearted of men, his method of treatment agreeable to the whims and feelings of the patient, and his charge strictly moderate. We should want to know more. Had he been a diligent student? Had he experience in detecting causes and applying remedies? Kindness and sympathy we all recognise as invaluable qualifications in a member of the medical profession; but none but children could believe in the “kindness” of a surgeon who should dispense with the use, when necessary, of the probe and the knife, and whose feelings would not permit him to administer valuable drugs because they happened to be unpalatable. Distress among the poor, which it is the object of the philanthropist to remove, may very fitly be compared to physical disease—the philanthropist to the doctor. He who would effectually benefit his poorer brethren must not content himself with merely palliating symptoms—a method which too frequently only aggravates the disorder—but must study the causes of the evil, and vigorously attack them, sometimes with severe measures, but always with a loving spirit. Such philanthropists, however, not unfrequently, have a hard time of it. The kindness of refusing “relief” in certain instances is called in question, not only by the would-be recipients—the whining beggar, the idle, and improvident—but unhappily by certain kindly-disposed but unreflecting persons, who regard with indifference, and sometimes even with dislike, the endeavour to combine philanthropy with intelligence, and to substitute an enlightened system of charitable action for the benevolent but not beneficent almsgiving which has too generally been supposed to constitute “charity.” There have been times and places, and there are still, in which the business of charity assumes comparatively simple aspects. It is tolerably easy in country villages to know the circumstances and characters of the poor, and the comparative fewness of agencies for their relief still further simplifies matters. But the case is altogether different in London, and, while we acknowledge the obligation to feed the hungry and clothe the naked to be binding upon us as ever, yet when we find by painful experience that our efforts in this direction have only had the effect of enriching the publican or the pawnbroker, we must feel sure that an unthinking literal fulfilment of the obligation cannot be right. The difficulties which beset the philanthropist in rightly dealing with an application for relief, from a family in the East End, for instance, are very great indeed. The people have, perhaps, only recently come into the neighbourhood. It is important to know their character, their earnings, and other resources; whether they have friends who do or ought to help them, and whether they have been or are still in receipt of assistance from other charitable sources. That enormous sums of money are annually expended in London in the attempt to ameliorate the condition of the poor is well known to any who have given any attention to the subject, and what is equally certain is that a very large number of persons are actively engaged in visiting and dispensing the relief. But it is lamentable to perceive how much of the funds and how much of the labour are fruitlessly and even mischievously expended, for want of some systematic co-operation amongst the labourers. No one knows what is being done by others. It is next to impossible to be sure whether enough or too much is being bestowed in any given case of distress. The visitor from the chapel is moved to compassion by the spectacle of a family in squalor and apparent destitution, and forthwith gives “relief.” The visitor from the church could have informed him that his kindly-meant act was worse than useless, for he had known the people for years, and knew them to be incorrigibly drunken. There is another case in the next street, however, needing more help than either visitor feels able to bestow. If there were some means by which their resources could be combined, a sufficient weekly allowance might be made up to keep some poor old soul out of the workhouse, or, if only a few pounds could be raised, the struggling widow could be helped to procure a mangle or sewing-machine, or by some other means be saved from pauperism. There is no reason why such systematic co-operation and interchange of information should not exist. And we are glad to know that considerable progress towards so desirable a state of things is being made in the East End, as in other parts of the metropolis.’

THE COMMON SENSE OF MIGRATION.—Mr. Allerdale Grainger writes to *The Labour News* as follows:—‘You may be acquainted with the different causes that induce both men and women to come to London. Whilst these unfortunate people do not understand that the biggest cup can be full as well as the little, nothing will hinder this constant immigration. Arriving here, they soon discover that, without friends or the necessary local knowledge, work is obtained only with great difficulty; consequently many throw themselves on the charity of the State and of private individuals. The plea of “No work” is so easily made, and, for those whose pursuits are of a different nature, so difficult to refute, that the pauper soon learns to spend his time in soliciting relief, instead of searching for work where it might be obtained. If work is offered at a distance from London, it is almost invariably refused, the excuse given generally being “I shouldn’t like to leave London.” As labour is constantly required for undertakings which, owing to local advantages, must be carried on in country districts, this unhappy congestion of labour in London calls for immediate attention. Employers, having erected large cotton and other mills in the Northern districts of England, applied in London for the necessary labour. Widows with children over 10 years of age were preferred, but in order to obtain a better selection, all desirous of migrating had the opportunity of applying. Travelling expenses free, and money for sustenance until they could earn a sufficient supporting wage, was generously offered by the employers. Not a single Metropolitan Board of Guardians responded recently to the appeal, though, as may be seen from the published lists, numbers of women with children are receiving relief from the rates. As one only out of many illustrations, owing to the benevolence of a lady in St. Pancras, a carman lately in the infirmary from an accident was, with his family, removed from the workhouse. After explaining to him that he ought to experience no difficulty in finding employment in London, at from 20s. to 25s. a week, carmen being in fair demand, it was agreed that the family should be emigrated in a fortnight or three weeks. He thought he would fill up the time by hop-picking, and in order to take himself and his family to Kent, he obtained 10s. (two weeks’ out-door relief) in advance from the relieving officer to pay his expenses. The same afternoon, instead of going to the hop-fields, he and his wife were found penniless and helplessly drunk outside a public-house. In the depressed districts of the country, the guardians did not wish to raise the local price of labour by encouraging a large migration to the mills. Another point which I wish to bring to your notice in connection with this matter, is the tendency of out-door relief, when the recipient is earning something, to detract from the value of such individual’s labour. Not only does such relief mean a supplemented wage, but it acts as a deterrent to industrious habits, and forces others who have not succeeded in obtaining it to adopt a course of life to make up for the smallness of the damaged wage. It acts as a deterrent to industrious habits, because the individual loses the relief if thought capable of earning a sufficiency, and it induces the recipient to take employment in callings much overcrowded, thereby encouraging a false state of the market. If people were forced to take what they could get, instead of being assisted by the ratepayers to wait for what they want, and are not fitted for, the labour market would more easily adjust itself. In all callings there is a damaged fringe, whose work is inefficiently performed; these shift from one employment to another, as the requirements of the market demand; more particularly the sudden street scavenger, newspaper seller, the cinder sifter, the fruit picker, the hop picker, the coal labourer, the painter’s labourer, the light porter, and all those whose services are required for brief periods, and vary according to the season and weather. I would submit that a decrease in out-door relief, even to the aged, who can still perform services which have a market value, would remove an impediment to the circulation of labour; for as Mahomet found it necessary to go to the mountain, so it is necessary that the workers should go where work is to be had, instead of sacrificing their independence by sitting in idleness because the work does not come to them. At present there is a large demand, at prices sufficient to support life, for that class of labour which receives relief from the poor-rates.’

A NEW SORT OF MARTYR.—A fellow was parading Aldersgate Street on a recent Saturday, says the *City Press*, with a label hung from his neck: ‘Imprisoned by the School Board, being unable to pay the fine. I came out on Friday. One of my children earning 4s. a week has been taken away. Please help me by buying a book.’ The man’s stock in the book trade consisted of one penny number of some publication. It was not a very encouraging circumstance to see numbers of poor people handing him their coppers.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.—At a meeting of the Northamptonshire Chamber of Agriculture, held on Thursday at Weedon, Mr. G. Scriven in the chair, several speeches were made condemning the existing system of out-door relief to paupers. The Rev. W. Bury showed that Northampton stood very high in comparison with other districts in the Poor-law returns, and stated his opinion that the system adopted by different Boards of Guardians in the county was very pernicious. He moved ‘That this Chamber, believing that out-door relief exerts a demoralising influence throughout the

country, and has a tendency to encourage improvidence and to increase pauperism, desires to see the Legislature take steps for its restriction, and ultimate abolition.’ The motion received the unanimous support of the meeting. It was stated that the subject would be fully debated at the meeting of the Central Chamber this week.—*Metropolitan*.

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‘The Charity Organisation Society have done good service, not only directly in the results actually produced by them in London, but also indirectly in the attention which they have secured everywhere to the whole difficult question of the administration of charity. In this last way “A Handy-Book for Visitors of the Poor in London” (Longmans), put together by their Secretary, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be found very useful. Its special information applies more particularly to London, and will be invaluable to those who are engaged in any way in ministering to the wants of the London poor; but the general principles and suggestions, as well as a good deal of the information about poor laws, sanitary laws, provident societies, &c., may be studied with advantage by kindly disposed people everywhere.’—*Guardian*.

‘We have much pleasure in bringing to notice this very useful little publication, which will supply a need often felt. The writer is thoroughly well acquainted with the subject, and has condensed in it the result of much personal experience. From our own acquaintance with the London poor, and the difficulties which have to be encountered in the administration of judicious relief, we feel satisfied that the advice given in this little brochure is sound. We trust the perusal of this book will lead to a healthier course of action—not restraining, but guiding charity, and rendering it a blessing, not a curse.’—*Christian Observer*.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 141.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 9, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicancy.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

District Committees about to apply for grants are requested to apply to the Secretary of the Council for a form of financial statement.

District Committees ordering Manuals or General Ticket Sheets are requested to pass their orders through the hands of the Secretary of the Council, that he may furnish corrections down to date.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Alsager Hay-Hill, Esq. (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Miss Emma Howes, *Fulham*; Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lord William Compton, Hon. R. C. Moreton, W. W. Moore, Esq., *St. George's*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; T. B. Spencer, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. Hay-Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Rev. H. P. Kelly, *Shoreditch*; Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran, Esq., C. Lavers Smith, Esq., *Whitechapel*; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Lord Montagu, *Mile End Old Town*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; E. Hyde, Esq., T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; W. Day, Esq., *Sydenham*; Sir Chas. Trevelyan, George Blount, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 32. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., *Secretary*.

The Secretary reported that Mr. B. R. Balfour had resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of the St. Olave's, Southwark, Committee in consequence of going abroad; Mr. C. E. Machen had undertaken to act as Hon. Secretary for a short time, but the Committee was in want of a permanent Hon. Secretary.

That he had received applications from Newington and other Committees for Letters for Convalescent Homes, but had been unable to supply them, the Council not having any in stock.

Also that the Committee of the Children's Hospital had agreed not to commence sending cases till the 21st inst., that the District Committees might have time to get stamping presses.

MR. PEEK'S GIFT.

A letter was read from the Clerk to the School Board, stating that the Bye-laws Committee had addressed a letter to the Superintendents of Visitors, directing them to furnish themselves with Investigation Tickets for parents who were in need of them, and might wish to have them, such tickets to be signed by one of the Divisional Members and the Local Superintendent of Visitors.

The letter was referred to the Administrative Committee.

VAGRANTS.

Mr. Fuller asked whether District Committees in returning cases under the head of 'Vagrants dealt with' included vagrants who had been refused bread as well as those to whom bread had been given.

The Secretary said that the instructions for making up the weekly returns directed that the heading should include all wayfarers who applied at the offices. He had no reason to doubt that the Committees carried this out.

He mentioned that Sir Alexander Gordon had recently prepared a tabular statement from the weekly returns, showing the number of vagrants dealt with at the different offices.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported *inter alia* that during the week ending May 29 the receipts had been £8. 8s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £717. 15s. 4d. and £52. 11s. 3d. respectively.

It appeared from the Report that the District Committee Aid Fund was nearly exhausted, and that the Committee was about to ask permission from the richer Committees to send an appeal to individuals in their Districts under the arrangement agreed on in June 1873.

GRANT.

A grant of £35 was made, on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee, to the Whitechapel Committee for general purposes, and a grant of £20 as an addition to their Permanent Loan Fund.

INQUIRIES THROUGH DISTRICT OFFICES.

The adjourned discussion on Employment having been postponed, in accordance with a request from Mr. Willis-Bund, Mr. Edgcombe moved:—

That where an inquiry can be conveniently and safely carried on by post, it is recommended that the correspondence be conducted by the Committee of the District in which the applicant resides.

He explained that when inquiries about a poor person residing in any District had to be made in another District, it was usual for the Committee of District A to employ the good offices of the Committee of District B. When a personal interview was

required this was no doubt the right course; but if the inquiry could be made through the post it seemed to him unnecessary to trouble Committee B. There were many such inquiries. His own Committee had had 110 in the last six months, and the weekly returns showed that nearly all the Committees had a good many. The present practice involved some loss of time, and, after all, the inquiry was not so well conducted. A Committee fully acquainted with all the particulars of an application could direct the attention of an old employer, or anyone else from whom they desired information, to the salient points of the case. A Committee which was only acting as an agent could not do this.

Mr. Fuller reminded the Council that the City Committee had had no fewer than 900 such inquiries to make in the course of last year.

Mr. Spencer mentioned a case in which the Agent of Committee B had obtained material information which a letter from Committee A had failed to elicit.

Mr. Maurice thought that Mr. Edgcombe's motion would benefit cases which required delicate handling.

Mr. J. R. Hollond thought that the resolution would not apply to many cases. Personal inquiries were much most effectual. In the case of migratory people the resolution would lead to their referees receiving inquiries from one District Committee after another. This would annoy them. He thought the resolution unnecessary. The Committees should judge how to act in each case.

The Secretary suggested that in some cases it might be well that the Committee desiring information should write a full letter of inquiry, and should then pass it through the hands of the Committee in whose District the person written to resided. This would meet several objections.

Mr. Corkran deprecated minute legislation. The matter should be left to the common sense of the District Committees.

The Secretary said, in reply to a question, that there was no written rule on the subject; the present practice had grown up gradually.

The resolution was put, and lost by 9 to 10.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the two weeks ending Saturday, June 5, 1875:—*Donations*: The Lord Lyttelton £2; A. P. Whately, Esq., £5. 5s.; *Annual*: W. Bousfield, Esq., £1. 1s.; Rev. H. F. Mallet, £1. 1s.; F. C. Mills, Esq., £2; The Duke of Northumberland, £12. 10s.; H. Peto, Esq., £1; The Salters' Company, £2. 2s.; *District Committee Aid Fund*: The Duke of Northumberland, £12. 10s.

The following business stands for Monday, June 14:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:

1 and 2. That two prosecutions should be instituted.

3. That a grant of £70 should be made to the Fulham Committee.

Mr. Willis-Bund to resume the adjourned discussion on the relations of the Society and its District Committees to the question of providing help by employment. (See *Reporter* for April 21.)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its twenty-fourth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Sir Charles Trevelyan, Messrs. D. Conolly, A. H. Hill, Edmund C. Johnson, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, G. M. Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Committee continued consideration of Head II. c:—‘What more can be done through existing agencies by co-operation amongst the agencies?’

It was resolved: ‘That a central agency and sample dépôt for the disposal of goods manufactured by the Blind, and a central system of record and exchange of information regarding Blind applicants for relief, employment, and education, are among the results to be looked for from the institution of a permanent Council.’

It was also resolved, on Mr. Tait's motion:—

‘That it is desirable to encourage the employment of the Blind among the sighted, and that inasmuch as the Blind work to most advantage when assisted by the labours of *seeing* workmen, the Committee are of opinion that material advantages would result from a judicious utilisation of hitherto undeveloped capabilities of the Blind, and the Committee commend this subject to the favourable consideration of all employers of manual labour.’

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under-servicing	Class for Poor, Law or otherwise indigible	The Guardians or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
Kensington	2	5	2	9	3	3	4	1	17	10	2	7
Fulham	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Paddington	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Chelsea	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
St. George's:—												
St. George's Division	1	3	4	8	2	3	1	2	21	10	5	1
Westminster do.	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Westminster:—												
St. James' & St. Anne's	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
St. Marylebone	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Hampstead	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
South St. Pancras	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Islington	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Hackney	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Strand	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Holborn	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
City	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Shoreditch	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Bethnal Green	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Whitechapel	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
St. George's-in-the-East	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Stepney	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Mile End Old Town	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Poplar	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
St. Saviour's	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Newington	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
St. Olave's	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Lambeth:—												
North	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
South	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Wandsworth & Putney	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Battersea	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Clapham	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Camberwell:—												
Grove Lane	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Peckham	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Greenwich	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Deptford	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Woolwich	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Lewisham	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Eltham	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Sydenham	2	2	4	8	1	1	5	3	27	14	6	8
Total	1727	43	87	6	28	15	3616	825	85	221	100	76101

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of May 1875 was 33,687, and 53,585 received out-door relief, making a total of 87,272. This was a decrease of 802 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,558, 17,260, and 21,606 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 571. This was an increase of 168 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of a decrease of 69 on the corresponding day of last year. The increase on the previous week is probably attributable to the near approach of the Epsom races.

CITY PAROCHIAL CHARITIES.

An evening meeting was held at Sion College on Thursday, the 27th ult., to which the churchwardens, vestry clerks, and others interested in the administration of the parochial charities of the City of London, were specially invited. The chair was occupied by the President (the Rev. W. H. Milman, rector of St. Augustine and St. Faith), and the discussion was opened by the Rev. H. I. Cummins, rector of St. Alban, Wood Street. The speaker began by calling attention to the fact that while owing chiefly to the increase in the value of land the City had ceased almost entirely to be a place of residence, and considerable hardship had thereby been inflicted

labouring classes, for whose residence no adequate provision had been made, the value of the charitable property of several of the parishes had enormously increased from the same cause; so that in many cases it was the proportion of £8 or £10 per head per annum to the resident on. After giving an interesting account of the origin and history of several trusts, the speaker called attention to a scheme for the application of the surplus funds adopted by Sion College in the year 1872, in which, from causes which he abstained from stating, no public aid yet been taken. The main features of this scheme were—that the funds should be dealt with in a comprehensive measure, frittered away in small schemes by individual parishes; and that they should be employed for purposes similar to those for which they were originally designed, but the sphere of their operation extended to the whole Metropolitan Police area. He claimed this scheme as evidence that the clergy of the City were prepared to deal in no selfish spirit with funds of which many of them were *ex officio*.

Adverting to a suggestion in the scheme, that some portion of the funds might be employed in providing dwellings for the labouring class which might be regarded as an investment, he said that, for his part, he was prepared to further and propose that the whole of the funds should be capitalised and re-invested in sites for such dwellings. Mr. Waterlow, no mean authority, had stated that the sum required to provide adequate sites for the dwellings of the labouring and population of the metropolis was £2,000,000, and proposed that it should be raised by a rate; but, estimating the charitable income of the City of London at £80,000, which he believed was well within the mark, this would, if capitalised, produce a sum sufficient for the purpose, and though there might be some loss at first, the loss would be more than compensated by the public good.

The speaker concluded with an earnest appeal to his hearers not to let the present opportunity to pass without obtaining a just and settled settlement of the question. The subject could be adequately dealt with in a Government measure, and no time could be more propitious than the present when a Conservative Ministry were in office, who would not run the suspicion of sanctioning violent or revolutionary measures. A resolution followed, in which part was taken by Mr. S. Morley, M.P., Mr. Johnson, late M.P. for South Essex, Rev. Dr. Irons, Rev. A. Rev. Harvey Brooks, and others, and a general desire being expressed that the opening address should be printed, Mr. Morley generously undertook to relieve the author from all pecuniary responsibility.—*Daily*

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

An important question of out-door relief was very fully discussed at the meeting of the Central Chamber of Agriculture on the 1st inst., Lord Salisbury presiding. The remarkable feature of the discussion, says the *Times*, was the general acknowledgment made that the principle now largely in vogue in the metropolis, of a diminished out-door relief and adequate accommodation for the exercise of the test of poverty, should be adopted throughout the country, as the only means of relieving the pauper class who had to pay for the pauperisation of the population in their out-door relief was given in aid of wages.

Mr. Startin, of the Warwickshire Chamber, brought the subject for the following motion:—

That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable to apply to the whole of the principle which has been found successful in diminishing pauperism in the metropolis, by distributing the cost of in-door relief over a wider area than a union, while leaving the burden of out-door relief to be borne by the local authorities; and that this object would be best achieved by granting a rate on the Exchequer of 2s. per head per week for every pauper in a union workhouse, the management of which was certified by a resident inspector to be up to the required standard of efficiency. This would turn the scale in favour of in-door relief; local taxation would be lessened, and economy promoted.

Mr. Startin then drew attention to the unions where large out-door relief was given, and remarked upon their pauperised condition as evidenced in the fact, showing that the feature of not offering the 'house' to applicants had greatly increased rates. On the evidence of the Secretary of the Government Board, in the late Administration, he showed that low rates in a pauperised district went together, and this, he said, would show to the Union leaders that if they attempted to fight their battles on the basis of aid from the Poor Law they would fail. He referred to the evidence given over by Sir Baldwin Leighton. He stated that in a district where right principles had not been carried out, the late Sir Baldwin Leighton, by insisting upon right principles, had lessened pauperism 60 per cent., and this was done by combating the false economical notions some people had that out-door relief was the cheapest mode of dealing with the poor for relief.

Mr. Alderott seconded the motion, and said that when the inhabitants of a parish numbered 1,800 the poor rates amounted to £1,800 a year, and it was by the application of right principles of poor relief that the amount

was reduced, and it was in a short time brought down to £800, to the advantage of all classes.

The Rev. W. Bury, of Northamptonshire, said that at one time he was in favour of out-relief, but by looking into the matter he had become a sadder and a wiser man, for he had found that the two great evils all classes had to combat the effects of were indiscriminate charity and out-door relief, which were at the root of all the demoralisation in the country. What he had seen had rendered it impossible for him to doubt this, and he thought that something stronger than the motion before the Chamber was requisite. It was requisite, in order that the poor might be brought to feel the degradation of pauperism, and encouraged to act with thrift, that even medical extras should not be allowed for more than a month, and that rating laws should be so altered that the compound householder should be made to pay his rates himself. He moved as an amendment, 'That it is expedient to revert more nearly to the principle laid down by the Poor Law Commission of 1833, with a view to the ultimate abolition of out-door relief.'

Mr. Jabez Turner seconded the amendment, and said that the evils which had arisen were the fault of a lax administration, and were not the fault of the law itself, for the Poor Law was intended for in-relief to be the rule and out-relief to be the exception.

After remarks by other members,

Mr. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., said that there was every reason to fear that the administration of poor relief was drifting back in country districts to the old system of relief in aid of wages, and he thought that tendency should be checked as much as possible, a stringent rule being drawn as to the relief given.

Mr. Layton Lowndes, of Shropshire, gave it as his experience that where there was good workhouse accommodation the rates were low, and that the great evil of the Poor Law system was that the guardians were not well instructed in the principles of the Poor Law, the rule being for some guardians to say of an applicant, 'He will be the better off for 18d. a week,' forgetting, in fact, that the 18d. not only pauperised the man but the whole of his neighbours. The speaker gave some remarkable facts relative to the Atcham Union and the Shrewsbury Union, showing that the former was a well-managed Union with a thrifty population, while the latter had been a badly-managed one, with a thriftless population and a heavy poor-rate; but that through joining the latter with the Atcham Union both were flourishing, being aided by the Charity Organisation Society of the town.

Mr. G. Turner, Mr. Treadwell, and other members spoke; and

Mr. Pell, M.P., in supporting the amendment, said he could not support a demand for a fresh charge upon the Exchequer; and, more, he did not think the effects Mr. Startin looked for would follow. He was afraid that among the guardians some took up an assumed position of religion and charity, and considered they were doing good when they voted other people's money. He put it that these people should try and make the best of the endowed charity funds, and he questioned if these funds were distributed in a manner to check pauperism. As to regular or irregular charity, enormous amounts of which, he said, were distributed; these, he said, aided to keep up pauperism, and by these every inducement, with the aid of out-relief, was given to people to become paupers. It was not the fault of the poor themselves; but the question was whether those above the poor had done their duty by the poor. In past times, before the abolition of the law of settlement, the landowners did not attempt to assist in the better administration of the law, but pulled the cottages down and drove out the poor, and that was followed by the Union Chargeability Act, which gave the landowners their share of responsibility. Now those who should share in the administration refused their responsibility, and as the guardians would not act upon the first principle of the law it would be needful, he thought, to go to Parliament to empower the Local Government Board to frame orders which should bind unreflecting administrators to act upon definite principles.

Mr. Long, Mr. Stanley Leighton, and Mr. G. Storer, M.P., spoke, the last deprecating the abolition of out-relief.

Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., said it was proved by practical experience that where out-relief was diminished in-door relief was not increased, and the returns in the metropolis proved this. There was no need to apply to Parliament or to the Local Government Board, for the law was good enough, and the principle was good enough to meet all cases, but the reform that was wanted was to reform the guardians. If Boards of Guardians would leave philanthropy and Christianity and narrow ideas as to 'humanity' at home, and administer the law on the principle of political economy, there would soon be a sensible decrease of pauperism. (Hear, hear.) Since he had had the honour of being at the Local Government Board he had been astonished to find how the Department had to fight against out-relief, and this in many ways. On his Union Board there were seven parsons (a laugh), and what could be expected from such a Board but that they would be very great supporters of out-relief? But this administration led to pauperism. (Hear, hear.) He turned their attention to the Scottish and Irish Acts, and mal-administration had made the people in the former well-to-do country anxious to get as much as they could out of the rates in the way of a scramble for out-relief, while in the poverty-stricken country of Ireland, where the unflinching workhouse test was applied, pauperism was low and the rates had lately sensibly diminished.

The other speakers were Baron Dimsdale, Mr. Horley, the Rev. Mr. Smythies, and Lord Hampton; and the amendment by Mr. Bury was carried. To this Lord Hampton moved a rider, to the effect that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary should draw up a petition to Parliament, praying that steps might be taken to promote a stricter administration of the Poor Law.

This was carried, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY AND THE PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

(From the *British Medical Journal*.)

Those philanthropic gentlemen, who, three years ago, set on foot the scheme of provident dispensaries for Manchester and Salford—a scheme which has already been partially carried out—are receiving gratifying proofs that their action was in harmony with the current of public opinion, and that their labours are appreciated by their fellow-townsmen. In a circular dated May 10th, the weekly Board of the Royal Infirmary comment upon the progress which the movement has made, and then draw the attention of the trustees and subscribers to some points with which the existing medical charities are more particularly concerned. The opinions of the Weekly Board are so much in harmony with those which we have often expressed, that we have peculiar satisfaction in quoting one or two passages from the circular.

'The guarantee fund (of the Provident Dispensary Association) now amounts to over £1,000 a year, and the Board are gratified to be able to state that three dispensaries are in full work, and the arrangements are completed for three others shortly to be opened. The success which they have met with has been most encouraging, many of the members being such as would ordinarily have applied at a free hospital, and, in one instance, a large proportion were actually in attendance at a medical charity. This success has been attained without bringing into operation any pressure on the part of the medical charities.

'The Board now feel that the time has arrived when the duties of the trustees and subscribers to the charity and their own application of the existing rules should be thoroughly and completely carried out, by a careful investigation of the circumstances of the patients applying for relief. The provident dispensaries enable them to do this without any hardship whatever, and the Council of the Association undertake all the expense and trouble of examining and reporting to the various institutions. The Board earnestly invite the assistance of the trustees and subscribers in promoting so desirable an object. Every precaution will be taken to prevent any rapid or severe application of the rules, and the Board would suggest to the trustees and subscribers the careful consideration of the recommendation-forms, which are the same as have been in use for a long period, and which, if the directions contained therein are acted upon, will materially lighten the labours of the investigating officers, and render unnecessary any rejection of applicants.

'In conclusion, the Board would suggest to the trustees the serious consideration of the recommendation system as applied to the out and home-patients. With an efficient investigating machinery, much time might be saved and suffering avoided by a direct application to the charities. There would be the assurance that all cases of emergency would be properly dealt with, and other suitable cases receive appropriate treatment, while the trustees and subscribers would be saved the trouble and inconvenience of personal applications, and making investigations which have at no time produced satisfactory results. At the annual meeting, it is proposed to discuss the propriety of abolishing this system, so far as it applies to the out and home-patients, when the trustees will have an opportunity of expressing their opinions upon the question.'

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—We learn from the *Scotsman* that the Committee on Pauperism recently submitted a report, calling attention to the good likely to be done by the Charity Organisation Society by preventing persons falling into pauperism, and expressing gratification at the fact that similar societies were being formed in many parts of the kingdom.

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Edited by Dr. GUY, F.R.S.

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CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards the expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' of the Council. This fund is now nearly exhausted.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 142.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 16, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The Council are sending Investigation Tickets, at the request of the School Board, to the Superintendents of Visitors of the ten Metropolitan Divisions. District Committees are requested to hold themselves ready to supply these in future.

The Superintendents will send to the Hon. Secretaries of the respective Committees a list of the names and addresses of the persons to whom tickets are given, and the District Committees are requested to communicate to the Superintendents the result arrived at in the case of each person who receives a ticket and applies at the District Office.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Caveagh (in the chair); Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; Miss Emma Howes, Fulham; Major Yard, J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Lord William Compton, Major Prendergast, W. W. Moore, Esq., Hon. R. C. Moreton, St. George's; Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; Lady Wilson, South St. Pancras; T. B. Spencer, Esq., Islington; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Sir Richard Wilbraham, Holborn; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; Bishop Beckles, Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., Mrs. Barnett, E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., Newington; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; Samuel Etches, Esq., Clapham; Edgar Hyde, Esq., T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; A. Annesley, Esq., George Parker, Esq., Lewisham; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Chas. Trevelyan, G. Blount, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., T. J. Phillips-Jodrell, Esq., Additional Members; total, 38. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., Secretary. H. J. Erskine, Esq., Rev. Phillips Watson, Visitors.

A letter was read from Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth, M.P., accepting a Vice-Presidentship of the Society.

The Secretary reported that Mr. A. L. Young had consented to act as an Hon. Secretary of the Poplar Committee.

VOTING CHARITIES.

Mr. Edgcombe asked what the practice of District Committees was when asked to give money or influence in order to obtain assistance from a Voting Charity. His own Committee had been so asked.

The Secretary read the following extract from the Report of the Poplar Committee for 1873, referring to an application, by a candidate for admission to a Hospital for Incurables, for assistance to defray the expenses of printing and circulating cards and appeals required for his canvass:—

The Committee, while commiserating his unfortunate condition, decided not to give him the assistance asked for, feeling that they might, with justice, promote the canvass of many other of the numerous candidates for election to various voting charities, and that at best they would, if successful, have done no more than secure for one case assistance which would, owing to their very success, be withheld from some other case, possibly in more urgent need.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen said that his Committee had on one occasion taken up the case of a candidate for an Incurable Hospital. He had signed 300 applications himself. If the Council had laid down any rule on the subject he would have obeyed it, but he was not aware that there was any rule.

Miss Hill said that the Marylebone Committee had offered to pay for a child at a small institution to which admittance could be obtained, either by payment or votes, but had refused to have anything to do with canvassing.

The Secretary stated that when subscribers to voting charities had sent their votes to him to dispose of, the Administrative Committee had authorised him to return the voting papers, with a suggestion that they should be sent to the managers of the voting charity, as they were the only persons able to compare the claims of different candidates.

Mr. Maurice and Mr. Seton-Karr asked for letters for the Sea-bathing Infirmary, Margate, and for the Eastbourne Convalescent Home, on behalf of the Hampstead and Chelsea Committees respectively.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending June 5 the receipts had been £18. 11s. for the General Fund, and £12. 10s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £725. 17s. 3d. and £10. 1s. 3d. respectively.

They had received a letter from the Kensington Committee, suggesting that the Divisional Superintendents of the School Board should be requested to furnish information to the District Committees with regard to the cases they send, and not merely to give an Investigation Ticket; but they thought it inexpedient to make any such request to the School Board, till experience had shown what was required, and that they proposed to consider the suggestion further after the recess.

Mr. Edgcombe moved:—

That so much of the Report as related to the letter from Kensington be referred back to the Administrative Committee; and that they be instructed to request the Divisional Superintendents of Visitors to furnish Committees with any information it may be in their power to afford relative to cases submitted for investigation.

He only wished to ask the same from the School Board officers which was asked from every member of the public—viz., that when they sent a case they should furnish such information as they possessed, and should indicate with what view the case was sent. The District Committee ought to know what statement had been made to the School Board Committee.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson thought that the School Board officers had no right to ask for such information as the District Committees would require.

Mr. A. H. Hill deprecated any action which could lead to an undue preference being given to School Board cases.

Sir Charles Trevelyan thought that all that was required was to ascertain the circumstances of the family, with a view to judging whether relief was required, and how it could be rendered most effectual.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen was in favour of going on with the arrangement as it stood until the autumn.

Mr. J. R. Hollond agreed with Mr. Edgcombe that it was desirable that the District Committee should know what had been stated to the officer of the School Board, but he need not be asked to write this down. The agent might go to him.

Mr. Edgcombe's motion was put and lost by 15 to 11, and the Report was adopted, special sanction being given for the issue of a circular prepared by the Sub-Committee on Visits to Offices.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

Authority was given to institute prosecutions against two impostors, and a grant of £70 was made to the Fulham Committee.

HELP BY EMPLOYMENT.

A letter having been read from Mr. Willis-Bund, regretting that he was unexpectedly prevented from attending, and asking that some member might be found to resume the adjourned discussion on Employment, Sir Charles Trevelyan consented to take Mr. Bund's place.

The following resolution had been moved by Mr. Hill on April 12:—

That work should be treated as the best form of relief, but only accorded, as in all other cases, after the fullest investigation into the circumstances of the applicant.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that a sub-committee had fully considered the subject of Employment in 1871, but had only been able to arrive at negative conclusions. Labour was a commodity, and was subject to the laws which regulated the exchange of commodities. Little more could be done than remove restrictions. London, unfortunately, suffered from a congestion of labour. Time out of mind the most unsettled part of the population had poured into London. Charity and out-relief intensified the evil. The only remedy was to make the workers go to the work. Much had been done to encourage migration to the manufacturing districts, and many suitable families—widows with children of working age—had been found on the Poor-law books; but too many of them clung to their out-relief, and preferred this to work and independence. If the Council desired to distribute the surplus London hands to the quarters where they were wanted, and where they could earn ample wages, to raise the rate of wages for those who remain, and to bring about a higher standard of

living, they must stop indiscriminate almsgiving and outdoor relief.

Mr. Fuller called attention to the Labour Registers of some of the Committees. One of the best of them was managed by a sub-committee of ladies.

The Rev. H. G. Henderson did not think that work even of inferior kinds was so ill-paid in London as Sir Charles Trevelyan had implied. The lowness of the wages of dock-labourers was due in part to the shortness of the hours during which they were allowed to work—from 8 to 4 in summer, and 9 to 4 in winter.

Mr. A. H. Hill, in replying, pointed out the necessity for recognising the fact that there must be slack times and times of want of employment, and that the working classes, like other classes, must live within their income. The non-recognition of this led to much thriftlessness.

The resolution was agreed to, and the Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, June 12, 1875:—*Annual*: J. Mann, Esq., £1. 1s.; Buxton Whalley, Esq., £1. 1s.; Capt. Hon. F. Bridgeman, £2.; C. W. W. Wynn, Esq., M.P., £1. 1s.; *District Committee Aid Fund*: W. Jones Loyd, Esq., £25.

The following business stands for Monday, June 21:—

Sir Charles Trevelyan to move:

1. That, as by the census returns of 1871, there were in England and Wales 20,452 idiots or imbeciles, which number is admitted to be 25 per cent. below the mark, showing a total of 36,835, or 1 in every 621 of the population; and as the condition of many youthful idiots can be altogether altered and improved by adapted training, while a large proportion of the remainder are quite unfit to mix with ordinary members of society—and union-houses and lunatic asylums are, for many reasons, unsuitable receptacles for idiots—training schools should be provided for improvable, and permanent asylums for unimprovable idiots.

2. That, in order to elicit the sympathy and active co-operation and support of the wealthy and charitable, the training schools should, as far as possible, be conducted upon the voluntary principle, and that with this object the managers of existing asylums depending upon public subscriptions for their support be invited to modify their rules so as to make their institutions available as part of a national system.

3. That, besides the general objections to the canvassing and voting system as a means of admission to charitable institutions, it is in an especial manner inapplicable to making provision for idiots, inasmuch as their successful treatment depends upon their being selected at the proper age to be placed either in a training school or permanent asylum, according to the nature of their respective cases.

4. That the Government be memorialised to allow the capitation-grant of 4s. a week to be paid for poor idiots admitted into training schools or permanent asylums, in the same way as it is now allowed for pauper idiots placed in county lunatic asylums, and also a further capitation-grant to training schools to be paid out of the Parliamentary Grant for Education, provided such schools comply with the conditions which may from time to time be prescribed by the Education Department, and are open to inspection by the officers of that Department; and that further payments be made by friends who are able to do so, or by Boards of Guardians.

5. That exertions should be made to establish the necessary additional number of training schools on this principle throughout the country; and that permanent asylums for unimprovable cases needing supervision, shelter, and kind care, should be established upon the grounds of the county lunatic asylums or elsewhere, either singly or for two counties combined; the expense of building and maintenance being defrayed out of the county rates, aided by the Government capitation-grant, and by the contributions of the Boards of Guardians and the friends of the idiots.

6. That, in order to facilitate the establishment of training schools and permanent asylums, the Government be asked to introduce a Bill especially for the regulation of Idiot Asylums, releasing such asylums from the stringent regulations of the Lunacy Act, 8 and 9 Vict. cap. 100, which was passed before an idiot asylum existed, such release being in accordance with the recommendations of the Lunacy Commissioners in their Reports to the Lord Chancellor for the years 1865 and 1868.

Mr. Alsager Hay Hill to move:

That, in the opinion of this Council, the principles of the Charity Organisation Society cannot be fully and effectually applied pending the stricter administration of the Poor Law, more particularly in reference to the question of out-door relief, and that the Committees of this Society be recommended to take every means in their power to promote a more efficient administration of the Law.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

RETURNED BY THE COMMITTEES WEEK ENDING, JUNE	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with	
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for Hospitals, &c.
1	1	5	3	9	1	1	1	2	7	7	19	6	4	10
2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
3	1	1	3	5	1	1	1	2	3	2	11	7	7	1
4	1	2	2	5	1	1	1	2	3	7	4	13	1	1
5	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
6	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
7	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
8	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
9	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
10	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
11	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
12	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
13	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
14	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
15	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
16	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
17	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
18	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
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office the sum of £1 to be devoted to the poor woman's relief.—No. 645: A lamentable case of ingratitude and bad conduct, illustrative of the difficulty of helping people whose vices prevent them from helping themselves. The man, for whom the Committee, with the assistance of benevolent friends, purchased a barrow to enable him to get his living by working for brokers and laundresses, got on very well for a time, with every prospect of success, but at length he became idle, took to drinking, and sold his barrow for half its value, that he might indulge his fatal propensity. To be recorded and the information to be sent to the parochial authorities, whose grocery and other tickets he has been known to sell for the purpose of procuring drink.—No. 913: A woman applied for temporary relief till her husband goes into a situation to which he has been appointed. Grant of 10s. in kind.—No. 1,126: An application for assistance to enable a man to purchase his landlady's mangle. Applicant does not belong to Brighton, but was sent here by a clergyman under the idea that Brighton would do him good in a sanitary point of view. It is not at all likely that the man and his wife will be able to earn an independent livelihood, and it is highly probable that they will eventually become chargeable to the rates. Brighton has good reason to complain of the benevolence that thus adds to her burdens, already too large. Ineligible.

'An answer to a question from a metropolitan institution.

'Forty-seven wayfarers, pleading hunger and in search of work, were relieved with bread, which was eaten in the office, 108, Church Street.'

POOR RELIEF IN WHITECHAPEL.—'With regard to this subject,' says the Rev. S. A. Barnett in his recently-issued Pastoral Address for 1874-5, 'Another year's experience has confirmed all our previous views. The truth of the statement that "the poor starve because of the alms they receive," has come home to us very often during the year. It is disheartening to know that many good people at work in the East End still give doles of 6d., and encourage the poor to depend on them for food, schooling, and clothing. As long as such practices continue, we cannot expect the people to work or save. The effect of our plan (described last year) of dealing with applications for relief, has been that the applications have nearly ceased. Those who suffer because of viciousness or extravagance shrink from inquiry, and do not care for the action which would force them into another way of living; they therefore no longer apply. This result is good. Such able-bodied applicants want not help in money, but kindly advice, and the training which comes of stern refusals to all begging petitions for gifts. The money entrusted to us for the poor has been spent in pensions to widows or old couples, in luxuries for the sick, and in sending girls away from the district to distant schools or training homes. The pensions, amounting to 2s. 6d. a week, are only given when we know that by them the recipients will be raised above want or the necessity of begging, and are therefore received only by those who have been provident in earlier years. The luxuries to the sick are given to those attended by the nurse, Mrs. Ryder. She is most unfailing in her work, and there is no one in the parish who does not know her, and seek her willing help in time of illness. The girls sent away to homes or schools are those who were in terrible danger as orphans, or as children of bad parents. To leave them alone in courts such as abound in this neighbourhood means almost certain ruin for the children, while their presence is no check to the parents, who spend days and nights away, leaving their children to get food as they best can. If you will make use of our experience you will sternly refuse to give to any one, without first sending the applicant to the Charity Organisation Society's Office, 194 Commercial Road. The Secretary there will return to you, free of charge, a full report on the applicant, and you will be able to judge what help he really wants. If you think it hard to refuse your money, give your time; there is plenty of work to be done by loving hearts and kindly sense.'

A FOREIGN BEGGING-LETTER CASE.—A person named Mary Brown, giving as her address Poste Restante, Drohobycz, Lemberg, Austria, a short time since wrote to a lady residing in London, appealing for assistance on the ground that six weeks before she had been attacked with fever, and had been abandoned in a destitute condition in the place she wrote from by a family who had employed her as governess; and stating that the persons with whom she was lodging were Jews, and threatened to turn her into the street if she did not pay the debt to them, which had been incurred during her illness; and that she had been nursed by a sister of charity, who had introduced to her a Jesuit, who offered to pay her debts if she would become a Roman Catholic. The letter was forwarded to the Charity Organisation Society for inquiry, and it was found that no person of the name of Mary Brown had ever resided at Drohobycz; that there were no Sisters of Charity or Jesuits in the neighbourhood, and that appeals for assistance for the same person had been received by an English clergyman residing at Lemberg, and had also been sent to charitable institutions in England. Attempts made to discover her present residence failed, but it was believed both at Drohobycz and Lemberg that the letter was written by an impostor who was endeavouring to obtain money from the charitable by false pretences.

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Edited by Dr. GUY, F.R.S.

The work has been compared to the 'Spectator,' 'Tatler,' and 'Guardian.' It treats of the art of Dining, Travelling, and attaining High Health, and on Religion, Morals, and Manners; and contains a series of Essays, based on inquiry and experience, on Dolegiving and Poor Laws, and the means of improving the condition of the Poor and Destitute.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION

SOCIETY desire to invite the attention of those interested in the work they have in hand to their Collection of Reports of Charities, and works of reference on Poor Law and Charity, which may at all times be consulted at the Central Office, free of charge, together with the Reports and Suggestions of the Society on various Social Questions.

The Secretaries are authorised to furnish particulars with regard to Charitable Societies to persons desirous of such information.

The Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, &c., for distribution to suitable cases through the District Committees.

Contributions to the funds of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or at Messrs. Coutts & Co's, 59 Strand, W.C.

Draft Orders on Bankers for annual payments until further orders can be supplied to any who wish for them.

Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council.

THE LABOUR NEWS, Price One Penny.—A Weekly

Organ of information on the condition and requirements of the Labour Market in town and country. Edited by ALSAGER HAY HILL. Correspondence is requested from all parts.—Offices: 1 Long Acre, London, W.

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A STRONG CASE for HALF-BINDING the NUMBERS

of the Reporter for 1874 has been prepared by Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., New-street Square, Farringdon Street, E.C.; and can be obtained from them through all newsagents, price 1s. 4d. If the numbers for the year be sent to Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., they will be bound for 2s. 10d.

COVERS in Dark Green Cloth, for filing current Numbers of the Reporter, may be had of Mr. Stacy, 257 Euston Road, N.W., post-free, on receipt of 1s. 3d. in postage-stamps.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

Post-office Orders payable to CHARLES B. P. BOSANQUET, at the Charing Cross Post-office. Stamps will be received in payment; but Subscribers are reminded that Post-office Orders for sums under 10s. can be obtained for 1d.

Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 143.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 23, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is
the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

The Brighton Charity Organisation Society have removed their office from 108 Church Street, to 182 Edward Street, Brighton.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Rev. H. Hayman, *Fulham*; Major Yard, J. R. Holland, Esq., *Paddington*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., *Chelsea*; Lord William Compton, R. Dundas, Esq., Hon. R. C. Moreton, *St. George's*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; Sir Charles Reed, *Hackney*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; J. Sapsford, Esq., *Bethnal Green*; C. L. Corkran, Esq., C. Lavers Smith, Esq., *Whitechapel*; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End Old Town*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; E. Hyde, Esq., T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; I. H. Cole, Esq., *Deptford*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, W. Wightman Wood, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 33. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., *Secretary*. Dr. Cortis, Dr. De Vitre, G. T. Gibson, Esq., Rev. Canon Hopkins, Rev. H. Ruck-Keene, W. Millard, Esq., Dr. Hack-Tuke, *Visitors*.

The Secretary reported that District Committee Paper No. 6, being a reprint of the Information Papers, with the terms of the arrangement entered into in winter with the Newport Market Refuge and various resolutions of Council, had been printed off.

He was instructed to send copies to the District offices.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending June 12 the receipts had been £5 3s. for the General Fund, and £25 for the District Com-

mittee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £723 6s. 3d. and £35 1s. 3d. respectively.

That a printed letter from Mr. G. M. Hicks had been read to them, accompanying a pamphlet on the origin of the Society, and requesting a decision of the Council on the subject.

TRAINING SCHOOLS AND ASYLUMS FOR IDIOTS.

Sir Charles Trevelyan then brought forward the resolutions of which he had given notice. The resolutions were as follows:—

'1. That, as by the census returns of 1871, there were in England and Wales 29,452 idiots or imbeciles, which number is admitted to be 25 per cent. below the mark, showing a total of 36,835, or 1 in every 621 of the population; and as the condition of many youthful idiots can be altogether altered and improved by adapted training, while a large proportion of the remainder are quite unfit to mix with ordinary members of society—and union-houses and lunatic asylums are, for many reasons, unsuitable receptacles for idiots—training schools should be provided for improvable idiots, and permanent asylums for those of a very low type.

'2. That, in order to elicit the sympathy and active co-operation and support of the wealthy and charitable, the training schools should, as far as possible, be conducted upon the voluntary principle, and that with this object the managers of existing asylums depending upon public subscriptions for their support be invited to modify their rules so as to make their institutions available as part of a national system.

'3. That, besides the general objections to the canvassing and voting system as a means of admission to charitable institutions, it is in an especial manner inapplicable to making provision for idiots, inasmuch as their successful treatment depends upon their being selected at the proper age to be placed either in a training school or permanent asylum, according to the nature of their respective cases.

'4. That the Government be memorialised to allow a capitation-grant to idiot training schools to be paid out of the Parliamentary Grant for Education, provided such schools comply with the conditions which may from time to time be prescribed by the Education Department, and are open to inspection by the officers of that Department; and that further payments be made by friends who are able to do so, or by Boards of Guardians.

'5. That exertions should be made to establish the necessary additional number of training schools on this principle throughout the country; and that permanent asylums for unimprovable cases needing supervision, shelter, and kind care should be established upon the grounds of the county lunatic asylums or elsewhere, either singly or for two counties combined; the expense of building and maintenance being defrayed out of the county rates, aided by the Government capitation-grant, and by the contributions of the Boards of Guardians and the friends of the idiots.

'6. That, in order to facilitate the establishment of training schools and permanent asylums, the Government be asked to introduce a Bill especially for the regulation of Idiot Asylums, releasing such asylums from the stringent regulations of the Lunacy Act, 8 and 9 Vict. cap. 100, which was passed before an idiot asylum existed, such release being in accordance with the recommendations of the Lunacy Commissioners in their Reports to the Lord Chancellor for the years 1865 and 1868.'

Sir Charles read a letter from the Earl of Devon regretting that parliamentary business prevented him from being present, and stating that he concurred in the general scope of the resolutions. He distributed copies of a pamphlet explaining the resolutions, and of a letter from the Commissioners in Lunacy, from which we take the following extracts:—

'I am directed to inform you that the Commissioners fully recognise the importance of the subject with which the Resolutions are concerned, and desire to express a general concurrence with the views therein expressed.

'The Commissioners have always held that Training Schools should be provided for the more intelligent idiots, and Permanent Asylums for those of a very low type. Their experience shows that there are scarcely any idiots who are not to some extent "improvable," under early and careful supervision, as to cleanliness and habits generally.

'In conclusion, I am to assure you that the Commissioners in Lunacy will view with interest any movement tending towards the increase of facilities for training and educating idiot children, whether of the private or of the pauper class.'

Sir Charles said: The first resolution calls attention to the fact that, although idiots are only about one in every 771 of the population, the existing provision of every sort for them is totally inadequate, so that they have to be put away in large numbers in lunatic asylums and union-houses, where they both do and suffer harm. It also affirms that a just division of labour should be established between training schools for those capable of instruction and improvement, and asylums for those who can only be sheltered and kindly cared for. All the members of this unfortunate branch of our national family are equally entitled to compassion and care according to their respective circumstances; but nothing effectual can be done for them until the subject has been rescued from its present confused elementary state, and a comprehensive plan has been agreed upon to be worked up to by all parties concerned.

The second and third resolutions propose that the training-schools should be based upon the voluntary principle, and that the managers of the existing institutions should be invited to modify their rules so as to allow of idiots being admitted, without expense or delay, at the age most favourable for their improvement. A movement has been in progress for some years for the purpose of establishing the requisite number of idiot training schools. The Earlswood Asylum furnished the original impulse and model; and, since that, the Eastern Counties have associated for the establishment of the institution at Colchester; the seven Northern Counties for that at Lancaster; the South-Western Counties have recently founded one at Star Cross; and a commencement has been made in the Midland Counties. All these institutions are upon the voluntary principle; and it is hoped that, by combining scattered efforts and assisting them out of national funds, as proposed in the next resolution, the object may be attained of providing for the whole country a sufficient outfit of idiot training-schools.

But, in order that these institutions may form part of a national system, and participate in the grants out of national funds, it is indispensable that the admissions to them should depend upon a careful selection of the cases which, owing to age and other circumstances, are most likely to benefit by the training given, and not, as at present, upon the uncertain result of a multitudinous vote. The Lunacy Commissioners 'are fully aware of the mischief of delay in placing the idiot under training at the suitable age in each case;' and Canon Hopkins suggests that 'the rules of such institutions should not be so framed as to necessitate delays which would render it impossible for any case to receive at the proper time the training essential to its successful treatment.' But neither on this nor on any other point is any precipitate action desired. All that is wanted is that, as in the case of the blind institutions referred to at pages 6 and 7 of the pamphlet, the plan should be based upon a sound principle, to which effect may be given at the proper time without compromising any existing interest.

The fourth resolution relates to ways and means.

While, on the one hand, the relatives and others interested

in the idiots will be saved the expense and anxiety of canvassing, they should, on the other, be required to pay for the advantages received to the extent their circumstances will allow.

Next in order come private subscriptions, donations, and bequests. When the claims of these unhappy people have been brought to the front, and each district has been made responsible for its own training school and asylum, the exchequer of British charity will be freely opened for them; and

Last of all, contributions from the public purse may be looked for under three separate heads:—

1. Payments out of the rates for pauper idiots;
2. A capitation grant from Parliament of 4s. a head, which is already payable in respect to any pauper idiot in a training school or permanent asylum duly licensed or registered under the Lunacy Acts; and
3. A share in the annual Grant for Education proportioned to the service done in improving a class of children who, more than any other, stand in need of education, not only on their own account, but also for the sake of others.

The permanent asylums for idiots of a low type should primarily be maintained out of the county rates aided by payments from the families of the idiots, or, in the case of pauper idiots, from the Poor Rate and the Government Capitation Grant. A large saving might be effected by appropriating to this object union-houses, which in some parts of the country are no longer required for their original purpose, owing to the diminished pressure of pauperism; and there would be a further local economy owing to the same house being used for Poor Law purposes by more than one union.

Thus, by requiring all to contribute in proportion to their means and to the interest which they have in the object, it will be possible to make a suitable provision for the whole of this unhappy class of our population.

The progress which has been made towards this end in the Metropolitan district under the Asylums Board will, I hope, be explained by others more competent to enter into the details than I am. All harmless imbeciles have been removed from the Metropolitan workhouses to the asylums at Caterham and Leavesden, and a further step in advance has lately been taken by placing the children in a separate training school at Clapton.

Sir Charles concluded by moving a resolution, which was ultimately brought into the following form:—

'That the Council, recognising the expediency of placing Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles on the most comprehensive and satisfactory footing, resolves that a Committee be formed to consider and report upon the whole subject, and that the resolutions now submitted by Sir Charles Trevelyan, together with the draft Bill submitted by Canon Hopkins, be referred to such Committee for their consideration.'

The Rev. R. J. Simpson seconded the resolution.

Mr. Millard, the Superintendent of the Eastern Counties Asylum, said that he believed that this was the first meeting which had ever considered what should be done for the idiots, not of one part of the country, but of all England. He had been asked to speak to the sixth resolution. In the eye of the law idiots were lunatics, and all the provisions of the Lunacy Acts as to registration and licensing applied to them. The Lunacy Commissioners regretted this, and had again and again advocated special establishments for idiots.

The Rev. Canon Hopkins having been called on, said that, as Chairman of a Board of Guardians, and from connection with the Essex Hall Asylum, he had been led to take much interest in the subject. He read the heads of a draft Bill which he had prepared, and which, amongst many other provisions, gave the Lunacy Commissioners power to

, in regard to Idiot Asylums, with such provisions of any Acts as were unsuitable.

Mr. Portis said that the Metropolitan Asylums Board had been doing for London much what Sir Charles desired to see done first, they had taken the imbeciles from the work-houses, though there was no intentional unkindness, but not the special care that they required, to Caterham and elsewhere. Then, finding that a number of children had been sent to them, they sent them to Clapton, and they were sent to build a training school for 500 children. A few were sent out already able to earn their own living, and some improvement might be seen in all after twelve

Mr. de Vitre said that he had had large experience with both to idiots and lunatics, in connection with the Lancashire Asylum at Lancaster and otherwise. He supported the early part of the first resolution. He however saw the advantage of separating the training from the asylums. All idiots were improvable till they were at a very advanced age, though, of course, it was a great gain to get hold of them young. He thought that they were classified, but under one roof, and with one superintendent. There should not be above 600 inmates. From a practical point of view there were three classes,—idiots, imbeciles, and epileptics. The last were not received at Clapton, and he believed that the Earlswood Asylum had not to receive them in future. There was no doubt that the Act of Parliament was required.

Mr. Charles Reed understood that the Committee which had been proposed to form would be perfectly free as to the resolutions. He was satisfied that some action was operationally required, especially for those just above the poor class. As Chairman of the London School of Medicine attention had been drawn to the large number of children. At Earlswood there were just under 600 of them children under 12. He believed that it would not receive any practical measure, like that proposed by Canon Hopkins, with sympathy. He deprecates resolutions being referred to the proposed Committee; the Committee would then have to consider them. Had they referred the Council for consideration, he must have taken care to state statements contained in them.

A further discussion took place on this point; and a motion for adjournment and an amendment in favour of omitting the last clause of the resolution having been put and lost, the resolution in the form given above was put and carried. The Council then adjourned.

Following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, 19, 1875:—Richard Foster, Esq., £20; Colonel Bryan Milman, Walton, £5. Annual: W. Burgess, Esq., £1. 1s.; Chief Constable of Essex, £2. 2s.; Meysey Clive, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss Courtenay, £2; L. Esq., 5s.; H. D. Erskine, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. H. Hall, Esq., £1; Martineau, £1. 1s.; Charles McGarel, Esq. (last instalment of £50), B. Praed, Esq., M.P. (2nd subscription 1875), £1. 1s.; W. Rathbone, M.P., £2. District Committee Aid Fund: Kensington Committee, Rathbone, Esq., M.P., £5; H. Rogers, Esq., £10. 10s.

Following business stands for Monday, June 28:—

Under recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—a grant of £20 be made to the Mile End Committee on account. The Council reply to the letter from Mr. G. M. Hicks (see p. 93) whilst they gratefully acknowledge the labours of Mr. Hicks and other gentlemen in connection with the question of organising relief and repressing mendicity, they do not think it advisable upon the question of the origin of the Society. Mr. Sager Hay Hill to move:—‘That, in the opinion of this Council, the principles of the Charity Organisation Society cannot be fully and properly applied pending the stricter administration of the Poor Law, particularly in reference to the question of out-door relief, and that members of this Society be recommended to take every means in their power to promote a more efficient administration of the Law.’

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committee	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under-employing or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
Kensington	4	3	4	11	..	2	2	4	..	4	17	10	2
Fulham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	6
Paddington	3	3	2	8	..	2	1	3	..	2	24	18	3
Chelsea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	..
St. George's	2	..	4	6	..	2	2	4	..	4	22	21	2
Westminster do.	..	1	2	3	..	1	1	3	..	6	2	..	..
Westminster:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. James & St. Anne's	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	1	4
St. Marylebone	4	2	2	8	..	7	4	11	3	3	27	7	5
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South St. Pancras	3	3	8	14	..	1	1	2	..	2	18	8	3
Islington	1	..	3	4	..	1	1	..	3	1	10	17	6
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Strand	..	2	2	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	5	..	2
Holborn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	7
City	1	..	2	3	..	3	3	..	2	..	8	19	7
Shoreditch	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..
Bethnal Green	2	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	1	5	..	3
Whitechapel	2	1	3	..	2	1	3	..	1	2	10	4	2
St. George's-in-the-East	..	4	4	..	2	1	3	..	2	2	9	4	3
Stepney	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4
Mile End Old Town	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	4	..	..
Poplar	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	..	..
St. Saviour's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Newington	3	1	6	10	1	..	2	3	3	..	17	1	2
St. Olave's	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	3	1	1
Lambeth:—North	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	..	3	2	5	9	3
South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	1
Battersea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	3	1
Clapham	1	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	3	1
Camberwell:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grove Lane	..	2	2	..	2	2	..	3	1	..	9	..	1
Peckham	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Greenwich	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	5	..	9
Deptford	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	3	13
Eitham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	15
Total	24	20	57	101	2	22	16	40	48	23	7	17	95
											236	132	82
													156

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its twenty-sixth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Miss Erskine, the Hon. H. Walpole, Major-General Bainbridge, Col. Myers, Messrs. W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The draft Suggestions to the parents of Blind Children furnished by Mr. Buckle, and the list of employments prepared by Mr. Martin Tait, were brought up in proof and ordered to be sent to all members of the Committee who had attended a meeting, and to any others who might wish to see them.

The Committee resumed consideration of Head III.:—‘What new agencies, if any, are required?’

It was resolved—

‘That, in view of experience in the United States, and in order that more interest may be felt by employers in teaching them thoroughly, it is expedient to encourage, under suitable conditions, the employment of the Blind as apprentices or learners in ordinary workshops and manufactories.’

It was also resolved, on Mr. Tait's motion—

‘That the Committee are of opinion that the practice in Saxony, whereby Institutions for the Blind adopt a system of placing out their pupils in trades and occupations throughout the country, supplying them with raw material at cost price when desired, and exercising care and supervision over their career, is deserving of the best consideration of managers of similar institutions in this country.’

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

WHITECHAPEL AND ST GEORGE'S EAST.—The work of the Society in these two districts (says the *East London Observer*) having so greatly increased during the past winter, a separate Committee has been formed for each in lieu of the one joint committee which has hitherto had charge of both Poor Law divisions. During the six months ending March 31st, when the separation was made, the joint Committee had before them 364 cases, which, after careful investigation, were dealt with in the following manner:—170 were dismissed—70 as not requiring relief, 42 as undeserving, and 58 as being cases suitable only for Poor Law treatment, or otherwise ineligible for charitable relief; 167 were assisted—59 by reference to local charitable agencies, 43 by private persons, and 14 by the Poor Law Guardians at the instance of the Committee; whilst 51 were helped directly by Committee, by grants, loans, employment, or letters for hospitals or convalescent institutions; 23 were simply reported on to persons asking for enquiries, and 4 were placed on the Labour Register. The Whitechapel Committee report that since the division they have dealt with 72 cases. The following may be mentioned as illustrating very well the working of the Society, and explaining how it is that so many cases are effectually helped, although the amount appearing in the balance-sheet as expended in 'grants' is so very small. A respectable woman had been reduced to a condition of great distress by the failure of her husband's health. She did not herself apply to the Society, being one of those who strive rather to conceal than to parade their poverty, but her case was mentioned to the Committee by a missionary. Being rather a good dressmaker, she had been trying to make a living for the family (there were three young children) by her needle, but the task was more than she could accomplish. The Committee, with the co-operation of the clergyman and Dissenting Minister, organised relief to the amount of £7, with which a sewing-machine was obtained, and the family assisted to remove to their native place in the country, where it is hoped the husband's health may improve. But the money was not granted out of the Committee's own funds, and the expenditure will not appear in the balance-sheet. In another case a weekly allowance was obtained for an aged man of good character, who was thereby saved from going to the workhouse. Several old employers who respected him had been in the habit of helping him in a casual way, but on the Committee's representation gladly fell in with proposed arrangements for giving relief in a more regular and satisfactory manner. To the 2s. 6d. weekly promised by them the Committee obtained the addition of 1s. 6d., which, with what the old man can himself earn, will enable him to live pretty comfortably. Thus organisation regulates but does not check the flow of private benevolence; and though the time and trouble involved in dealing with a case in this way are considerable, the Committee believe that the results justify the expenditure. The most interesting, perhaps, of all the cases, however, was that of a little girl whose mother, a degraded, vagrant woman, applied at the office for relief. For years the two had wandered about London and the surrounding country, sleeping in lodging-houses, casual wards, or night refuges. The Committee refused to grant the woman the money relief she sought; which would simply have encouraged her in her wretched mode of life, but anxious to save the child from following a similar course, took charge of her, of course with the mother's consent, and sent her to the English Lake District, where, 'boarded out' with kind foster-parents, and under the watchful care of a committee of ladies, she has already lost the premature old look that she had at first, is very happy, and seems likely to do well in every way. The cost of her maintenance, £12 annually, is defrayed by private persons. The Committee would be glad to transplant another child in a similar way, and any who would like to assist them to do so can learn particulars of the case by sending a line to the Secretary, at the Office, 194 Commercial Road.

WANDSWORTH AND CLAPHAM UNION.—The following rules on the subject of out-relief were adopted by the Guardians of this Union, on the motion of Mr. J. E. Martin, at their meeting on the 17th inst. :—

1. That a list of the names of all persons who have been in receipt of out-relief for more than three months be printed every six months, and that a copy of such be furnished to each Guardian, and to any ratepayer applying for it.
2. That the following notice be printed :—

I. Out-door relief will in future be regarded as exceptional, to be granted in certain instances to persons of proved respectability, whose destitution has arisen from no fault of their own.

II. Persons whose destitution is the result of intemperance and have claim only to be relieved with their families inside the workhouse.

III. An applicant for relief will have to satisfy the Guardians that when he was able to work he made every reasonable effort, by thrift and economy, to provide against times of sickness and adversity. Should the applicant fail to make this clear, out-door relief may be refused, and he with his family may be required to enter the workhouse.

3. No able-bodied widow having less than two children dependent on her shall be eligible for out-door relief, except during the first six months of her widowhood.

4. In all cases of able-bodied widows with more than one child the alternative of taking one or more of the children into the district school of the union in preference to giving out-door relief should be taken into consideration.

5. No woman deserted by her husband shall be eligible for out-door relief, except during the period required for making inquiries into facts of the desertion; after permanent desertion has been substantiated, she is to be treated as an ordinary widow.

6. When application is made by able-bodied persons for out-relief on the ground of being 'out of work,' or of illness, the relief, if not given in the stone-yard, should only be given by way of loan.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of June 1875 was 33,023, and 52,967 received out-door relief, making a total of 85,996. This was a decrease of 554 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,321, 16,715, and 20,776 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 456. This was a decrease of 14 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 159 on the corresponding day of last year.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND THE CAUSES OF PAUPERISM.—We take the following extract from the *Western Daily Press* of Feb. 26, 1869, from an old paper headed 'Memo. on the Poor Law Minute of Nov. 20.' The good advice given by Mr. Bright is to some extent being acted on:—'The uncomfortable feeling we all have in connection with an increasing poor-rate, Mr. Bright would utilise by having us all consider why this pauperism should exist? We cannot diminish the poor-rate unless we can diminish the pauperism which cries out for it. Mr. Bright saw as reason why Chambers of Commerce in commercial or manufacturing towns should eschew such a question as that—the why of pauperism. He thought that the great employers of labour, who come daily and hourly into contact with the labouring classes, and who knew intimately from observation the many evils of improvidence and pauperism, ought to discuss such matters in their local legislatures, which are the local creators of opinion, and ultimately the creators of opinion in Parliament. By discussing questions such as pauperism with the same exhaustiveness as the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in 1840, discussed the question of the Corn Laws, our commercial chambers would truly become the saviours of their country.' The following extracts from the same Paper can hardly have attention called to them too often:—'It appears to me that charity requires the sternest labour and the most anxious thought; that, in short, it is one of the most difficult things in the world (*Sir Arthur Helps*).—'Beveridge says: "In distributing to the poor, my hand of charity must either be guided by the eye of understanding, where, when, and how much to give; or else I may at the same time not only offend God, but wrong my neighbour and myself too."—*Beveridge's Private Thoughts*, p. 219. 'Whatever you pay a man to do, that he will do: if you pay him to work, he will work, and if you pay him to beg, he will beg.'—*Whately's Life*, Vol. II. p. 114.

ANNUAL REPORTS of the DISTRICT COMMITTEES for 1874, bound up with the SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT of the COUNCIL, price 2s. 6d., post free 3s., can be obtained on application to the SECRETARY, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 144.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 30, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

District Committees which expect to require assistance from the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council before October are to send in their applications.

Forms of Financial Statement to accompany applications can be obtained from the Central Office.

District Committees are recommended to pass a resolution to the following effect, in order that they may be able to show it to the Judge of any County Court who may consider it requisite to see the authority under which a person is sued:—

'That all loans granted by this Committee be made by and for this Committee in the name of ———, a member of this Committee.'

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. F. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Miss Emma Howe, *Fulham*; Major Yard, *Paddington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., *Oldies*; Lord William Compton, W. W. Moore, Esq., Hon. R. C. Moreton, *St. George's*; H. Peto, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; T. B. Spencer, Esq., *Islington*; H. H. Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; Rev. A. G. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Hon. O. W. Fremantle, C. Lavers Smith, Esq., *Whitechapel*; Mrs. Barnett, *Stepney*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End Old Town*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; E. Hyde, Esq., *Camberwell*; A. Annisley, Esq., *Lewisham*; Capt. G. H. Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major-General Bainbrigge, G. Mount, Esq., Dr. Hawkeley, *Additional Members*; total, 29. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

A letter was read from the St. George's Committee, stating that a firm of millowners in the West Riding of Yorkshire

had informed them that they had a vacancy for a respectable family, with children between eight and fifteen, or for a few orphans between nine and fifteen. The Committee had no suitable persons on their books, and therefore desired to make the offer known.

THE LATE MR. R. J. DONOVAN.

The Secretary announced the death of Mr. R. J. Donovan, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Bethnal Green Committee.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen said that there was no one in the East of London to whom the Society was more indebted than to Mr. Donovan. He felt his loss very greatly, and believed that he would be missed more and more. When he saw any way of doing good his brain, his pen, and his energies were always ready. He was one of nature's gentlemen. He would not be easily forgotten in East London.

Mr. A. H. Hill referred to the readiness Mr. Donovan had shown to assist Mr. Edward Denison, and subsequently Mr. Edmund Hollond, when they went to live at the East End.

The Secretary was instructed to convey to the Bethnal Green Committee an expression of the sincere regret of the Council at the death of Mr. Donovan, and their sense of the loss the Committee had sustained.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

The Secretary said that he had received a letter from the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, mentioning that some applicants for out-patient relief, who had been sent to a District Office to have their statements verified, had come again saying that they had been told that their letters would be sent to the hospital for them. If they had been so told the Hon. Secretary, or agent, must have omitted to notice the statement on the letter, to the effect that it was to be called for at the District Office at such time as the officer in attendance might indicate.

Mr. Lavers Smith asked whether District Committees were at liberty to issue a special appeal to residents in the District for a fund expressly for the purpose of relieving distress which could not otherwise be provided for.

The Chairman said that the St. Marylebone Committee had such a fund, and had issued a special appeal for it in the early days of the Society. Such action should, however, be taken with great caution.

The Organising Secretary thought that any such appeal should state clearly that relief was only a secondary object of the Society.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen deprecated any extension of the relief work of the Society, and mentioned that he and two neighbouring clergymen had recently taken down 2,000 people to spend the day at Southend without asking any outsider for a penny. All paid for themselves.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that

during the week ending June 19 the receipts had been £52. 17s. for the General Fund, and £115. 10s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £529. 0s. 2d. and £80. 11s. 3d. respectively.

That the Children's Hospital had asked their opinion as to the best mode of stating the earnings of those whose wages were uncertain, and that they had deferred their answer till the District Committees had obtained experience of the working of the arrangement—only pointing out that the statement should be definite, so as to admit of verification.

And that they had directed that the City Committee should be asked for 50 copies of a recent circular issued by them, in order that a copy might be sent to each District Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A grant of £20 on account was made to Mile End Old Town, the Secretary explaining that the Administrative Committee wished to obtain more information before recommending a larger grant.

The printed letter accompanying Mr. Hicks's pamphlet on the origin of the Society having been read, also a subsequent letter from Mr. Hicks,

Mr. A. H. Hill expressed his willingness to move the adoption of the recommendation of the Administrative Committee on the subject; he was very sorry to have to do anything that could pain Mr. Hicks, but the Council must adhere to business principles. It appeared to him that as the Council had cut out the paragraph of the pamphlet relating to the origin of the Society, no member was entitled to ask them to go further into the question. They had more important matters to attend to. He heartily recognised the obligations the Society was under to Mr. Hicks. He would move:—

That whilst the Council gratefully acknowledge the labours of Mr. Hicks and many other gentlemen in connection with the question of organising charitable relief and repressing mendicity, they do not think it advisable to enter further upon the question of the origin of the Society, more especially as the pamphlet officially issued by the Council now contains no statements on this point, nor any expression of opinion on any previous correspondence in relation thereto.

Dr. Hawksley moved as an amendment that the question be referred to a Committee to be composed of some of the old members of the Society.

The amendment having been put and lost, Mr. Edgcombe proposed to move another amendment, of which he had given notice, approving the action of the Secretary, which the pamphlet impugned, but the Chairman pointed out that this question would be more conveniently taken up on Mr. Hicks's second letter.

Sir Charles Trevelyan thought it was plain that if the Council discussed the history of the Society, it could not do the Society's business.

The Rev. W. H. Langhorne suggested that some words might be added to the effect that it was not within the province of the Council to decide as to relative claims to founding the Society.

The recommendation was adopted.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

Mr. A. H. Hill moved the resolution on this subject of which he had given notice (see below), but several members expressing a wish that the subject might be thoroughly considered, it was agreed to adjourn the discussion until the next meeting.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, June 26, 1875:—*Donation*: Philip Sancton, Esq., £5. *Annual*: G. J. Graham, Esq., £2; Sir H. D. Ingilby, Bart., £1. 1s.; J. Milligan, Esq., £1. 11s. 6d.; Miss Alice de Rothschild, £5. 5s.; Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., £1. 10s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: St. George's Committee, £50; Sir H. D. Ingilby, Bart., £5; Messrs. Williams, Deacon, & Co., £50.

The following business stands for Monday, July 5:—

To consider recommendation of the Administrative Committee:

That the inquiries of the Society should not extend to foreign countries, except as regards places where the Society have corresponding Associations to which the application can be referred.

Mr. A. H. Hill to move:—

That, in the opinion of this Council, the principles of the Charity Organisation Society cannot be fully and effectually applied pending the strict administration of the Poor Law, more particularly in reference to the question of out-door relief, and that the Committees of this Society be recommended to take every means in their power to promote a more efficient administration of the Law.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vacants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians or Local Authorities	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for Hospitals, &c.	Class total		
Kensington	2	9	13	1	1	2	4	3	1	1	5	22	8	6	..		
Fulham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	..		
Paddington	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	6	3	5	14	18	7	4	..		
Chelsea	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	5	3	..		
St. George's:—																	
St. George's Division.	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	18	9	4	..		
Westminster do.	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	7	18	..	..	..		
Westminster:—																	
St. James & St. Anne's	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	5	6		
St. Marylebone	1	4	6	2	4	6	1	1	2	4	16	5	2	5	..		
Hampstead	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	17	1	1	..		
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	6	2	8	..	..		
South St. Pancras	4	2	7	4	2	6	1	1	1	1	13	4	3	..	..		
Islington	2	1	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	9	..	..	..	..		
Hackney	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	7	..	..		
St. Giles & Bloomsbury Strand	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	8	1	5	..	..		
Holborn	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	6	1	7	..	..		
City	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	6	1	6	..	..		
Shoreditch	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	8	11	..	..		
Bethnal Green	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	2	2	..	..		
Whitechapel	2	3	6	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	5	3	2	3	..		
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	1	2	..	..		
Stepney	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	6	..	..		
* Mile End Old Town ..	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	3	..	..		
Poplar	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	1	..	..		
St. Saviour's	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	8	3	3	7	2	2	..	..		
Newington	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	2	..	..		
St. Olave's	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	2	..	..		
Lambeth:—																	
North	5	1	6	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	13	1	4	..	..		
South	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	..	..		
* Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	..	..		
Battersea	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	..	..		
Clapham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	..	..		
Camberwell:—																	
Grove Lane	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	2	..	..		
Peckham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	..	..		
Greenwich	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	8	1	7	..	..		
Deptford	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	3	..	..		
Woolwich	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	..	..		
Lewisham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4	1	..	..		
* Eltham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	..	..		
Sydenham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	..	..		
Total	27	14	40	81	5	25	18	48	31	15	10	13	69	198	85	91	58

* No return received from these Committees at time of going to press.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its twenty-seventh meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), the Hon. H. Walpole, Col. Fyers, Messrs. T. Clarke, W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Committee took Head IV, into consideration:—'To what extent can the Blind become self-supporting?'

It was resolved, on Mr. Tait's motion—

That the Committee are of opinion that a large proportion of the able-bodied Blind are capable of being trained and employed in industrial and other occupations, and, with increased facilities for obtaining employment and improved organisation in the mode of conducting workshops, may become to a considerable extent self-supporting.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

ISLINGTON.—Hospital Case.—This Committee has had to inquire into the circumstances of an applicant for the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street. She stated at the hospital that her husband's earnings were 20s. weekly. On inquiry it was found that his wages were 36s. weekly. They have nine children, the eldest (19) was earning 12s.; the four next younger were apprentices receiving a few shillings, say 10s., between them; their several ages 17, 16, 14, and 11. They rent a six-roomed house, where they have lived fourteen years, the rent being £28; they let off two rooms at 6s. 6d. per week, and the husband is a member of two clubs.

POPULAR.—Conference with Guardians.—At the request of this Committee Mr. Howgrave Graham attended, on June 18, a meeting of the Poplar Board of Guardians, for the purpose of inducing closer co-operation between the Board and the Committee. He stated, at length, the principles and mode of operation of the Committee, and explained that while in many instances the Society was able, by giving relief of a kind and amount not obtainable from Boards of Guardians, to remove, or to keep, from the out-relief list a considerable number of cases, yet it was desirous of carefully avoiding anything like usurpation of the functions of the Poor Law, or supplementing the relief it affords. Mr. Howgrave Graham illustrated the action of the Committee by cases which had been dealt with by them, explained that the relieving officers had always supplied information to the charity agent, and invited members of the Board to attend the Committee meetings. The Chairman said that six or seven years ago a similar proposal was accepted by the Guardians, thinking that some good might result. They took very great trouble to carry out the ideas of a local committee, and went to the expense of preparing maps and books, which were never used; and, upon remonstrating with the Committee, the Guardians were met with a retort to the effect that they chose to administer relief in their own way. The minute-book of the Committee in question was produced, and Mr. Howgrave Graham said that it could not have been connected with the Charity Organisation Society. The Clerk drew attention to the fact that, at their last meeting, the Committee had adjourned *sine die*. Some questions having been asked by members of the Board, and replied to by Mr. Howgrave Graham, the Chairman said, after some discussion, that he was disposed to look favourably upon the suggested co-operation, as he believed it would be advantageous to both the Guardians and the Committee, but he suggested that all proposals should be submitted by the Committee, in writing, for the Board's consideration and decision. Mr. Howgrave Graham undertook to lay the matter before the Poplar Committee, who will consider it at a special meeting to be held at their office this day, at four p.m. It may be added that the Committee referred to was not in any way connected with the Charity Organisation Society.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Annual Report of the Poplar Committee, 1874.

Report of Sub-Committee on Out-patients at the Westminster Hospital, dated May 25, 1875.

First Annual Report of the St. George's (Bristol) Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

POOR LAW CONFERENCE.—The first Annual Conference of Metropolitan Poor Law Guardians is to be held in the Rooms of the Social Science Association, 1 Adam Street, Adelphi, on Monday the 12th inst., at 11 a.m., the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P., in the chair. A Paper on the Law of Settlement and Removal will be read by Mr. William Vallance, and a Paper on Out-door Relief by the Rev. S. A. Barnett. The Poor Law Conferences held at the same place in December 1874 and previous years were intended for representatives appointed by the Poor Law Conferences in different parts of England; the Metropolitan Guardians have not hitherto held an Annual Conference.

WANDSWORTH AND CLAPHAM UNION.—In the paragraph under this heading last week it should have been stated that the notice with reference to conditions of out-relief was to be 'posted on the workhouse doors and relief offices,' and the second clause of the notice should have run as follows:—'Persons whose destitution is the result of intemperance and improvidence have claim only to be relieved with their families inside the workhouse.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of June 1875 was 32,817, and 52,596 received out-door relief, making a total of 85,413. This was a decrease of 583 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,623, 16,477, and 21,262 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 572. This was an increase of 116 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 76 on the corresponding day of last year.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AND PERSONAL WORK IN LIVERPOOL.—In a paragraph headed 'The Elberfeld System in Liverpool,' the *Times* announces that on Monday, the 21st inst., an influentially attended and thoroughly representative meeting for the inauguration of a social movement originated by the Liverpool Town Clerk, Mr. Joseph Rayner, was held at Waterloo, near Liverpool. The object of the scheme is to induce a number of the wealthy residents of such suburbs of Liverpool as Waterloo to take under their especial charge certain sections of the overcrowded and squalid portions of Liverpool, with the view of promoting the sanitary improvement of the districts. The Town Clerk, in explaining his scheme, said that if, by any means, the more fortunate could be induced, instead of, or in addition to, giving money, to devote a portion of their time and thought to personal intercourse with the poor, more would be done towards their elevation and improvement than by any amount of almsgiving or charity distributed in the usual way. It would, however, be hopeless to expect persons residing at a distance to devote much time to visiting, and the only feasible plan of doing good in this way on a moderately large scale was to adopt the Elberfeld system of administering poor relief by voluntary visitors. If the upper and middle classes in any well-to-do part of the town or suburbs would unite together and allow their district to be affiliated to any town district inhabited almost exclusively by the labouring classes, much good might be done. Any such association would of necessity be unsectarian, and the greatest care would be requisite to avoid proselytising and offending religious susceptibilities. The main object would be to improve the sanitary condition of the dwellings of the labouring classes, to endeavour to make their homes more healthy, cleanly, and attractive, and to afford them such sympathy and assistance in time of sickness and distress as might be rendered to them by those more happily situated without affecting their independence. With these objects might also be conveniently combined the encouragement of frugal habits by the establishment of a penny savings bank, by the collection of deposits for the district Provident Society; and eventually, if visitors were able to secure the confidence of the poor, such an association might become an invaluable connection and means of communication between them and the Guardians of the Poor, the Central Relief Society, and the School Board. The really deserving poor would be elevated and helped, and those who did not require or were not entitled to assistance would be prevented from imposing on the Poor Law authorities or the charities. It appeared certain that the most effectual means of elevating and improving the class to be visited was by becoming their landlords, and it was to be hoped that a considerable number of blocks of property might eventually be brought under the influence of systematic visiting. It would doubtless take a very long time to make a perceptible improvement in the condition of the lowest class in our large towns; but there was reason to hope that by a combination of these several modes of action something might be done for the amelioration of the condition of those upon whom we were all more or less dependent, but whom we were apt to overlook and forget. In his opinion it would be quite impossible for any one association satisfactorily to undertake any scheme for the sanitary improvement of the whole town, and in any such effort the machinery would break down from the very magnitude of the undertaking. This difficulty might, however, be easily avoided; and what had been suggested was that a well-defined district in the town, containing 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants, should be taken; that a book of reference, showing names and addresses of each owner of property and the assessable value of the houses, should be prepared; a careful survey of the district made, and periodically repeated by small inspection sub-committees, and the attention of the authorities and the owners of property called to the most apparent insanitary conditions. Such portion of the district as the number of visitors may be sufficient to undertake should then be divided into sub-districts and assigned to the visitors, who, if the funds of the association enabled them to employ a paid nurse, would avail themselves of her assistance in visiting and assisting the sick. An arrangement should be made with the registrar of deaths to send duplicates of the returns to the medical officer of health to the association, with the name of the medical attendant, certifying the cause of death in each case. An arrangement should also be made with the medical attendants to give periodical reports, with suggestions derived from their experience. In the event of the Corporation undertaking any improvements under the Sanitary Amendment Act of 1864, the Artisans and Labourers' Dwellings Bill, or any street improvements, it would be the duty of the Secretary to give their officers all the information in his possession.

THE LABOUR NEWS, Price One Penny.—A Weekly Organ of information on the condition and requirements of the Labour Market in town and country. Edited by ALSAGER HAY HILL. Correspondence is requested from all parts.—Offices: 1 Long Acre, London, W.

Post-free One quarter, 1s. 9d.; a Year, 6s. 6d.

THE following Books and Pamphlets, amongst others, are kept at the Central Office of the Charity Organisation Society for the use of Members of District Committees and persons interested in charitable work. The Secretaries are authorised to lend them at their discretion:—

CHARITY.

The Annual Reports of most of the Metropolitan and National Charities.
Sampson Low's Charities of London. Fry's London Charities.
List of Charity Organisation, Mendicity, and kindred Societies throughout Great Britain and Ireland, and Reports of same.
A Guide to Institutions for the Blind, by Col. Mansfield Turner and W. Harris, Esq.
List of Metropolitan Trade Benefit Societies.
Guide to the Charities of Paris.
Reports of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction.
Reports (complete) of the Boston (U.S.) Provident Association, Overseers of the Poor, and Directors of Public Institutions, and of the Massachusetts Board of Charities.

POOR LAW, &c.

Glen's Poor-law Statutes in force.
Glen's Consolidated Poor-law Orders.
Digests of Statutes relating to Urban and Rural Sanitary Authorities.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS, REPORTS, &c.

Endowed Charities of Middlesex, Surrey, and Cities of London and Westminster.
Reports of the Poor Law Commissioners and the Poor Law and Local Government Boards; complete set, 1834 to 1874.
Poor Laws in Foreign Countries, with Introductory Remarks, by Andrew Doyle, Esq.
Reports on Vagrancy, 1830, 1848, 1866.
Reports:—Industrial Schools; Emigration Commissioners; Royal Sanitary Commission, 1871; Commissioners of Police for the Metropolis; Royal Commission on Friendly Societies, 1872 and 1874.
Reports from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Agents abroad respecting the Condition of the Industrial Classes in Foreign Countries.
The Charity Commissioners' General Digest of Endowed Charities in Counties and Cities.
Census of England and Wales, 1871.
Recent Acts of Parliament bearing on Charity and Poor Law.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Christian and Civic Economy of Large Towns. By Thomas Chalmers, D.D.
Count Rumford's Essays.
London Labour and the London Poor. By Henry Mayhew.
London Pauperism amongst Jews and Christians. By Dr. Stallard.
The Claims of Labour. By Sir Arthur Helps.
Social Duties in Relation to the Organisation of Works of Benevolence. By a Man of Business.
Pauperism and the Poor Laws. Lectures issued by the Chalmers Association.
London: its Growth, Charitable Agencies, and Wants. By C. B. P. Bosanquet.
The Terrible Sights of London. By Thomas Archer.
The Rookeries of London. By Rev. T. Beames.
Ragged London in 1861. By John Hollingshead.
Ragged Homes and How to Mend Them. By Mrs. Bayly.
East and West. Edited by the Countess Spencer.
Dwellings of the Labouring Classes. By Henry Roberts.
The Homes of the Working Classes. By James Hole.
Work and Wages. By Thomas Brassey, M.P.
Report of the Convocation of Canterbury on Intemperance.
Letters &c. of Edward Denison. Edited by Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart.
Pauperism, its Causes and Remedies. By Professor Fawcett, M.P.
Essays on Poor Relief in different parts of Europe. Edited by A. Emminghaus. Translation revised by E. B. Eastwick, C.B.
The Romance of Charity. By John de Liefde.
Need of a Settled Policy in Times of Distress. By W. T. McCullagh Torrens, M.P.
History of the Cotton Famine. By R. Arthur Arnold.
Public Health. A Popular Introduction to Sanitary Science. By W. A. Guy, M.D.
My Life, and What shall I Do with It? By an Old Maid.
Lending a Hand. Confessions of an Old Almsgiver.
Our New Masters. By Thomas Wright, 'The Journeyman Engineer.'
The Gail Cradle; who rocks it?
Boarding Out and Pauper Schools. By Menella B. Smedley.

The Original. By the late Thomas Walker. Edited, with additions, by Dr. Guy, F.R.S.
The Blind of London. By Edmund C. Johnson.
How the Blind Read. By Edmund C. Johnson.
Blindness and the Blind. By W. Hanks Levy.
Light for the Blind. By W. Moon, LL.D.
Blindness: the Sense Denied and Lost. By Thomas Bull, M.D.
The Education and Employment of the Blind. By T. R. Armitage, M.D.
Management and Education of the Blind. By J. G. Knie.
Der erste Europäischer Blinden-Lehrer-Congress in Wien. 1873.

DIRECTORIES.

Post Office, City of London and Suburban.
Index of the Streets in the Metropolis and their Parishes.
Oliver and Boyd's New Edinburgh Almanac.
Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Directory.
The Local Government Directory, and numerous County and Professional Directories.

MAPS.

Civitas Londinum. Facsimile of Map of London, made by Ralph Agas, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.
Maps showing the Boundaries of the Metropolitan Poor Law and Police Divisions and most of the Ecclesiastical Districts.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION

SOCIETY desire to invite the attention of those interested in the work they have in hand to their Collection of Reports of Charities and works of reference on Poor Law and Charity, which may at all times be consulted at the Central Office, free of charge, together with the Reports and Suggestions of the Society on various Social Questions.

The Secretaries are authorised to furnish particulars with regard to Charitable Societies to persons desirous of such information.

The Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, &c., for distribution to suitable cases through the District Committees.

Contributions to the funds of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or at Messrs. Countess & Co's, 69 Strand, W.C.

Draft Orders on Bankers for annual payments until further orders can be supplied to any who wish for them.

Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS of the DISTRICT COMMITTEES

for 1874, bound up with the **SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT** of the Council, price 2s. 6d., post free 3s., can be obtained on application to the SECRETARY, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

THE SANITARY RECORD:

A Journal of Public Health.

Every Saturday, price 4d. A Weekly Journal of the Progress of Hygiene of Cities, Towns, Rural Districts, Mines, Factories, and Habitations; the Food, Water, Gas Supply, and Drainage of Towns and Rural Districts; the Vital Statistics of Population; the Influence on Health of Trades and Occupations; and the Operation of Acts bearing upon Public Health.

THE SANITARY RECORD contains also Original Articles on Hygiene, Leaders on Sanitary Questions, Notes of the Week, Reports, Reviews, Proceedings of Health Authorities, Reports of Medical Officers and Sanitary Associations, Law Reports and Legal Queries, Answers to Correspondents, Parliamentary Intelligence, Sanitary Appointments, Patents and Vacancies, Notes, Queries, and Replies, &c. &c.

SMITH, ELDER, & Co., 15 Waterloo Place, S.W., and all Booksellers and Newsagents.

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'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

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Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 145.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 7, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

Affiliated Associations, which have not yet sent in their returns for the last quarter to the Central Office, are requested to forward them as early as possible, for insertion in next Wednesday's Reporter.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Mr. F. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Capt. Joyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lord William Compton, W. W. Moore, Esq., *St. George's*; Henry Peto, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; T. B. Spencer, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, O. Lavers Smith, Esq., *Whitechapel*; Mrs. Barnett, E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End*; Rev. L. J. Elliot, *Poplar*; O. E. Machen, Esq., *St. Olave's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; E. Hyde, Esq., T. Galabin, Esq., *Canterbury*; G. Parker, Esq., *Wisham*; Capt. Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley, T. J. Phillips-Jodrell, Esq., *Additional Members*. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*. Allerdale Grainger, Esq., *Visitor*.

The Secretary reported that Mr. T. B. Spencer and Mr. J. S. Loch had consented to act as Hon. Secretaries of the Islington Committee, *vice* Mr. Vizard, and that the Rev. S. A. Barnett had been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Whitechapel Committee.

Mr. Edgecombe asked leave to mention that a figure had slipped out of its place in the monthly returns from District Committees which appeared in the *Times* of Thursday—the Kensington Committee had dealt with 34, not 3, vagrants.

MR. PECK'S GIFT.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen asked whether any cases had

been decided under the arrangement with Mr. Peck. Several members said that cases were before their Committees.

The Secretary explained, in answer to questions, that to constitute a case a School Board case, in Mr. Peck's sense, it was necessary that it should be sent by a Divisional Committee of the School Board, but not that it should be a case in which boots or clothes were required. Mr. Peck's contribution was not necessarily to be devoted to reimbursing Committees the exact amount expended in relation to such cases, but was to be granted out at the discretion of the Council, regard being had to the degree of co-operation with the School Board, and the expense thereby incurred.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending June 26 the receipts had been £16. 7s. 6d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £539. 1s. 10d. and £165. 11s. 3d. respectively.

That they were of opinion that the Special Committee on Idiot Institutions, which it was proposed to form, should not meet until the next Session of Parliament was commencing.

And that they were about to send out the circular, authorised some time previously, to Boards of Guardians throughout the country.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that he thought it was expedient that the same course should be taken with regard to the Committee on Idiot Institutions as was taken with regard to the Committee on Dwellings, and that it should meet whilst Parliament was sitting.

The Report was adopted.

INQUIRIES ABROAD.

Sir Alexander Gordon moved the adoption of the recommendation of the Administrative Committee on this subject. Several foreign cases had been inquired into lately, though the Society had never formally undertaken such inquiries. He had no objection to the addition of a clause suggested by Lord William Compton, reserving discretion to the Administrative Committee; the recommendation would then run:—

That the inquiries of the Society should not extend to foreign countries, except as regards places where the Society have corresponding Associations to which the application can be referred, unless the sanction of the Administrative Committee has been previously obtained.

Lord William Compton said he had suggested the addition because he objected to a hard and fast line; there should be power to pursue an inquiry if there were sufficient means.

After some discussion, the recommendation as amended was adopted.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.

Mr. A. H. Hill asked leave to modify his resolution on this subject, in accordance with a suggestion which he had received from Lord Lichfield, so far as to substitute 'to facilitate the proper application of the law,' for 'to promote a more efficient administration of the law.' It would then read:—

That, in the opinion of this Council, the principles of the Charity Organisation Society cannot be fully and effectually applied pending the stricter administration of the Poor Law, more particularly in reference to the question of out-door relief, and that the Committees of this Society be recommended to take every means in their power to facilitate the proper application of the law.

The Society had now been working side by side with the Poor Law for some years, and had always hoped to bring about a clear division of cases with it. He learnt, however, that some Committees not unfrequently supplemented parish relief, and relief was given in such small amounts and so capriciously under the present mode of administration, that it was hard to abstain from this. The Society had learnt, too, how hard it was permanently to remove any who had had the fatal taste of parish relief. It was the duty of the Society, under these circumstances, to urge closer adherence to the Act of 1834. Then, as to the imperfection of the inquiries made. The Relieving Officers admitted that their numbers were so insufficient as to make it impossible for them to inquire properly. He could not admit that because there had been a reduction in pauperism no more should be done. The reduction was in great measure due to the Act of 1834, and the same line should be adhered to. The law of settlement and the laws affecting vagrants needed improvement. As to the latter, the public should be satisfied that a destitute person would receive absolute necessities at any hour of the day. This would take away all excuse for begging. He was satisfied that independence had been so sapped by the operation of the Poor Law, that all social reforms were impossible till this was improved.

Mr. Edgcombe must, as a guardian, express his concurrence in all Mr. Hill had said. Investigation was necessarily nugatory, from the size of the Relieving Officers' districts. The Poor Law was, to his thinking, the largest and most mischievous relief agency in London.

Mr. Lavers Smith would move as an amendment the insertion of the words, 'while recognising the inexpediency of limiting Poor Law relief entirely to the workhouse.' He wished to make it clear that the Council was not committing itself to any extreme opinions.

Dr. Hawksley suggested the addition of the words 'at present' to the amendment; the Society was not yet sufficiently developed to give the Poor Law the assistance which it might some day be able to give it.

Miss Octavia Hill suggested that the subject ought to be referred to a Committee. She understood that an inquiry had recently been made in an East London Union into the condition of a number of persons from whom parish out-relief had been taken, and that a large proportion were found to be doing as well or better than when they had it.

Sir Charles Trevelyan agreed that the Poor Law was the great obstacle to the formation of provident habits, and to the free circulation of labour. But the resolution was inadequate; it did not point out how the Society's system was to be brought to bear on the evil.

Mr. Peto thought that the resolution might do some good, but that a Committee would do more good. More than 42 per cent. of the total expenditure on the poor was out-relief, against 20 per cent. in-relief.

The Secretary submitted that if a Committee was required to consider the subject in all its bearings, this should originate with Guardians. The Conferences of Guardians were now well organised, and could easily form such a Committee. If the object were to consider what the Society could do to assist Boards of Guardians, he would suggest a reference to the Sub-Committee on Visits to Offices, which would, he believed, report in October, and would, no doubt, in any case allude to this important part of the work of the District Committees.

It was ultimately moved by the Rev. W. H. Langhorne, and agreed, that it be referred to the Administrative Committee to consider and report upon the best means of carrying out the objects of Mr. A. H. Hill's resolution.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, July 3, 1875:—*Donations*: Miss M. A. C. Prince, £1. 1s.; Miss F. A. Hoare, £2. 2s.; Hon. Mrs. Swinton, £1; W. Needham, Esq., £1. *Quarterly*: Hon. W. Warren-Vernon, £5. *Annual*: Horace Broke, Esq., £2. 2s.; W. Fuller, Esq., £2. 2s.; Stephen Fuller, Esq., £10; A. Oakes, Esq. (per J. Hornsby Wright, Esq.), £1. 1s.; G. W. Bell, Esq. (1874 and 1875), £2. 2s.; J. Elliot, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. Bevan, Esq., £2; J. Spencer Phillips, Esq., £1. 1s.

The following business stands for Monday, July 12:—

To consider recommendation of the Administrative Committee:

That a grant be made to the Bethnal Green Committee.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by		Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under the Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.	
Kensington	4	2	7	13	1	..	..	1	3	17
Fulham	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	3
Paddington	3	1	4	..	3	..	..	4	1	19
Chelsea	3	..	3	..	..	1	1	1	3	6
St. George's:	1	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
St. George's Division.	1	2	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Westminster do.	1	2	3	1	4	2	7	6	2	23
Westminster:	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
St. James' & St. Anne's	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
St. Marylebone	1	6	7	..	2	8	10	..	1	18
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North St. Pancras and	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Highgate	1	1	2	..	6	6	..	..	..	8
South St. Pancras	2	3	5	..	8	1	9	..	1	17
Islington	5	2	7	..	9	2	11	..	..	18
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	2	2	..	4	4	2	..	2	8
Strand	..	3	3	..	4	4	..	1	1	8
Holborn	1	1	2	..	1	2	..	..	..	5
City	1	2	3	1	2	3	..	1	1	7
Shoreditch	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	3	8
Bethnal Green	1	2	3	..	1	1	..	1	1	7
Whitechapel	1	2	3	..	2	1	3	1	1	7
St. George's-in-the-East	1	..	1	..	2	1	3	..	1	5
Stepney	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
Mile End Old Town	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	2	4	6
Poplar	1	..	2	..	2	..	..	1	1	5
*St. Saviour's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Newington	3	1	4	1	1	3	4	1	1	19
*St. Olave's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lambeth:—	1	1	2	4	1	..	1	2	1	8
North	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney	1	..	1	..	1	..	2	1	3	5
Battersea	1	2	3	..	1	1	1	1	2	6
Clapham	..	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	2	4
Camberwell:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grove Lane	..	1	1	..	..	3	..	1	4	8
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greenwich	2	3	5	..	..	1	..	1	6	10
Deptford	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	1	3	6
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	29	22	52	103	6	53	21	80	37	9
										7
										11
										64
										247
										142
										120
										119

* No return received from these Committees at time of going to press.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of June 1875 was 32,899, and 52,334 received out-door relief, making a total of 85,233. This was a decrease of 180 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,179, 16,169, and 20,893 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 511. This was a decrease of 61 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 173 on the corresponding day of last year.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the blind its twenty-eighth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central

were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), the Hon. Col. Fyers, Col. Mansfield Turner, Messrs. T. Clarke, D. W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, C. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. I. G. Martin Tait, W. M. Wilkinson, Messrs. Comyn, Hutchinson, Bert Wood, Visitors, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary. Committee took Head V. into consideration:—"What provision exists for the support of the Blind not able to maintain themselves by their own industry, and what improvements, if any, are desirable on which funds for this purpose are administered?" Statement by Mr. Clarke with reference to the Christian Blind Relief was read, showing that the Society granted pensions of 2s. 6d. per week, per month to needy blind persons of good moral character, in of London, without restrictions as to age or religious qualification. resolved on Mr. Harris' motion—

the Committee recommend that the name and address of each helped should be inserted in the Annual Report of the Institution by which he or she is being assisted.

MISSIONS OF A VAGRANT.—The following letter is from the same a letter printed in the *Reporter* for May 29th, 1872. Brine is years of age, and was educated at the Charity school of Sherborne apprenticed to a butcher in that town. He has made a livelihood a mendicant during the greatest part of his life; he writes a good and is a man of considerable attainments. In the Poor Law Report issued in the year 1848, a list of fourteen convictions, between 1831 and 1847, will be found registered against him. In the letter to Brine confessed to having been in gaol more than one hundred He is at present an inmate of the Sherborne workhouse:—

'Sherborne Workhouse: April 12th, 1875.

My dear Sir,—In compliance with your request, I will now endeavour to tell you some forms of "lurk" in which I myself have been an actor. I find that the "bereavement lurk" is a lucrative one—(i.e.) the pretence of a wife, leaving me with a young and helpless family to support. I used the following scheme for the first time in Manchester:—I obtrude children, two girls and a boy, between the ages of five and ten, of their parents, at a common "padding ken" in Blakeley (now Charter Street) for three shillings, to "stand pad" with me, from nine o'clock until twelve p.m. on a Saturday. I agreed to give the children plenty to eat before starting, and some pence for themselves when needed; so after the children had been well washed and clean pinched on them, and had been plentifully regaled with bread and butter and I had taught them their lesson (which was a very short one); I provided a placard to place on each of their breasts, with the "Motherless" written in large letters upon it, we sallied forth on our way, and took up our position at one of the entrances to Shudehill and there "stood pad"—(i.e.) stood with the children by me, and speak unless I was spoken to. I had frequently to answer questions how long the wife had been dead, &c., but was not otherwise troubled with. In five hours I had more than 30s. given me in silver per. I should think I drank at least a shilling's worth of rum the time; besides buying some cakes &c. for the children, and hem fourpence each for themselves, I had £1. 8s. odd for myself. Another time I tried the same game at Sunderland, with two children but one of them was too old for me. I should think she was between eleven and twelve, and in the midst of my performance she became very, when I gave her a slight slap on the shoulders as a correction, inflamed her Irish blood to fury. She called me "rogue, rascal, &c." &c. (she told the truth). She said her father was dead, and as not her father; that I had paid her mother half-a-crown for her and sister for the evening, and that her mother was getting drunk for money. This was about nine o'clock, when I was taking money and I was compelled to "pitch the crack" (discontinue the game) make tracks" the same evening towards Durham, with only seven or eight shillings, which I fully expected to have doubled, and perhaps

her lurk I tried was the cripples', at Holywell, Flintshire, N.W., a famous spring called St. Winifred's Well. Tradition says that it was beheaded on a hill above the spring, where St. Winifred's now stands; and that the head, after decapitation, rolled to the

long expression among thieves and begging-letter impostors, denominated the Welsh *llerc*, a fit of loitering.—C.J.R.T. Begging-house; literally, a house for travellers on foot, from the Latin *ped*, a footpath, and the Persian *khan*, a house.—C.J.R.T.

bottom of the hill, and where it stopped the well sprung up. Be this as it may, many people—it is said—have derived great benefit from the water, by drinking it, and from bathing in it. It is said to be infallible in relief of rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, &c. So I took it into my head to simulate rheumatism for a time; so one day I said to the woman who was with me, "Let us go and see what we can do at Holywell." At this time we were at Rhyl. She consented, and after maturing our plans, the next day we started to Holywell, where we took a small furnished room upstairs, in a back room at a cobbler's, for 3s. a week. We told them we were come from the West of England for the benefit of the celebrated waters, as we were both suffering from rheumatic pains, and had been advised to try whether the spring would do us any good. So having paid a week's rent in advance, the next day we commenced operations. We soon found out the names and residences of the most benevolent persons, and succeeded beyond our expectations.

The following morning we bathed at the spring. A man is kept there to attend males, and a female attends females. I went there, supported on two sticks, but I subsequently got a crutch. I pretended to be much worse than my wife (?) She was afflicted in the arms; I in the legs. We continued this game for a few days, and then ladies came to see us at our lodgings, and never leaving without a donation. Some days we got as much as 10s. a day, besides wine, porter, mutton, cakes, &c., and books to read. I carried on this game for five weeks, living on the fat of the land, till one unfortunate day I sent my wife for a half-pint of rum, which so exhilarated us that we got another; after which I insisted on having a dance together in the room, which through our operations and jumps brought down part of the plaster of the ceiling underneath us, on the table where the cobbler and his wife were at tea. It was an old ricketty house, and the man told me afterwards that, hearing the rumpus overhead, he and his wife had gone upstairs and seen us dancing together for a quarter of an hour before the ceiling fell. When I got down stairs I found the room half full of the neighbours, to whom the cobbler and his wife had given the intelligence about the dancing cripples. This, together with the row about the damaged ceiling (it was a large piece of plaster; I should think it was 16 or 20 feet in circumference), made me resolve to "hook" it at once, for the news had spread like wildfire.

I then hastily told my wife she would meet me at a certain place in Benjenson Street, Liverpool, and having given her some money, I started at once for Chester (17 miles), which place I reached within four hours, and the next day I reached Liverpool, where the woman found me two days after.

'There are many "lurks" which I have not now the time or space to dwell upon; neither have I time or opportunity just now to say much about pseudo-doctors; but another week, sir, if you please to forward me (per Mr. Jelfs) another stamped envelope, I will do my best for your information.

'I remain, Honoured Sir, with the greatest respect,

'Your unworthy servant,

'GEORGE ATKINS BRINE.'

'P.S.—There are many remarks I should like to make respecting vagrancy. *Imprimis*, the motive-power must be stopped before the machinery can be brought to a stand-still. People who indiscriminately give alms are far more to blame than the recipients. Until this truth be widely known and acted upon, mendicity will flourish. This, and this alone, is the greatest obstacle that impedes your progress, although, I should say, not an insurmountable one. 'G. A. B.'

The events chronicled in this letter happened about twenty years ago, and though there may be here and there embellishments of the truth, inquiry seems to show that the account given is substantially accurate.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT SANITARY ASSOCIATION.—The first meeting of the Committee of this Association, says the *Liverpool Courier* of June 29; was held last night, at the Town Hall, Waterloo. Seven members attended. The Committee decided to adopt the Dale Street Registration District, which comprises Exchange and St. Paul's Wards—parts of Districts 7 and 10 of the Nursing Institution. The following is the estimate of the population and mortality for 1871-2-3-4:—

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000
1871	23,913	985	41.1
1872	23,454	760	32.2
1873	22,995	735	31.9
1874	22,550	908	40.2

The average death-rate for this district during the last four years is 5.4 per 1,000 higher than for the whole borough. The Committee next proceeded to settle the rules, which were agreed to. The Committee considered the suggestions for visitors. After some discussion, a small Subcommittee was appointed to prepare a manual for visitors, with the assistance of the lady visitors of the Association. The hon. secretaries were authorised to obtain a map of the district, to subdivide it into sub-districts for visiting, each to contain about 100 families, and to arrange as to the engagement of an assistant nurse in the district.

RELIEF IN AID OF WAGES.—'To that order of philanthropy which thinks and acts much more from impulse than from reason, the termination of the Marks case should be productive of feelings of unmixed gratification. This good woman was manifestly industrious, honest, and unfortunate. She was treated with that which ostensibly appeared to be harshness, very narrowly verging upon downright cruelty. She was subjected to a criminal prosecution, when, from the immediately philanthropic point of view, she should have been rewarded for her laborious perseverance and for the intensity of her maternal affections. Yet is there another kind of philanthropy of which the operation is rather remote than immediate, and which is prone to investigate causes before it too hastily deduces conclusions from events. To such thinkers—commonly called economists—the actual story of Mrs. Marks has been as puzzling a problem as that propounded in the clever fiction of "Ginx's Baby." Parliament, justice, the press, the School Board, the Local Government Board, and the public at large, have all been called upon to say what they thought about Mrs. Marks and her babies. The public have given direct and impulsive expression of their opinion on the subject by subscribing forty-three pounds for the benefit of the distressed needlewoman; but doubt, uncertainty, and to some extent dissatisfaction, may reign in the minds of some persons—dissatisfaction, not at the manner in which the case has, for the present, terminated, but at its having occurred at all. The poor woman—whose husband is sorely afflicted, and who cannot be too highly commended for her efforts to maintain herself and her children in respectability and independence—was earning, by working at her needle for something like twelve hours a day, a pittance amounting to a little under a pound a week. But this was insufficient to maintain her and her family. Keeping her respectability intact, she was forced to sacrifice a portion of her independence. She shuddered at the thought of going into the workhouse; but she was glad to accept weekly outdoor relief. Mrs. Marks was, therefore, to use plain language, an outdoor pauper; and this fact, which cannot be blinked or slurred over, is in itself a convincing and a shameful proof of the blundering confusion in which the whole question of the administration of the English Poor Law still remains. . . . Touching outdoor relief, it is scarcely possible to controvert the position that such aid is misapplied and abused, when it serves only to swell the wages of those who can work, who are willing to work, and who do work from morning until night, but who will never gain more than starvation wages so long as employers know that the 'sweating' to which their operatives are subjected will be partially compensated by the parish dole.'—*Daily Telegraph*.

THE OXFORD CHARITY ORGANISATION ASSOCIATION ON TRAMPS.—'In the matter of tramps,' says the last Report, 'the operations of the Society have been confined during the past nine months almost entirely to the task of investigating the stories of such of them as have been brought under their notice. The result of these investigations has been only to confirm their belief in the correctness of the conclusion to which their previous inquiries had brought them, that it is not desirable that persons of this class should, as a rule, be relieved in any other way than through the workhouse. Almost every story sifted by them proved, upon investigation, to be absolutely fictitious. One thing, however, besides investigating their stories, the Society does for vagrants—it supplies them with bread to be eaten on the premises, and a considerable number of persons have been thus relieved during the past nine months. This supply of bread tickets (which can be obtained by all subscribers), seems to meet the one real grievance which the vagrant class has to urge—the difficulty of obtaining food between the time when they are discharged from one workhouse in the morning and admitted into another at night. In the few instances where, after investigation, the Committee have found help needed and likely to do good, they have given relief on a scale scarcely possible under the old system. Surprise has been expressed in some quarters that the Society has not been more successful in repressing begging altogether than it has at present proved itself; but its powers are necessarily very limited—the police can do no more than any private individuals in this direction; but so long as Oxford continues to be the "happy hunting ground" it at present is for them, so long will beggars continue to abound: the remedy rests mainly with the public themselves. The Committee would once more urge upon them that, in giving help in this thoughtless way to those of whom they know nothing, they are at once doing in most cases harm to those who receive their alms, by robbing them of self-reliance and self-respect; and a great wrong to those who are attempting by honest labour to earn their own living. If only anyone begged of will take the trouble to take down the beggar's name and address and forward them to the Society's office, the Committee will undertake that, if not a fit case for the workhouse, the applicant shall be relieved to the very best of their power.'

'INSTITUTIONIZED.'—A manager of one of the large charities in New York used a very significant term when describing his work to the Committee of the State Charities Aid Association. He said, 'We have a word of our own when a child stays too long in the building; we say that he becomes "institutionized."'

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 146.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 14, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

The Office of the St. Pancras (South) Committee will in future be open from 10 A.M. to 12 only and not from 4 P.M. to 5.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir A. Gordon, Dr. Anderson, *Kensington Committee*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., T. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; W. W. Moore, Esq., Hon. R. C. Moreton, Esq., *St. George's*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; Miss Collett, *South Pancras*; T. B. Spencer, Esq., *Islington*; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, *St. Giles*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; Rev. J. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. Lavers Smith, Esq., *Whitechapel*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; F. Du Pre Thornton, Esq., *Islington*; C. E. Machen, Esq., *St. Olave's*; J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; J. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley, C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*; Col. 25. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

Mr. Lavers Smith called attention to the resolution which had been entered on the minutes, as agreed to at the end of the discussion on Mr. A. H. Hill's motion about out-relief.

The Secretary said that he had been guided by a resolution which had come into his hands at the end of the last meeting, and which he believed to be the resolution moved by Mr. Langhorne.

The Chairman said that Mr. Langhorne had only moved that the subject be referred to the Administrative Committee for consideration and report. He had not wished to commit the Council to the objects of the resolution.

The minutes were altered accordingly.

The Secretary stated that the Mile End and Stepney Committees had applied to him for Letters to Sea-side Convalescent

Homes for suitable cases, but that he had not been able to supply them.

A letter was read from Kensington, mentioning that a person, about whom that Committee had been asked to inquire for the Children's Hospital, declined to allow the Committee to verify her statements, and added that she preferred subscribing to a Provident Dispensary; this they understood she had done.

BOOTS AND CLOTHES.

A letter was read from the Rev. J. H. Jenkinson, Hon. Secretary of the Reading Charity Organisation Association. It had been delayed on its way in consequence of the absence abroad of the member of the Council to whom Mr. Jenkinson had written. The essential portion of the letter was as follows:—

I see by the *Reporter* of June 2nd that you have had a discussion on the question of supplying clothes, as a gift, to the children of parents who, being compelled to send them to school, allege that they have not sufficient clothing for them to go in, and are without the means of providing it. I am much surprised to find that such a proposition did not meet with a more decided protest, and I heartily endorse the remarks of Mr. McGachen made in opposition to the proposal. My own experience in the matter leads me to say that it is productive of unmixed evil, that it entirely fails in its object, and that it encourages everything which makes homes wretched and children ragged, and is a distinct premium upon unthriftiness and improvidence. The way in which we have endeavoured to deal with the difficulty here is by a Committee (of which I am the Chairman), which has now existed for three years, and which was called at starting the 'Destitute Children Aid Committee,' a name which expresses our first intention better than our subsequent practice, as those who are most destitute are always those whom it is most difficult to help without doing more harm than good.

Our principle is to require repayment by small weekly sums for everything we supply (almost entirely boots), and those who do not, being considered able, make any attempt at repayment we do not help again. In most cases we do not make them repay quite the whole amount, but often they are quite willing to do so, and it is always possible to regulate this according to the merits of a case, and in one which is very poor and deserving to remit a large portion, and to make things almost a gift while preserving the principle. We never give more than one pair of boots at a time, nor a second pair till the first are paid for. One use of our Committee is that the excuse of 'no shoes to go in' does not avail the parents when summoned for not sending their children to school, as it is known that if they are deserving they might have got help from us.

The only change I am anxious to be made is gradually to require prepayment instead of repayment. It is quite as easy for the poor themselves, and much better for them; their difficulty being not to find the small sum weekly, but to find the whole cost of a pair of boots at once. Thus it would become a provident club, and the existence of such a club or clubs is really all that is wanted to meet the difficulty. There are very few deserving parents who could not by their help provide sufficient clothing for their children, and exceptional cases might be dealt with by private charity, while it would mark out and enable pressure to be put upon that class that is always found in greater or less numbers everywhere, which nothing will induce to do anything for itself, and which all experience teaches that it is therefore impossible to help.

EMIGRATION.

Mr. A. H. Hill called attention to the inexpediency of encouraging men who were already in employment to seek for charitable contributions to enable them to emigrate. The

best test, he added, of a colony being really in need of labour was its willingness to give free passages.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending July 3 the receipts had been £31. 12s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £536. 6s. 7d. and £161. 11s. 3d. respectively.

And that they had directed that Messrs. Spottiswoode should be requested to keep a form in type which had been used by some of the District Committees for obtaining returns from District Charities, so that others might obtain it.

A grant of £35 was made to the Bethnal Green Committee on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, July 10, 1875:—*Donations*: Caesar Hawkins, Esq., £3; Miss Olive Talbot, 5s. *Annual*: W. H. Birley, Esq., £1. 1s.; R. W. Graham, Esq., £1. 1s.

The following business stands for Monday, July 19:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:

1. That the Committee on the Blind be authorised to put their draft report in type before finally adopting it.
2. That a grant of £35, in addition to £20 recently granted, be made to the Mile End Old Town Committee.
3. That a grant of £50 be made to the North St. Pancras (and Highgate) Committee.
4. That a grant of £25 be made to the St. Giles Committee.
5. That a grant of £20 on account be made to the Islington Committee.
6. That a grant of £20 on account be made to the Stepney Committee.

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, June 26, 1875:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Elton	Glasgow	Horham	Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbleton	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	5	3	..	..	35	1	2	..	1	6	..	..
2. Undeserving	25	24	10	1	84	2	..	6	5	6	2	1
3. Cases for Poor-law, or otherwise ineligible	14	20	2	1	7	1	..	7	3	17	..	4
	44	47	12	2	126	4	2	13	9	29	2	5
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	8	0	..	5	24	..	..	6	..	..	1	..
3. Private Persons	6	8	8	2	27	..	..	2	2	2	1	..
	22	10	8	7	51	..	..	10	2	2	2	..
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	61	19	6	2	4	7	..	15	3	81	2	2
2. Loans	..	..	1	4	1	..	..	9	..	6	1	1
3. Employment	3	..	2	6	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
4. Letters for Hospitals, &c.	..	17	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
	64	36	9	13	7	7	2	25	3	87	4	3
	130	93	29	22	184	11	4	48	14	68	8	8
Reports sent out	10	50	..	..	68	..	..	37	..	..	3	4
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	3	12	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..
Vagrants dealt with	18	673	19	381	..	25	236	96	10	48	724	..

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of June 1875 was 32,661, and 51,937 received out-door relief, making a total of 84,598. This was a decrease of 635 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,089, 16,219, and 20,401 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 334. This was a decrease of 177 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 245 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by		Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with						
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total					Grants Loans Employment Letters for Hospital, &c.	Class total				
Kensington	2	3	2	7	..	1	2	3	5	8	13	23	7	1	2	
Fulham	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	4	3	4	
Paddington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	1	7	..	..	
Chelsea	2	..	1	3	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	5	2	6	
St. George's:—																
St. George's Division.	3	3	3	6	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	4	16	2	..	
Westminster do.	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	5	2	2	9	20	2	..	..	
Westminster:—																
St. James & St. Anne's	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	15	3	
St. Marylebone	2	1	4	..	13	4	17	..	2	1	3	24	2	5	..	
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	5	3	8	..	10	..	10	..	1	1	2	20	2	2	
South St. Pancras	5	2	4	11	..	22	3	25	..	..	1	1	37	2	4	
Islington	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	37	5	..	20	
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	1	2	..	6	6	2	1	..	3	..	11	1	6	..	
Strand	..	3	3	..	4	..	4	1	..	1	..	9	5	4	..	
Holborn	2	3	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	5	34	13	..	
City	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	..	..	1	6	24	1	3	
Shoreditch	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	4	6	1	3	
Bethnal Green	2	1	4	7	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	3	11	1	2	
Whitechapel	2	1	4	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	1	2	6	2	4	
St. George's-in-the-East	1	3	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	
Stepney	1	1	2	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	4	4	2	..	
Mile End Old Town	..	3	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	
Poplar	..	1	1	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	3	1	11	..	
St. Saviour's	3	3	1	7	..	3	3	2	1	2	5	15	1	5	..	
Newington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. Olave's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Lambeth:—																
North	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	5	1	3	..	
South	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	1	1	4	
Battersea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	3	1	
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Camberwell:—																
Grove Lane	..	3	3	..	6	6	1	..	..	1	..	10	..	..	..	
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Greenwich	1	2	3	..	1	..	1	2	1	1	4	8	1	..	1	
Deptford	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	4	6	6	..	4	
Woolwich	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	5	..	..	..	
Lewisham	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	..	1	
*Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	2	..	1	3	
Total	30	21	49	100	3	71	13	87	35	18	14	16	82	269	123	135

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

THE SIZE OF LONDON.—How can we conjure up an adequate conception of the mighty multitude of buildings with which this bricken county of a capital is covered? Well, if we have but a misty idea of a mass in its integrity, at least we can arrive at a clearer sense of length in its continuity. Now, half a million houses having an average frontage of five yards each would form an unbroken line of buildings which would be just upon 1,300 miles long; and 1,300 miles of dwellings would be nearly sufficient to form one continuous row right round the entire island of Great Britain, from John o'Groats to the Land's End, and from the Land's End to the North Foreland, and from the North Foreland back again to John o'Groats. Or, what is more striking still, such a line of buildings would be more than enough to make one long street stretching right across Scotland, England, France, and Switzerland, from Dunnet Head in Caithness, to the banks of the Mediterranean. If, then, such be the mere length of the aggregate houses in London, it may be readily conceived that the streets of the monster metropolis should be some thousands in number: and, accordingly, we find that there are upwards of 10,500 different streets, roads, lanes, gardens, and parks; squares, ovals, polygons, crescents, circuses, and terraces; villas, buildings, rows, and places. In comparison with our other large cities London contains nearly eight times as many people as the united towns of Manchester and Salford, and the same proportion as regards Liverpool; nine times as many as Glasgow; twelve times as many as Birmingham; fourteen times as many as Dublin; and upwards of twenty times as many as Edinburgh; while, compared with the four constituent portions of the United Kingdom, the number of people located in the metropolis is about one-sixth that of the entire population of England; two thirds that of Ireland; rather more than the aggregate population of Scotland; and nearly thrice as many as the whole of the people in the whole of Wales.—*Builder*.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its twenty-eighth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), the Hon. H. Walpole, Col. Fyers, Col. Mansfield Turner, Messrs. D. Conolly, W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, C. A. Minor, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, W. M. Wilkinson, Mr. Hutchinson, Visitor, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Committee resumed consideration of Head V.:—‘What provision at present exists for the support of the Blind not able to maintain themselves by their own industry, and what improvements, if any, are desirable in the system on which funds for this purpose are administered?’

It was resolved:

‘That the Committee are of opinion that charitable relief to the able-bodied Blind in small sums, should be as a rule discouraged, but that *substantial* help, in well-authenticated cases, and especially where aid in business or at the commencement of industrial or other occupations might be of permanent value, should be one of the chief objects to be aimed at; and that all trustees of public charity for the Blind should so co-operate and communicate with each other as not unintentionally to overlap in dispensing the money of which they are put in trust.’

DORSET MENDICITY SOCIETY.—The number of Vagrants relieved in the 13 Unions of Dorset for the half-year ending 30th June last amounted to 1,182 against 1,368 in the corresponding period of last year, showing a reduction of 13 per cent. on the first six months of 1874, and of 80 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1869.

CONFESSIONS OF A VAGRANT.—The following letter may be considered as a continuation of one from the same writer printed in the *Reporter* of last week:—

Sherborne Union Workhouse: April 19, 1875.

Honoured Sir,—I duly received your note of the 15th inst., to which I now reply. I commence with the quack doctors. In the first place, I must tell you that I never engaged in the dirty business on my own account. I have been a tool in the hands of others. The first time it was in Yarmouth. A quack who was lodging at the same ‘ken’ with me asked me if I was willing to earn a couple of shillings easily. I replied in the affirmative. This was to come into the market-place in the afternoon, while he himself was expatiating on the virtues of his infallible medicines, and purchase half-a-dozen boxes of the pills, saying that myself and others had derived immense benefit from their use, and that, for the future, I was resolved never to be without them, the money to pay for them having been given me beforehand by the ‘doctor’ (save the mark). Well, I carried out my instructions to the letter, and so well pleased the modern Esculapius, that in the evening he employed me to work for him at a salary of £1 per week, besides travelling expenses. I was now to be initiated in the sublime mystery of compounding the ‘medicines,’ almost invariably ‘pills.’ My duty was to collect the ingredients, and I now solemnly declare that I got them ready made from the sheepfold or the rabbit-warren. Those from the sheepfold had to be considerably reduced in size, after which they were coated with finely pulverized sugar and flour, and, after being dried to a proper consistency, were placed in pill-boxes, which are easily obtained, and then held forth to the dolts who were silly enough to listen to him as ‘American sugar-coated pills,’ purely vegetable, and warranted not to contain one particle of mercury, colocynth, or other deleterious poison, so extensively used by regular doctors. These pills are a sovereign remedy for bilious disorders, liver complaints, dyspepsia, or indigestion, the symptoms of which are learnedly described by the ‘orator’ (which was generally myself), learnt by heart from a medical work by Dr. Buchanan.

When we were travelling in country villages there was no ‘ill which flesh is heir to’ but what my master (blatant ignoramus as he was) would not undertake to cure—worms, piles, tusk or itch, gout, rheumatism, ulcers, fits, &c.; but the naked truth is that he was a greater fool than I; he could not read a paragraph in a newspaper, and could scarcely write his own name. He knew no more about the maladies he professed to cure than a hog; but he possessed in an eminent degree that grand, indispensable qualification, any amount of cheek, and his takings on an average were £10 a week.

I travelled with this man for about four months, chiefly in the eastern counties, when I expressed a desire to leave him, when he immediately offered to raise my wages by giving me 25s. a week, but I would not accept it and left him. I have travelled with three others, all of the same kidney, since that time: suffice it to say that a set of more unprincipled, ignorant rascals never disgraced earth.

Perhaps, sir, you may think that by turning ‘Queen’s evidence’ I am worse than the ones I impeach; but I don’t wish to exonerate myself, for I confess that I am about the most worthless of beings, but the truth ought to be known; poor people ought not to be systematically robbed by quack doctors or any other description of rogue; for rogues, rascals, and liars are the whole fraternity, myself included.

Yours unworthily,
G. A. BRINE.

P.S.—I was born October 29, 1812.

PROPOSED APPLICATION OF THE ARTISANS’ DWELLINGS ACT.—A report on the application of Mr. Cross’s Artisans’ Dwellings Bill to the courts and alleys of Gray’s Inn Lane has been presented to the Holborn District Board of Works, by Mr. L. H. Isaacs, Surveyor to the Board. The area proposed to be dealt with is described as a parallelogram extending from Portpool Lane on the north to Holborn on the south, and from Leather Lane on the east to Gray’s Inn Lane on the west. The length from north to south is 1,100 feet, and the width from east to west 550 feet, making a superficial area of 67,222 square yards, or nearly 14 acres. A little to the north of this site will be found Liquorpond Street, which is to form an integral portion of the new thoroughfare from Oxford Street to Shoreditch, and which will be made 60 feet wide; and again northwards, Little Gray’s Inn Lane, Tethill Street, and Laystall Street, all of which would be widened. The age and general condition of the houses will not admit of any material alteration of the fabrics. The only course open, therefore, is to pull down the property and rebuild. With the exception of St. Alban’s Church, there is no building that need be preserved; and with the exception of that edifice and Brooke Street, which serves as an approach thereto, Mr. Isaacs proposes to take advantage of the clearance to widen such of the remaining streets as are of insufficient width. This thoroughfare, through which there is a large amount of traffic, is little more than 30 feet in width from King’s Road to Holborn, and it is recommended that it should be increased to 50 feet, and but for the extra estimated cost of £20,000, even to 60 feet. Leather Lane it is proposed to make 40 feet wide throughout, the houses on the west side being removed for that purpose until Greville Street is reached, when, with the object of not interfering with Furnival’s Inn, the east side of the road would be taken for the remainder of its length. For a distance of 50 feet this widening of Leather Lane is in the City of London, to which the Artisans’ Dwellings Bill does not apply, but the general powers of the Metropolitan Board of Works would, probably, enable them to deal with this portion of the scheme. Portpool Lane, which forms the northern boundary of the cleared area, would also be made 40 feet wide, and Holborn on the south being upwards of 100 feet in width, the four streets enclosing the parallelogram are thus disposed of. With the exception of Brooke Street, Mr. Isaacs would entirely ignore the labyrinth of small streets, courts, alleys, and places, and, in lieu thereof, would simply cut four new roadways, three of them being as nearly at right angles with the east and west boundary roads as would best suit the plan. One of these roadways would be in continuation of Cross Street, one in continuation of Greville Street, and the two others are intended as approaches to St. Alban’s, one leading from Gray’s Inn Lane to the western end of the church, and the other from the new Upper Cross Street to the existing northern doorway. These approaches would be 40 feet wide and would have a row of trees on each side. Some amount of ground would also be thrown on three sides of the church, and would be planted with trees. A depth of 50 feet is proposed to be taken for building plots next Gray’s Inn Road and Leather Lane, and with the exception of these two frontages the remainder of the space cleared would be devoted to the object of Mr. Cross’s Act. With regard to the numbers who come strictly within the term ‘artisans,’ who would be removed if this scheme were carried into effect, it is shown that, out of the buildings to be demolished, 239 houses contain 1,019 working men’s families, making a total of 3,661 persons. A plan is submitted, showing how the various cleared sites are proposed to be utilised. The blocks of buildings are grouped in such manner as the configuration of the various sites would suggest, care being taken in each instance to get ample courtyards, so as to secure plenty of light and ventilation, and to provide for one of the greatest wants in London—healthful and secure playgrounds for children. In addition to the forecourts shown on the plan, Mr. Isaacs proposes in each instance to carry down the walls of the main buildings, and to construct an arched basement, finishing the floor with asphalt, so as to form covered playgrounds available in wet weather. Five sites are obtained of varying areas, and, when it is stated that these sites contain a total superficies of 300,000 feet, it will be readily seen that provision can be made not only for those removed but for a considerable addition to their numbers. Among the details proposed for the new buildings is the provision of flat roofs for drying-places, and of wash-houses and the necessary apparatus for washing clothes at this level, in order to remove the discomforts of washing being carried on in the dwelling. Mr. Isaacs has no hesitation in saying, after a minute investigation, that the scheme will recoup the cost involved in its execution, save a portion of the outlay in widening streets, which latter may fairly claim to come under the head of a metropolitan improvement.—*Standard*.

INDISCRIMINATE CHARITY.—The children at the South Metropolitan District School at Sutton had thrown to them, by persons passing to and from Epsom on the Derby and Oaks days, coins amounting to no less than £96, amongst which were sovereigns and a large proportion of silver. The managers of the schools have directed that the money shall be employed in giving the elder children a day at the Crystal Palace, and some suitable entertainment to the younger ones.—*Metropolitan*.

ASSOCIATION FOR BEFRIENDING YOUNG SERVANTS.—The following paper has been sent to us:—This Association was formed about a year ago by persons who were much impressed by the frequent failures which occur in the lives of friendless girls in London, when thrown upon the world at an early age without adequate guidance and protection. It was thought that some effort might be made to interest ladies in the young servants living in their own neighbourhood, and especially in those brought up in Pauper Schools, who are as a class more friendless than any other, and who have neither the ordinary inducements towards good, nor the restraints from evil, which home ties bring.

There are peculiar facilities for the assistance of these pauper girls; complete registers of them are in existence, and little more is necessary than for the Managers of the Schools and the Committee of the Association to be placed in communication with each other. Up to the age of sixteen these girls are under official supervision. Besides the inspection of the Relieving Officer, many of the Metropolitan Pauper Schools have made provision for the visiting of these girls in service by the Chaplain or Matron, and it is thought that this important work might, with advantage, be supplemented and carried on beyond the period of inspection by the help of ladies of the Association resident in the neighbourhood.

There are Members of the Association residing in each Metropolitan district. One of these ladies, upon a girl being committed to her care, will call, and endeavour to establish friendly relations with both girl and mistress, taking care not to refer without necessity to the fact of the girl's previous connection with the Schools where it is not already known.

Thus, when a girl at the early and critical age of sixteen passes from under official care, having, as is so often the case, no relations whose protection would be an advantage to her, she would feel that she had a friend at hand who had her welfare at heart. It is feared that often, for want of some such friendly aid, many of these girls drift from place to place, sink lower and lower, and eventually become a burden on the rates.

The Committee hope to establish, if found to be necessary, a Central Home, where young servants out of place may find lodgings and board themselves; and meanwhile ladies who have charge of girls will be requested to recommend them, in the intervals between places, to safe lodgings or Homes already existing.

It is not proposed that any periodical visits should be made except when the mistresses are favourably inclined; in other cases a single visit may, without offence, do all that is required, as it will afford the opportunity of giving the girl and the mistress the name of the lady-visitor to whom either may apply in case of need.

Experience has shown, wherever the trial has been made by timely and not too frequent visits, that the mistresses of these girls are generally ready to welcome the visits of ladies interesting themselves in the welfare of their young servants, and are often glad to take counsel concerning them with any patient listener.

Respectfully submitting these considerations to Boards of Guardians and Managers of Pauper Schools, the Committee offer, on being furnished with the names and addresses of girls passing from under supervision, to place them under the care of some Member of the Association residing in the neighbourhood.

In cases where it may be thought desirable that girls in service who are still under sixteen should be placed under the care of the Committee, they will be glad to undertake to visit them, and will report of them from time to time as may be desired. The name of the lady to whom the girl can be introduced could in such cases be supplied by the Committee to the Board.

A deputation from the Committee will, if desired, attend to give Boards of Management any further explanation with respect to the proposed work of the Association.

Central Committee:—Miss Bousfield, Madame Parkes-Belloc, Mrs. Andrew Charles, Miss Elliot, Mrs. Isa Craig-Knox, Miss M. Shaw Lefevre, Miss Nattali, Miss Sarah W. Stephen; Hon. Secretary—Miss Anne Townshend; Assist. Hon. Secretary—Miss Amabel Thompson. The Office of the Association is at 7 Great College Street, Westminster, S.W.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Report of St. Augustine's Mission, Stepney, by the Rev. W. H. Langhorne, M.A. 1875.

Report of the British and Foreign Blind Association for Promoting the Education and Employment of the Blind. 1875.

State Savings: A Scheme of Universal Competency, by R. Moore James, Public Accountant. S. D. Ewens & Co., 2s. 6d.

Fortieth and Forty-first Annual Reports of the Montreal Ladies' Benevolent Society. 1873 and 1874.

Report of the Committee of the Stewart Institution and Asylum for the Education and Maintenance of Idiot and Imbecile Children, Dublin. 1874.

Harveian Oration, by Dr. Guy Renshaw. 1875.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES of the Charity Organisation Society, and their Offices.

KENSINGTON—39 Holland Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—14 Devonshire Street, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—3 Leinster Street, W.
CHELSEA—5A Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Barnsbury, N.
HACKNEY—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur Street, W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBORN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
SHOREDITCH—56 St. John's Road, Hoxton, N.
BETHNAL GREEN—297 Bethnal Green Road, E.
WHITECHAPEL UNION—194 Commercial Road, E.
ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST—194 Commercial Road, E.
STEPNEY UNION—598 Commercial Road, E.
MILE-END OLD TOWN—116 Mile End Road, E.
POPLAR UNION—129 East India Dock Road, E.
ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK—9 St. George's Circus, S.E.
NEWINGTON—Vestry Hall, Walworth Road, S.E.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, SOUTHWARK—173 Tooley Street, S.E.
LAMBETH—Archbishop Sumner's Schools, Kennington Road, S.E.; and 21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
WANDSWORTH and PUTNEY—The Plain, Wandsworth, S.W.
BATTERSEA—1 Clifton Terrace, High Street, S.W.
CLAPHAM—3 Polygon, S.W.
CAMBERWELL—1 Grove Lane, S.E.; and Meeting-house Lane, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWICH—14 Haddington Terrace, King Street, S.E.
DEPTFORD—Mission Hall, King Street, Broadway, S.E.
WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDENHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards the expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' of the Council. This fund is now nearly exhausted.

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—BY THE—

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THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The *Reporter* will not appear during the months of August and September, as the Council does not meet during those months, though the Administrative Committee sits as usual.

The Secretary of the Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Sea-side or other Convalescent Homes at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, several of the District Committees in the poorer parts of London having suitable cases before them.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: A. H. Hill, Esq. (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, *Kensington Committee*; Major Yard, *Paddington*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., *W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea*; W. W. Moore, Esq., *St. George's*; H. Peto, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; T. B. Spencer, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; C. L. Corkran, Esq., *Whitechapel*; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., *E. Peters, Esq., Stepney*; Edgar Hyde, Esq., *T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell*; Dr. Hawksley, C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 20. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

A letter was read from the Hon. Secretary of the Mile End Committee, urging the importance of the Council doing all it could to help its East End Committees. All the clergy present at a recent clerical meeting had expressed themselves in approval of the principles of the Society, but they had doubted whether the Council would be able to appeal to the public as effectually as individual clergymen.

The Secretary reported that the Rev. S. Bell would under-

take the duties of Hon. Secretary of the St. George's Committee temporarily from the 21st inst.

He stated that a few more volumes of District Committee Reports had been bound up, containing the Report of the Poplar Committee, which had not been ready in time for the previous volumes; also that a few sets of the Reports of some of the affiliated associations and some other provincial societies had been bound, and were about to be sent to the societies which had contributed their Reports.

He reminded the Council that a lady at the head of a large institution near Birmingham had offered, after the 31st of July, to take in two orphan children—a boy and a girl—free, on the recommendation of the Society; and others at 4s. weekly for girls and 5s. for boys; the children to have lost both parents and to be above ten. He had not as yet received any applications.

IMPROVED DWELLINGS.

He reported that Mr. Vigers had recently returned the map which he had been so good as to prepare for the Dwellings Committee, showing all the blocks of improved dwellings in the central parts of London.

Mr. A. H. Hill suggested that it would be easy to reduce and reproduce this map by photography.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending July 10 the receipts had been £5. 7s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £520. 5s. 3d. and £130. 11s. 3d. respectively.

That in pursuance of the permission which Mr. Peek had given, they had requested him to pay a first quarterly instalment of his donation on October 1, to meet the expenses of the preceding quarter, and that they had informed a District Committee, which had written to them on the subject, that all Committees applying for grants from the District Committee Aid Fund would be expected to state what number of cases the Divisional Committee of the School Board had sent to them during the quarter ending September 30, and whether any special expenditure had been incurred in connection with them.

The Report was adopted.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A recommendation was brought up from the Administrative Committee in favour of allowing the Special Committee on the Blind to put its Report in type before finally adopting it.

The Secretary reminded the Council that whilst they reserved to themselves the right of receiving the Reports of Special Committees or referring them back, it was a matter of course that the Report when received should be printed as the Report of the Committee which had made it, and not as the Report of the Council. No question was likely to arise in the present instance about receiving the Report of the Com-

mittee, which had already held thirty meetings and had considered the subject referred to it most carefully, and the Committee would no doubt be able to send up a better Report if the members had it before them in proof.

The recommendation was adopted.

Grants to District Committees were made as follows, after financial statements and estimates for the current quarter had been submitted:—Mile End £35, North St. Pancras £50, St. Giles £25, Islington £20 on account, Stepney £20 on account.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, July 17, 1875:—*Donations*: The Grocers' Company, £100; Sir George R. Philips, Bart., £50. *Annual*: Major-General Bainbrigge, R.E., £1. 1s.; G. D. Ryder, Esq., £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: H. Goschen, Esq., £10; Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co., £10. 10s.

The following business stands for Monday, July 26:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:

1. That Bye-law I. be altered by omitting the words 'and if any meeting fall on or near a public holiday, it shall be open to any member to move that it shall not take place,' and substituting the words 'but it shall be open to members to move that the Council shall adjourn over any Monday.'

2. That a grant of £30, in addition to £20 already granted on account, be made to the Stepney Committee.

3. That a grant of £50 be made to the Holborn Committee.

4. That power be given to the Administrative Committee to make grants to District Committees during August and September.

Sir Alexander Gordon to move (provided that recommendation I. be adopted), that the Council at its rising for the recess adjourn to Monday, October 11, instead of Monday, October 4.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its thirtieth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), the Hon. H. Walpole, Major-General Bainbrigge, Col. Fyres, Messrs. W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, Edmund C. Johnson, C. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, G. Martin Tait, W. M. Wilkinson, Mr. Hutchinson, Visitor, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

It was agreed that the Committee, after its meeting on the 21st inst., should adjourn to Wednesday, October 27.

The draft report was read so far as the conclusions arrived at by the Committee had allowed of its completion, and it was agreed, subject to the approval of the Council, that it should be printed in proof and sent out to members during the recess.

The Committee resumed consideration of Head VI.:—'To what extent should the education and training of the Blind be provided for from the rates or other public sources.'

It was resolved:—That the Committee recommend that the attention of Guardians of the Poor be requested to the powers vested in them under 25 & 26 Vict., c. 43, and 31 & 32 Vict., c. 122, with a view to their providing the indigent blind with the means of learning a trade by attendance at workshops, or of obtaining suitable education and training at the institutions established for this purpose, and that the several institutions be invited to urge that such provision be made in all suitable cases.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Contemporary Review for June, with an Article by Lord Lyttelton on The Poor Laws.

Index of the Streets and Places in the Metropolis.

Fourth Annual Report of the Bâle Voluntary Poor Relief Society and Instructions for Visitors.

Rules of the Prague Board for Poor Relief.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of July 1875 was 32,686, and 50,786 received out-door relief, making a total of 83,472. This was a decrease of 1,126 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,982, 16,557, and 20,809 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 366. This was an increase of 32 on the return, for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 237 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans					Employment	Letters for Hospital, &c.	Class total	
Kensington	4	6	6	16	..	..	3	3	1	..	..	1	20	7	4	1	
Fulham	1	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	4	3	1	..	
Paddington	1	..	4	5	..	4	2	6	8	..	6	2	16	27	14	2	
Chelsea	2	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	6	8	7	..	
St. George's:—																	
St. George's Division.	..	1	5	6	..	1	2	3	1	..	1	2	..	17	4	..	
Westminster do.	3	..	..	3	..	1	1	2	3	1	..	2	6	2	3	..	
Westminster:—																	
St. James's & St. Anne's	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	19	4	
St. Marylebone	2	1	2	5	1	11	1	13	1	..	4	5	23	6	9	..	
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	4	2	6	..	1	..	..	1	7	1	8	1	
North St. Pancras and																	
Highgate	3	1	2	6	..	9	2	11	..	1	..	1	13	..	4	..	
South St. Pancras	5	4	17	26	..	15	2	17	..	1	2	3	46	..	7	..	
Islington	1	..	1	..	3	..	3	..	1	..	..	1	5	..	..	..	
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	..	1	1	..	11	..	11	3	..	..	..	3	15	..	7	..	
Strand	..	1	1	..	2	1	3	2	..	2	..	4	9	5	4	..	
Holborn	..	1	1	..	27	..	27	..	..	..	..	..	28	5	15	..	
City	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	4	2	11	13	
Shoreditch	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	2	3	5	1	..	..	
Bethnal Green	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	1	3	..	4	7	12	1	3	1	
Whitechapel	2	1	1	4	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	6	3	1	..	
St. George's-in-the-East	1	..	2	3	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	2	..	
Stepney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	3	1	..	..	
Mile End Old Town	4	..	1	5	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	6	3	1	..	
Poplar	2	1	3	6	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	7	3	1	..	
St. Saviour's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Newington	1	1	2	4	..	2	2	4	7	..	..	7	15	3	2	..	
St. Olave's	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	2	..	3	..	
Lambeth:—																	
North	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	1	1	..	5	4	7	1	1	..	
South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	7	1	1	..	
Battersea	2	2	4	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	2	7	2	1	..	
Clapham	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	4	5	2	1	..	
Canterbury:—																	
Grove Lane	..	2	2	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	1	..	
Peckham	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	3	..	1	..	
Greenwich	..	..	..	..	6	..	6	..	1	..	1	..	7	1	..	..	
Deptford	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	3	..	5	1	1	..	
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Lewisham	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	..	4	1	1	..	
Eitham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	
Total.....	37	22	67	126	2	107	20	129	45	10	10	28	93	348	110	148	97

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

WHITECHAPEL.—*Impostor.*—The Secretary of this Committee writes that he has heard from several clergymen and others in the neighbourhood that they have been imposed upon lately by a man who professes to have come out of prison and to be a reformed character, requiring a little temporary help for a night's lodging or for tools. He gives the name of Brooks, is said to be marked with small pox, to have large dark eyes, and to wear his hair closely cropped to aid the imposition.

POOR LAW CONFERENCE.—The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Conference for the four Northern Counties is to be held at the County Hotel, Carlisle, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 4th and 5th of August. The chair will be taken at two o'clock, p.m., on Wednesday, the 4th, by the Right Hon. Lord Elington, M.P., and the Committee's Report on the previous transactions of the Conference will be read to the meeting by the Secretary, and its adoption moved after it has been fully considered by the members present. A Paper on the 'Abolition of the Law of Settlement' (the subject recommended to all the different Conferences for discussion by the President of the Local Government Board) will be read by the Rev. Dr. Simpson, of Kirkby Stephen, and the opinion of the meeting taken thereon. Papers on 'The Water Supply of the Country and the Pollution of Rivers' will be read by the Rev. G. F. Weston, of Crosby Ravensworth, and Dr. Page, Medical Officer of Health for Westmoreland, and the subject discussed.

ERRATUM.—In the Weekly Return for North St. Pancras, published in last week's Reporter, read 'not requiring relief 5,' instead of 'undeserving 5.'

METROPOLITAN POOR LAW CONFERENCE.

First annual Conference of London guardians, corresponding to the ones which are held in various parts of the country and send up delegates to a Central Conference held in London every winter, was held at 1 Adam Street, Adelphi, on Monday the 12th inst. The Right Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P. (late President of the Local Government Board) presided, and the meeting was attended by about sixty gentlemen connected with metropolitan boards of guardians, and others interested in the work of these Conferences and the amendment of the Poor

William Vallance, clerk to the Whitechapel Board of Guardians, read the proceedings by reading a paper on 'The Law of Settlement and Removal,' and, in concluding the same, made the following suggestions:—'Now, admitting that, to the extent I have named, evils do exist in the law, I yet submit that it is not expedient to abrogate the law of settlement and removal, but rather that they show ground for an amendment and simplification of that law. And the direction in which a remedy is to be sought is the following: (a) That a pauper's birth should be held to supersede all prior derivative settlements. The working of the law would be simplified, and much hardship to be avoided, whilst the principal occasion of litigation and expense removed. (b) That a birth settlement should (in its turn) yield to a settlement acquired by the pauper after the age of 21 years. (c) That residence within the limits of a parish or union for a period of (say) three or five years should confer a settlement. The removal of a pauper being removed from a locality in which he has resided many years would be entirely obviated by the adoption of a residential settlement, whilst it would be a reasonable application of the principle that those who have benefited by a man's labour should be required to provide for any subsequent destitution of which he might be the subject. It would also tend to equalise the burthen of maintenance of the poor, and render more remote the necessity for recourse to the law of settlements. (d) That a wife or widow should follow the settlement of her present or last husband (as the case may be), and that, until the age of 21 years, a child should follow the settlement of its parent. The adoption of this suggestion would secure families from dismemberment, and would remove one of the most serious evils in the present system. (e) That the emancipation of children should be deferred until the age of 21 years, and that the parish or union in which they were last resident for a period of (say) five years, should be held to be their place of settlement until they had personally acquired it. The effect of this proposal would be to secure a pauper who has attained the age of 21 years removal to a birth settlement from a place in which he may have been his minority industrially resident. I submit these conclusions to the judgment of this Conference. I venture to think we succeeded in showing cause against the total repeal of the law of settlement and removal, and if this is conceded, the only remaining question is, What legislative remedy should be applied to admitted defects? The question which I have indicated appears to me to be justified by the fact that as one which will at once simplify the law, minimise expense, and remove any hardship to the poor.' A considerable discussion, in which Mr. Herring (Camberwell), Mr. E. (Stepney), Mr. Shaen (Lambeth), Mr. Birley (Marylebone), Mr. Hill, Mr. Barnett (Whitechapel), Mr. Seton (St. Pancras), Mr. St. Pancras, Mr. Cull (St. Giles), Rev. T. Duffield (Woolwich), &c., took part—

Stansfeld said the question was one which had been carefully discussed in London, but also in the country, and the time was not improbably when the question must be raised in Parliament; and therefore it was the official purpose for the guardians to meet and discuss the question. He would admit that, as far as the honest labourer was concerned, a case for the entire abolition of the law of settlement; but there were technical difficulties in the way which should make them hesitate. The difficulty in men's minds was the question of the effect it would have on the charges of the poor rates, especially in urban localities. Many felt that were abolished there would be a great influx of voluntary mendicancy to the metropolis, and he could not say that that fear was groundless, but, however, the case of the metropolis only, because other cases were interested. Manchester went in for the abolition, but whose case was different in consequence of the large importation of Irish. If they abolished the law of settlement for England the case would be how were they to deal with Ireland and Scotland, and every time Parliament would have to look seriously at that aspect of the question. He could make up his mind to abolish the law. Another aspect of the question was the danger of delocalising the charges and ending by a rate, and they already had evidence of a tendency in that direction, the speakers had spoken in favour of a national in-door rate. So legislators are concerned they would hesitate for a considerable time in making a question of total abolition. In Mr. Vallance's proposals

he saw clearly an amendment of the law, and as far as he was able to gather from the discussion the general opinion was with him, and especially in his proposition as to the industrial settlement, which would undoubtedly be a great improvement in the law. The right honourable gentleman, after having spoken of the great importance of such conferences, said that although he had no right to speak now for the Local Government Board, he thought he might say, as he had none but friends there, that as there was no jealousy in his time, they would not find any now in that department.

A resolution was then passed expressing the best thanks of the meeting to Mr. Vallance for his paper, and adjourning the consideration of the same to a future meeting. It was also explained that some additional information would be provided in the meantime on the subject, and that at the next meeting a motion would be proposed in regard to the paper.

The Conference then adjourned for an hour.

The Rev. S. A. Barnett, of St. Jude's, Whitechapel, on the re-assembling of the Conference, read a paper on 'Out-door Relief,' from which the *Daily Chronicle* takes the following extract:—'Personally, as a clergyman of a parish, and as a member of the Charity Organisation Society, I have had many opportunities of judging of the circumstances of the people, and I may say that I have found no great distress following the cessation of out-relief. One widow in my parish, who, on withdrawal of out-relief, refused to work in the house, or to allow her children to be sent to the school, complained bitterly for a time that she was left to starve, but she has since found regular work, and now puts 3s. to 4s. weekly in the penny bank. (Hear, hear.) In fact, the more I study the condition of the people, the more I am convinced that the help they most need is the withdrawal of State out-relief. When such action is confined to one or two unions we can only judge of its results on those who experience the treatment; if every union in London would so act we might look for a general improvement. The whole labouring class would then realise that regular work is desirable, and wastefulness a certain source of trouble to themselves. I do hope that the Conference may gradually lead to some such uniform action. The cruelty of irregular treatment can hardly be exaggerated—the poor, left without any certain teaching, seeing relief given to the inhabitants of one side of a street and refused to those on the other, are tempted to rely on chance, and so lose both strength of mind and body. This readiness to trust to chance, this gambling spirit, is a great stumbling-block in the way of all schemes for social improvement, as every one must know who has made any attempt to promote habits of saving and regular work. The evil is, I am sure, as much promoted by irregular administration of the Poor Law as by the doles of the universally abused but never acknowledged indiscriminate almsgiver. The same spirit would, I think, be encouraged by a course much advocated—that the abolition of out-relief should be proceeded with gradually. There is a common idea that a sudden change would bring much suffering on the people, and that, deprived of resources on which they had been in the habit of relying, they would perhaps starve. But they are in the habit of so relying because they have the chance of relief, and so long as that chance exists, however remote it be, they will continue so to rely, and neglect to look for other means of living. Let it be known to-morrow that after a certain date no new application for out-relief will be considered by the metropolitan guardians, and the people would, I think, receive an accession of moral strength not easily imagined, be the action what it may. In conclusion, I can only repeat my belief that both on grounds of economy and humanity, the practice of giving out-relief should be abandoned. I urge that the people's highest good demands the abolition.'

Mr. Longley, late Local Government Board Inspector, said that if he were asked in what manner he should like to see out-relief abolished, he should reply that a day should be fixed, after which no one who had not attained a certain age on that day should be entitled to out-relief. Thus they would raise a generation who did not know out-relief, and of course the guardians would be at work in the meantime to reduce the same as much as possible. The question had been clearly put by Mr. Barnett. There was no doubt that out-door relief meant low wages. He could sympathise with those who had suggested a very stringent mode of dealing with it, but at the same time they must take into consideration what would be said outside, and not go too far all at once. He thought, however, that the present time, when there was such a great demand for labour, would be a very favourable one for taking action on this matter.

Mr. Hedley, Local Government Board Inspector, strongly approved of the principle advocated by Mr. Barnett.

The Chairman agreed with Mr. Longley that out-door relief meant low wages. He thought the example of Whitechapel ought to bear fruit in other unions. He thought they could follow it with success.

A resolution, unanimously agreeing to a vote of thanks to Mr. Barnett for his valuable paper, was passed.

A Committee was then appointed to arrange the adjourned meeting for a further discussion on the law of settlement and removal, to appoint delegates to the Central Conference, and to report on the subject of a permanent organisation.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

THE ARAB CHILDREN OF LIVERPOOL.—The Liverpool School Board, says the *Metropolitan*, are taking decisive measures to deal with the Arab population of Liverpool, and the District Education Committee of the Board have prepared a number of regulations on the subject. These provide that the town shall be divided into two districts, in each of which a 'Divisional Committee' shall be formed, these committees to have the control and management, so far as the powers of the Board extend, of the children selling fuzees, newspapers, or other articles in the streets; that in the Board schools the street children shall be kept distinct from the ordinary scholars and be under separate teachers wherever possible, the hours of attendance for such children being those which will least interfere with their calling, and the fees charged being duly regulated; that if the available accommodation in existing Board schools be deficient, or serious religious difficulties arise, a special school may be built for the street children; and that under certain circumstances good-conduct badges shall be given, to be worn by the children during school hours or when they are pursuing their avocations in the street.

A LONDON STREET ARAB.—Yesterday, Henry Smith, aged nine, was brought before Alderman Knight, at the Mansion House, charged with begging. He was in a most miserable condition, having no shirt on, and in a most dirty state. Mr. Willis, the School Board officer, ascertained that the prisoner had a decent home, but was continually running away and leading a vagabond life. On the present occasion he had been away from home three weeks, and at the time he left was decently clad; but all his good clothes were gone. During the day he begged about the City, and he and a number of other boys were in the habit of resorting to a low coffee-house in the neighbourhood of Thames Street, where a room was kept specially for their use. The prisoner had also a lodging in a thieves' lodging-house in Spitalfields, and here he passed the night. He added that it was contrary to the provisions of the Lodging House Act that a child of the age of the prisoner should be allowed to reside there. Alderman Knight remanded the prisoner for a week, and directed the constable on duty to make inquiries about the coffee-shop that had been alluded to.—*Globe*.

PAROCHIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS.—The following resolutions have been recently adopted by the Committee of the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association, and sent out to the clergy, towards the bonuses on whose Provident Funds the Association has been in the habit of making grants.

1. That the Committee are of opinion that many of the present depositors in Parochial Provident Societies might be induced to place their money in the Post Office Savings Bank, and they venture strongly to recommend to the clergy that they should facilitate transfer of accounts by all means in their power.

2. That it is undesirable that the rules of the Provident Societies should constrain depositors to withdraw their money annually at Christmas, and that the Hon. Treasurer and Secretary be empowered to make such alterations in the cards, forms, and books of the Association as may permit the deposits to be left in till the depositors require them.

3. That henceforward the Committee are not prepared to make grants to any Provident Fund which allows more than 2½ per cent. interest per annum to the depositors.

4. That early notice of the above Resolutions be given to the Managers of Provident Funds, so that due arrangements for the year 1876 may be made by them in accordance with their tenour.

5. That the clergy be informed that the above Resolutions are to be in force until the end of 1876, towards the close of which the Metropolitan Visiting Association will reconsider the question whether the Provident Fund system shall not be abandoned.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY desire to invite the attention of those interested in the work they have in hand to their Collection of Reports of Charities and works of reference on Poor Law and Charity, which may at all times be consulted at the Central Office, free of charge, together with the Reports and Suggestions of the Society on various Social Questions.

The Secretaries are authorised to furnish particulars with regard to Charitable Societies to persons desirous of such information.

The Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, &c., for distribution to suitable cases through the District Committees.

Contributions to the funds of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C.

Draft Orders on Bankers for annual payments until further orders can be supplied to any who wish for them.

Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council.

Publications of the Charity Organisation Society,

To be obtained at the Office of the Society, and through Messrs. Longman, Paternoster Row, and all Booksellers.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY, ITS OBJECTS AND MODE OF OPERATION. Price 3d.

MANUAL CONTAINING A LIST OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND THEIR MODE OF OPERATION. Price 3d. per dozen.

SUGGESTED RULES FOR DISTRICT COMMITTEES. Price 1d.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDEICITY.

No. 148.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 28, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The *Reporter* will not appear during the months of August and September, as the Council does not meet during those months, though the Administrative Committee sits as usual.

District Committees are requested to send in their Weekly Returns as usual during August and September.

Monday, August 2nd, being a Bank Holiday, the Central Office will be closed.

Letters of recommendation to the following hospitals can be obtained from the Secretary of the Council by the Honorary Secretary of any District Committee having suitable cases before it:—

In-patients: Charing Cross, 12; King's College, 18; London, 28; Middlesex, 1; North London, 5; St. George's, 19; Westminster, 8; St. Mary's, Paddington, 1; Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, 1; British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, 2; General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, 2; Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, 1; New Hospital for Women, Marylebone Road, 19; Royal Infirmary for Women and Children, Waterloo Road, 1; Hospital for Women and Sick Children, Vincent Square, Westminster, 1; Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, 10; Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Chelsea, 1; North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, 3; East London Hospital for Sick Children, and Dispensary for Women, 9; Belgravia Hospital for Children, 1; National Hospital for Paralytic and Epileptic, Queen's Square, 33; Royal London Ophthalmic, Moorfields, 4; Royal South London Ophthalmic, 4; Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars, 4; St. John's Hospital for Skin Diseases, Leicester Square, 1; London Homœopathic, 10; Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary, Margate, 1.

Out-patients: Charing Cross, 1; King's College, 25; London, 6; Middlesex, Lying-in Letters, 2; North London, 24; Westminster, 14; Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, 25; City of London for Diseases of the Chest, 23; North London Consumption, 24; Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, 15; New Hospital for Women, 10; Royal Infirmary for Women and Children, 1; British Lying-in

Hospital, 13; City of London Lying-in Hospital, 5; General Lying-in Hospital, 2; Royal Maternity Charity, 10; Hospital for Sick Childrer, Great Ormond Street, 25; North-Eastern Hospital for Sick Childrer, 15; Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, 12; Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis, 1; Royal South London Ophthalmic, 18; Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 3; Royal Orthopædic, Hatton Garden, 7; London Homœopathic, 7; Dental Hospital, 13; Public Dispensary, Stanhope Street, Clare Market, 2; Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Dispensary, 2; Farringdon General Dispensary, 17; Western City Infirmary, 25; City of London Truss Society, 14; Provident Surgical Appliance Society, 2; South Western Provident Dispensary, 1; Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary, Margate, 6.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Major Yard (in the chair); W. Bousfield, Esq., F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; Miss Emma Howes, Fulham; Major Yard, Paddington; Capt. Boyce, R.N., Chelsea; Rev. Samuel Bell, St. George's; Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; T. B. Spencer, Esq., Islington; Reginald Smith, Esq., St. Giles; Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, Holborn; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; Rev. H. P. Kelly, Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Whitechapel; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; George Parker, Esq., Lewisham; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Dr. Hawksley, Additional Member; total, 22. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., Secretary.

A letter was read from the Kensington Committee, stating that Mr. Bousfield and Mr. Waller would be the representatives of the Committee during the absence of Dr. Anderson and Sir Alexander Gordon.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

The Secretary said that he understood that the arrangements at the Children's Hospital were as follows:—The House-Surgeon saw all applicants for out-patient relief. If it appeared to him that a case only needed to be seen once, he gave what was called a casualty paper, which entitled the holder to one attendance only. If more was required he asked the weekly earnings, and, if the reply did not show earnings of more than 30s. a week, he noted this on a hospital letter and gave it to the applicant. This entitled the case to be seen at once, but it had to be taken to a Charity Organisation Committee for verification, and stamped by them before the holder could use it a second time. If an applicant admitted that earnings were over 30s., but said that she wished for a good opinion and could not pay a consultation fee, she would receive a casualty paper. The physicians and surgeons were authorised to give a hospital letter to any case which they thought ought to have one on medical grounds, recording their reason for doing this. The arrangement would be re-considered before the end of the year, and Committees would probably be asked to state their experience of its working in October; in the meantime he understood that the hospital authorities would gladly receive reports from the District Committees with regard to any case on which the 30s. rule seemed to press hardly.

He reported that a copy of the new edition of the Index to Streets and Places in the Metropolis had been presented to

the Office by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and that he hoped that the Board would allow the Society to purchase a sufficient number for the District Offices. They would be of great use in enabling them to pass on applicants residing in other districts, as they gave the civil parish of every street.

QUESTIONS.

Dr. Hawksley asked if anything was known of the Metropolitan Water Supply Association, for which a Mr. J. W. Parker had for some time been collecting. Its professed object was to present petitions to Parliament, praying for a constant water supply.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending July 17 the receipts had been £152. 2s. for the General Fund, and £20. 10s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £590. 11s. 5d. and £17. 1s. 3d. respectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

It was resolved, on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee:

That Bye-law 1 be altered by omitting the words, 'and if any meeting fall on or near a public holiday, it shall be open to any member to move that it shall not take place,' and substituting the words, 'but it shall be open to members to move that the Council shall adjourn over any Monday.' Also

That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to District Committees during the recess to such amounts as may be necessary to carry them on to the end of October, and to transfer necessary sums from the General Fund to the District Committee Aid Fund.

The Secretary stated with reference to the last resolution that, unless some fresh contribution to the District Committee Aid Fund was received by Thursday, it would be necessary to transfer money to it from the General Fund. Several more Committees had sent in applications for grants, or were about to send them in, and the balance in the General Fund was not sufficient both to make these grants and to defray the ordinary expenditure of the Central Office until October. It was to be expected, however, that some moneys would be received during the recess, though contributions at that time were generally few and far between.

Grants to District Committees were made as follows, the bye-laws being suspended to allow the two last grants to be taken without notice, the Administrative Committee having only recommended them on Thursday last:—Stepney, £30, in addition to £20 previously granted on account; Holborn, £50; Shoreditch, £30; Poplar, £50.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Edgcombe moved, in Sir Alexander Gordon's absence: That the Council, at its rising for the recess, adjourn to Monday, October 11, instead of Monday, October 4.

It was pointed out that this would enable members to attend the Church Congress.

The motion was agreed to.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, July 24, 1875:—*Donations*: The Duchess of Cleveland, £2; C. L. Loch, Esq., £3. *Annual*: F. W. Caulfeild, Esq., £4; C. L. Loch, Esq., £2. *District Committee Aid Fund*: H. Goschen, Esq., £10; Messrs. Frühling & Goschen, £50.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of July 1875 was 32,527, and 50,767 received out-door relief, making a total of 83,294. This was a decrease of 178 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,297, 15,800, and 19,217 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 430. This was an increase of 64 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 3 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans					Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.	Class total	
Kensington	3	2	7	12	..	3	3	7	1	5	1	14	29	11	3	9
Fulham	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	6	5	..
Paddington	1	..	3	4	1	3	..	3	3	4	..	10	9	10	2	..
Chelsea	3	1	..	4	..	..	..	2	1	1	1	5	..	..	..	..
St. George's:—																
St. George's Division.	3	1	1	5	..	1	1	3	..	..	3	..	23	11	1	1
Westminster do.	..	..	9	9	..	..	1	3	..	1	4	..	..	4	..	..
Westminster:—																
St. James' & St. Anne's	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	4	..
St. Marylebone	5	..	3	8	..	8	2	10	2	..	..	2	20	4	5	..
Hampstead	1	..	1	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	11	..	1	1	..	2	13	4	1
South St. Pancras	1	1	4	6	..	13	..	13	..	1	..	2	33	4	..	..
Islington	2	3	..	5	..	38	..	38	..	1	..	1	44	..	6	..
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	..	3	3	..	5	..	5	2	1	..	3	11	1	7	..
Strand	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	2	..	1	1	2	5	4	3	..
Holborn	3	10	13	24	..	24	..	24	2	..	..	2	39	6	20	1
City	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	6	8	1	2	..
Shoreditch	1	..	1	2	..	1	..	1	3	..	1	4	6	2	..	..
Bethnal Green	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	3	..	1	4	6	2	..	..
Whitechapel	2	2	4	2	..	3	1	4	..	..	..	..	8	2	4	..
St. George's-in-the-East	2	..	2	2	..	2	..	2	1	1	..	2	8	..	1	..
Stepney	1	..	1	2	1	2	3	5	..	..	..	..	7	6	6	..
Mill End Old Town	2	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	3	7	..	..	..
Poplar	..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	6	..	4	..
St. Saviour's	1	8	9	..	..	3	3	2	2	..	2	6	18	8	3	..
Newington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Olave's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
*Lambeth:—																
North	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	3	4	1	1	..
Battersea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Camberwell:—																
Grove Lane	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	5	10	..	1	..
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Greenwich	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	2	3	..	..
Deptford	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	..
Woolwich	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	4	4	3	..	..
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	2	4	1	1	..
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	..
Total.....	25	17	69	111	4	112	14	130	43	21	14	92	333	114	91	13

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

POPULAR.—Co-operation with Guardians.—The following letter was recently addressed by this Committee to the Poplar Board of Guardians:—'In compliance with the kind invitation of your Board, the Poplar Committee of the Charity Organisation Society beg to submit for their consideration the following suggestions as to the mode in which the Board and the Committee may mutually assist each other in their work:—

1. A continuance of the interchange of information between the Relieving Officers and the Charity Agent, the latter and the Relieving Officers referring to each other in all cases, in order to ascertain whether anything is already known of applicant, and, if so, its purport.

2. The Committee hope that, in all deserving cases, where the Relief Committees are of opinion that temporary assistance may prove of permanent benefit, they will refer applicants to the office of the Committee. The Committee will then investigate and decide upon the cases, if requested, and will send reports to the Relief Committee. The Committee will do their best to procure, or to give from their own funds, adequate assistance for all cases, as far as their principles and resources will allow them.

3. Eventually the Committee hope to be able, if the Board approve, to investigate and report upon all cases on the Out-Relief List, with a view to ascertaining whether any of them can be permanently assisted, or if any further information of value can be obtained.

4. The Committee will welcome, at their weekly meetings, any Guardians as visitors, i.e. without the power of voting.

5. The Committee will, with pleasure, receive requests for election from any individual Guardian who has thus attended three meetings of the Committee, and who can attend occasionally (say once in six weeks).

6. The Committee would be glad if the Board of Guardians would allow any members of the Committee to attend, on their behalf, the meetings of the Relief Committees of the Board as occasion may require.

I am to add that the Committee will be happy to co-operate, in any way

in their power, with the Board of Guardians, and they beg to send with this letter copies of their application forms and rules, which indicate the principles which guide them in investigating and dealing with cases. I am also to say that, from enquiries made of Mr. Ribton-Turner, the Organising Secretary of the Council, they can assure the Board that the 'Charity Organisation Committee' whose proceedings were brought under the notice of Mr. Howgrave Graham was never connected with the Council or with the present Committee. Those gentlemen whose names appear on both the Committees only became members of this Committee (and consequently of the Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity) on or after June 19, 1872, as will be seen from the enclosed numbers of the *Charity Organisation Reporter*.'

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its thirty-first meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Col. Fyers, Messrs. T. Clarke, D. Conolly, R. Bruce Reid, and W. M. Wilkinson, Mr. Hutchinson, Visitor, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Secretary reported that the Council had sanctioned the printing of the draft report, and that so much of it as was ready would be printed and sent to members of the Committee in proof during the recess.

He read a letter from the Local Government Board, giving information as to the number of blind persons in Metropolitan Poor-law institutions.

The Committee resumed consideration of Head VI.:—'To what extent should the education and training of the Blind be provided for from the rates or other public sources?'

It was resolved, on Col. Fyers' motion:—

'That, with a view to providing a sufficiency of well-qualified instructors, blind or sighted, it is expedient that, in like manner as opportunities are offered at institutions supported at the public expense for the training of schoolmasters and mistresses, the necessary means should also be afforded for the training of teachers of the blind to qualify them to impart either mental or industrial education. Such teachers to be furnished, after an examination, with certificates of competency.'

The Committee then adjourned to Wednesday, October the 27th.

THE CHARITIES OF NAPLES.

We take the following extract from a letter received by the Organising Secretary from Mr. Charles J. Calvert, British Consul at Naples:—'It has not been possible for me yet to find out which of the numerous Charitable and Pious Institutions in Naples is so organised as to offer the best prospect of co-operating with yours. The written inquiries which I have addressed to the Syndic of Naples, as the most certain source of information, have hitherto remained unanswered.'

It will give you some idea of the difficulty of the task when I mention that I have before me a list of no less than 120 different Charitable and Pious Institutions and Societies. These consist of Asylums, Hospitals, Archconfraternities, Confraternities, Trusts, &c., but none of them, so far as I can learn, specially occupies itself with the repression of mendicity, or has any general system of charitable relief.

An attempt was made a few years ago to organise a Society with the same object as yours, but it had finally to be abandoned, as well for want of proper support as in consequence of the impossibility of inducing any of the existing Institutions to co-operate.

In 1862 the Municipality of Naples, impressed with the necessity of a salutary reform of the Charitable and Pious Institutions, appointed a Committee for the purpose of studying the question. The task of the Committee was unfortunately never completed; for although they published a report suggesting various schemes of reform and re-organisation of all the Institutions, none were found practicable.

Some of the more numerous foreign communities in Naples (except the British) have organised systems for the relief of their fellow-countrymen. The only British Charity here is that of the English church, in which a collection is made from the congregation at Easter and at Christmas, and the fund, which rarely exceeds £40 a year is administered solely by the chaplain. To meet urgent cases of distress amongst British subjects, I have occasionally set on foot special subscriptions.

I do not, however, despair of eventually organising a British Benevolent Society in Naples; but to render the action of such a Society at all useful it is indispensable that similar Societies should be formed in other Italian cities, such as Rome, Florence, and Genoa; all co-operating upon a common basis with the view to mutual protection against impostors.

CHURCH CONGRESS.—'Charity Organisation, General and Parochial,' is to be discussed at an evening meeting of the Church Congress, at Stoke-on-Trent, on Tuesday, October 6. The subject will be introduced by Mr. Henry Longley, Rev. J. F. Kitto, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

DEPAUPERISATION: being a letter addressed to Lord Lyttelton by Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart. Bentley & Son, 1s.

SANITARY AND SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT:—A paper read at a meeting held in the Town Hall, Waterloo, Liverpool, on June 21, 1875, by Joseph Rayner, Esq., with the Resolutions passed at the meeting.

Third Annual Report of the State Charities Aid Association to the State Board of Charities of the State of New York.

'Homes of the London Poor,' by Miss Octavia Hill, reprinted from the 'Fortnightly Review' and 'Macmillan's Magazine,' by permission of the author, by the State Charities Aid Association, New York.

Fortieth Annual Report of the London Domestic Mission.

Report of the Sub-Committee of Reference and Inquiry, appointed by the National Association for Providing Trained Nurses for the Sick Poor.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Annual Reports of the Munich Voluntary Association for Protecting the Poor.

CHARITABLE RELIEF IN NICE.

From papers recently sent to the Organising Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, by the Bureau de Bienfaisance et Œuvre de Miséricorde, of Nice, it appears that this institution, though it only received its present constitution from the French Government in 1861, was founded as far back as the year 1300. Since that remote period, this charity has, without interruption, carried on its work, in spite of all the vicissitudes through which the town has passed. The papers in question do not give full particulars as to the financial resources of the Bureau, but they explain that they are partly derived from ancient endowments, partly from collections, and partly from lotteries to be authorised by the Prefet. The income from the first-named source is expended, according to the intentions of the founders, for religious or charitable purposes; sums of £120 are thus annually distributed in clothing; £160 in other forms of charitable relief; and £260 for directly religious objects. The oldest of these endowed charities dates from 1625, and is for providing a dowry for any girl of the same name as the founder, and born in a certain district. Special donations, amounting in all to £793, were received during the last financial year.

The town and its suburbs are divided into five districts, each of which is in charge of a Director of the Bureau, with whom are associated male and female visitors—Commissaires-visiteurs and Dames de Charité. Each Director in turn attends at the office for a week, at a certain hour each day, in order to decide upon urgent cases, the decisions being reported to the Bureau at their monthly meetings. The principles that guide the Bureau in the administration of relief may be briefly indicated as follows:—Inability to work or insufficient incomes are considered to be qualifications for pensions: the cases of incurables being included in the first category, and those of persons incumbered with large families of young children in second; temporary assistance is confined to sick and accident cases, to orphans, and to workmen out of employ for a time.

Persons are only eligible for pensions if of good character and unable to work, but those who belong to provident societies appear to be specially excluded; although the Bureau is prepared, on the other hand, in the cases of persons with insufficient incomes, to subsidise their subscriptions to such societies. The Bureau does not recognise children as belonging to a family unless they have been vaccinated or have had the small-pox, and unless they are either at work or at a parish school.

Temporary medical assistance is given, without previous inquiry, to accident cases, to the sick, and to women in childbirth; but the continuance of, or addition to, this form of relief depends upon the report of the medical officer and upon the result of investigation. A dispensary is attached to the Bureau.—H. H. G.

DEATHS FROM STARVATION.—METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.—A recent Parliamentary return (says the *Local Government Chronicle*), moved for by Mr. Talbot, gives the particulars of the deaths in the metropolitan district from starvation &c. during the year 1874. The returns are furnished by the coroners, and eight of the ten give 'nil' returns. The remaining two, Dr. Hardwicke and Mr. Humphreys, return seven and four cases respectively. In not a single instance was the deceased at the time of death in the receipt of out-door relief; but in one case admission to the workhouse had been offered and refused. The returns have been prepared with more care than those of the previous year; but it is still not to be assumed that the deaths are the result of starvation in the ordinary sense of the term. For instance, a man who is stated to be 'aged,' and who dies from 'cancer of the bowels,' and another whose death is caused by 'pneumonia, accelerated by exposure and drink,' are included in the return of Mr. Humphreys. In all the cases there appears to have been some actual disease—such as inflammation, pneumonia, diarrhoea, congestion of the lungs—and it is not easy, therefore, to say how far the deaths were accelerated by want. The returns for 1873 gave 103 deaths from starvation, &c., as against 11 in 1874.

THE STEWART FAMILY.—We learn from the *Times* that on the 17th inst. Eliza Stewart was placed at the bar, before Baron Huddleston, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, charged with forging and uttering a cheque for £200.

It was stated that the prisoner, an elderly woman, who was defended by Mr. Wildey Wright, rang the bell of Mr. Joicey's country house, in the neighbourhood of Gateshead, at half-past six in the evening of Friday, the 19th of March, and asked to see Mr. Joicey, and she was admitted to the library, where Mr. Joicey came to see her. She then told him that she wanted to transmit £2 to her son, one Henry Henderson, at Darlington, to enable him to pay a tradesman there that sum early the next day, and she requested him to give her a cheque payable to 'Henry Henderson' in return for two sovereigns, which she produced, since it was too late to get an order at the post-office. After some consideration Mr. Joicey consented to do so, and wrote out and gave her a cheque for £2 on the Newcastle branch of the National Provincial Bank. At a few minutes before one o'clock on the following day (Saturday, the 20th), at a time of great pressure and confusion in the bank, the closing hour being one o'clock, a man, who could not be identified, cashed Mr. Joicey's check, but it had then been very cleverly altered into one for £200, and the man cashing it obtained that sum. The alteration had been made in the following way:—The initial letters 'p o' of the words 'pounds' had been most skillfully altered into a capital H, formed in imitation of those written by Mr. Joicey in the payee's name, and the final 's' altered into 'red.' The word 'pounds' was then written in very good imitation of Mr. Joicey's writing, and in place of a dash which he had put there, and which had been scratched out, and the figures in the check had been altered with equal ingenuity. On the same day a man who called himself Henry Armstrong put the prisoner into lodgings in a house at Jarrow, where she was apprehended on the 16th of April, the man having disappeared as soon as he had put her into the house. Several Post Office and other Directories and £42 in gold were found in the house where she was apprehended, and when charged with the forgery she burst into tears and said that she had 'got the cheque.' The defence was that there was no proof that the prisoner had any guilty intention herself, or was privy to the forgery, whether committed by her son or some other person; but the jury, after a careful summing-up from his Lordship, convicted the prisoner; and it appearing from the evidence of the detective in the case that the prisoner has four children, all of whom have been convicted of offences—the last being a daughter, who was convicted of attempting to obtain money from Captain Milne Home, M.P. for Berwick, some time ago—and that the family is well known in the North of England as 'the Stewart family,' his Lordship sentenced her to seven years' penal servitude.

** The whole of the Stewart family have long been known to the Charity Organisation Society as inveterate begging-letter impostors. The convict Eliza Stewart is the mother of the family, and was previously convicted at Durham on the 5th of January, 1874, on two charges of obtaining money by begging-petitions at Sunderland.

BEGGING PETITIONS.—At the Bristol Police Court, on the 17th inst., says the *Bristol Times and Mirror*, a decrepit old man of 55, named John Babb, giving his address as 11 Spring Street, Bedminster, was charged with begging by means of a petition. The petition stated that the prisoner had been paralysed for the last five years, and, disabled from getting his living, he had purchased a cow for the support of his wife and family, and on the 24th of last month he had the misfortune to lose it by the foot-and-mouth disease. Having no other means of procuring an honest livelihood, he humbly appealed to the charitable of the city to aid him in his endeavour to procure another. The smallest subscriptions would be most 'thankfully received.' Mr. H. S. Wright, of Clifton Park Lodge, a member of the firm of Wright and Sons, wine merchants, stated the prisoner called at his office with the petition, but as they had been troubled with a great number of similar documents and had found them to be false, he communicated with the Charity Agency. He was informed by them that they had been engaged in making inquiries concerning the man, and they found he was not known at all in the street which he had given as his address. They therefore recommended him to give the prisoner in charge, which he did. P.C. Giles and an officer of the Charity Organisation Society both stated they had made inquiries in Spring Street, but could not find that anything was known of the prisoner. In reply to the Bench the prisoner admitted his offence, and said he was very sorry for it. Some time ago he met a man named 'Gloster Bob,' who, seeing he was paralysed, said to him, 'Why don't you try and get up a little money?' He told him he had never done or thought of such a thing in his life; upon which Bob said he had got his living by it for the last 20 years. The end of it was that he paid Bob 2s. 6d. for the petition. He did not live in Spring Street, but in Catherine Street, and as to a cow he had never had such a thing. Some of the signatures to the petition were written by 'Gloster Bob,' but others were genuine. Mr. Williams said the writer of the petitions had been brought up at the Court and punished himself. Mr. Gore remarked, according to the results of the prisoner's petition, it brought him in about 10s. a week. The Bench sentenced him to one month's imprisonment, with such hard labour as he might be found capable of doing.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES of the Charity Organisation Society, and their Offices.

KENSINGTON—39 Holland Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—14 Devonshire Street, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—3 Leinster Street, W.
CHELSEA—5a Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Barnsbury, N.
HACKNEY—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur Street, W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBORN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
SHOREDITCH—56 St. John's Road, Hoxton, N.
BETHNAL GREEN—297 Bethnal Green Road, E.
WHITECHAPEL UNION—194 Commercial Road, E.
ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST—194 Commercial Road, E.
STEPNEY UNION—598 Commercial Road, E.
MILE-END OLD TOWN—116 Mile End Road, E.
POPLAR UNION—129 East India Dock Road, E.
ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK—9 St. George's Circus, S.E.
NEWINGTON—Vestry Hall, Walworth Road, S.E.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, SOUTHWARK—172 Tooley Street, S.E.
LAMBETH—Archbishop Sumner's Schools, Kennington Road, S.E.; and 21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
WANDSWORTH and PUTNEY—The Plain, Wandsworth, S.W.
BATTERSEA—1 Clifton Terrace, High Street, S.W.
CLAPHAM—3 Polygon, S.W.
CAMBERWELL—1 Grove Lane, S.E.; and Meeting-house Lane, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWICH—14 Haddington Terrace, King Street, S.E.
DEPTFORD—Mission Hall, King Street, Broadway, S.E.
WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDENHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards the expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' of the Council. This fund is now nearly exhausted.

THE SANITARY RECORD:

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 149.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 13, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

District Committees are reminded that their Annual Reports should be made up to September 30, and should be issued not later than December 1.

The Clapham Committee have removed their office from Polygon to 73 Bromell's Road, Clapham Common.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society held their first meeting after the recess at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, *Kensington Committee*; Miss Emma Howes, *Fulham*; Major Prendergast, Major J. C. FitzRoy, *St. George's*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; T. B. Spencer, Esq., T. Burdett Roberts, Esq., *Islington*; Hamilton Hay-Hill, Esq., *Strand*; H. A. Herbert, Esq., Rev. H. P. Kelly, *Moreditch*; J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; A. D. Graham, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; Major-General Bainbrigge, *St. George's*; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, Alsager Hay-Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairmen*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Dr. Hawksley, T. J. Phillips-Jodrell, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 26. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*. C. Roberts, Esq., *Visitor*.

The Secretary reported that Mr. W. M. Alexander had resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of St. George's East Committee.

THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.

He called attention to the action that was being taken under the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Act, and to the scheme lately submitted to the Metropolitan Board of Works, as thoroughly in accordance with the recommendations and

anticipations of the Special Committee on Dwellings; and referred to the great loss which those anxious to promote such improvements had sustained in the death of Dr. George Ross.

NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

Two letters from the City Committee were read, asking whether any member of Council could assist them to get a crippled boy, aged 7, into an institution, or could obtain employment for two elderly men (brothers) who had seen better days.

REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Reports of the Administrative Committee for the eleven weeks ending October 7 were read. The Committee had met every Thursday during the recess, and there had never been fewer than three members present, exclusive of Secretaries, and rarely so few.

It appeared from the Reports, that from the 29th of July to the 2nd of October, the receipts had been £244. 6s. for the General Fund, and £156. 5s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on the 2nd October had been £100. 10s. 1d. and £43. 6s. 3d. respectively.

About 350 Reports of Metropolitan Charities had been received during the recess.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.

The Committee was authorised to send out a circular to District Committees, asking for information as to the extent of their co-operation with the School Board.

It was stated, in reply to a question, that a School Board case, under the Arrangement with Mr. Peek, was not necessarily a case in which clothes or boots were applied for, but any case of distress referred by the Divisional Committee of the School Board, and coming within the ordinary rules of the Society as to relief.

BOARDING-OUT.

A letter was brought up from Miss Preusser, Lady President to the Boarding-out Committees of Troutbeck and Windermere, urging that the Society should form a Special Committee for boarding-out, and open a special fund for the purpose.

Miss Preusser summarised the advantages of boarding-out as follows:—

1. Children would be at once removed from the contact with evil associations, pauperising influences of town and street life, and would grow up in healthy, simple, pure circumstances and surroundings, if placed with respectable, well-to-do cottage people in the country.
2. The sum usually paid for a child when boarded out—£12 a year—is much less than if a child is placed in an orphanage, asylum, institution, or reformatory.
3. A number of useful, plain, good servants would gradually be trained and ready for service in England, which, if so many girls are sent out as emigrants, will be lost to the mother-country.
4. Ladies' Committees in the country, who have in vain appealed to numerous Boards of Guardians to board out pauper children with them,

might be at once intrusted with poor children, known by different branches of the Charity Organisation Society, who by being boarded out would be rescued from becoming paupers, thieves, beggars, or ruined.

As the order of the Local Government Board of November 1870 provides rules and regulations for Boards of Guardians for boarding-out, the same system might be applied with the Committee of the Charity Organisation Society for boarding out, and this would assist in keeping the work in a regular, organised, and legal form.

The Secretary said that he had recently visited a country parish in and near which fifteen children had been boarded out by the Guardians of St. George's (Hanover Square) Union, and that what he had seen and heard had made a most favourable impression on him.

He was instructed to reply to Miss Preusser, that the Council would gladly see the District Committees of the Society exert their influence with the Guardians of their respective Unions to induce them to board out orphan children, or themselves board out any cases which were more suitable for charity than for the Poor Law; but that the Council could not itself undertake such work, whether by means of a Special Committee or otherwise.

RESIGNATION OF THE SECRETARY.

A letter from the Secretary was brought up, dated September 30, stating that family circumstances obliged him to give the Administrative Committee notice of resignation, to take effect at the end of two months.

The Chairman read a letter from Sir Charles Trevelyan, expressing his sense of the loss the Society would sustain by the Secretary's resignation, the necessity of which, however, he did not in the least question. The duties which fell to the Secretary were in complexity and difficulty equal to those of an important public department, and he had never known such duties more fully met. Various good qualities were combined in Mr. Bosanquet with a devotion to his charge which induced him to give a great deal more time to it than could reasonably have been expected. Lord Lichfield cordially endorsed all that Sir Charles had said, and called attention to the great importance of every effort being made to strengthen and improve the working of the Society. It was still on its trial, and was far from uniform in its operations.

The following resolution was agreed to, on Lieut.-General Cavenagh's motion, seconded by Dr. Hawksley:—

That the Chairman be requested to convey to Mr. Bosanquet the expression of the sincere regret of the Council at his resignation, and of their deep sense of the value of the services he has rendered to the Society.

It was referred to the Administrative Committee to report as to the best means to be adopted for filling the vacancy.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received from July 29 to October 9, 1875:—*Donations*: The Baroness Burdett-Coutts, £50; George Cubitt, Esq., M.P., £50; The Drapers' Company, £21; A. Elliott, Esq., £1; The Goldsmiths' Company, £100; J. E. Müller, Esq., £1. 1s.; M. H. Sutton, Esq., £1. 1s. *Annual*: Col. the Hon. H. Gage, £2. 2s.; J. R. Hollond, Esq., £10; C. Mackeson, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. J. V. Neale, Esq., £1; Capt. Ross, £1; J. Skinner, Esq., £1. 1s. *Quarterly*: The Hon. W. Warren Vernon, £5. *District Committee Aid Fund*:—*Donations*: R. H. Budden, Esq., £1; Messrs. J. & R. Morley, £50; Paddington Committee, £100; Annual: R. S. Holford, Esq., £5. 5s.; Quarterly: Francis Peek, Esq., £250.

The following business stands for Monday, October 18:—

To consider recommendation of the Administrative Committee:—

'That a grant of £37. 10s. be made to the East End Financial Committee.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of September 1875 was 33,066, and 48,443 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,509. This was a decrease of 330 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 9,748, 16,330, and 10,391 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 367. This was an increase of 86 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 84 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals &c.			
Kensington	4	1	6	11	4	4	6	1	1	7	22	8	18
Fulham	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paddington	3	3	6	1	1	2	3	4	1	8	18	1	1
Chelsea	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	2	5	7	2	1	3	3	1	1	5	10	7	2
Westminster do.	1	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	5	9	1	1
Westminster:—													
St. James & St. Anne's	3	1	4	9	1	10	1	1	1	3	14	3	3
St. Marylebone	6	2	8	1	10	11	4	1	3	8	26	6	10
Hampstead	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	2	4	3	1	4	1	1	1	3	6	1	1
South St. Pancras	3	11	14	19	1	20	1	1	1	3	34	1	4
Islington	5	1	6	1	18	19	1	1	1	3	26	7	5
Hackney	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	1	2	6	6	12	1	1	1	3	7	1	1
Strand	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Holborn	2	2	4	26	26	52	2	2	2	6	30	1	15
City	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Shoreditch	1	1	2	3	3	6	4	2	6	12	1	2	1
Bethnal Green	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	10	5	2
Whitechapel	1	2	3	2	1	3	1	1	1	3	7	2	1
St. George's-in-the-East	2	1	3	5	1	6	1	1	1	3	6	2	2
Stepney	1	3	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	6	3	4
Mill End Old Town	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	1	3	7	7	1	1
Poplar	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
*St. Saviour's	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Newington	4	4	8	2	3	5	4	2	6	12	1	1	1
St. Olave's	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Lambeth:—													
North	4	1	5	1	1	2	2	1	3	6	15	3	4
South	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Wandsworth & Putney	1	2	3	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Battersea	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	4	5	1	1
Clapham	3	3	6	1	1	2	2	1	1	4	8	6	3
Camberwell:—													
*Grove Lane	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Peckham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Greenwich	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Deptford	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
*Woolwich	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Lewisham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Rotherhithe	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Total	34	22	56	107	6	116	45	17	8	89	331	56	94

* No returns received from these Committees at time of going to press.

THE CHURCH CONGRESS.

Papers on the Organisation of Charity, General and Parochial, and on the Best Modes of dealing with Destitute Children, were read and discussed at a sectional meeting of the Church Congress at Stoke on the evening of Tuesday the 4th inst., but not more than 100 persons were present; a discussion on Temperance, with Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., Sir Harcourt Johnstone, M.P., and the Rev. Basil Wilberforce as openers, having been fixed for the same hour in the Congress Hall. Mr. Dimmock, chairman of the Stoke Board of Guardians, presided.

Mr. Henry Longley read the first paper. It was obvious, he observed (we quote from the *Staffordshire Daily Sentinel*) that while vast sums, sufficient materially to alleviate, if not to remove, the pressing needs of the poor, were bestowed in almsgiving, the general condition of the recipients was not improved in a degree at all corresponding to the expenditure. Effective almsgiving, he would remind them, consisted not in mere giving, but in giving wisely; and in that was implied a knowledge, a power of research, an accumulation of experience, which would be secured only by an expenditure of time which was practically incompatible with the exigencies of individual cases of distress; for isolated almsgiving involved a waste of power which had suggested the remedy commonly resorted to in more purely mechanical spheres of work—namely, division of labour. It was within the sphere of charity organisation to assist other charitable agencies by the prosecution of searching inquiries, for alms should be given only as the result of inquiry. Any system would at once be condemned which imposed any barrier between the rich and poor, and that system would seem to serve the best interests of both which, while it rendered inquiry essential, would also support personal intercourse between the receiver and the actual bestower of the alms. A sounder administration of the Poor Laws could be rendered possible by the organisation of charity, and this would be a great benefit to the working classes, for a rise in the condition, social and moral, of the poor would be

found to result from this. While that was not the place to discuss Poor Law principles, he would set down the following propositions—(1) that to administer in an unduly eligible form the legal relief which the recipient may claim in some form or other as a right, will inevitably tend to diminish the independence of the poor; (2) that none but indoor relief is sufficiently ineligible and deterrent to prevent this consequence of its receipt; and (3) that the rate of wages is distinctly kept below its natural level by the existence of out-relief, whether given directly in aid of wages or earnings, or held out in the future as a substitute for, and so a dissuasive from, thrift and providence. Mr. Longley concluded by recommending that trustees of endowed charities should make more use of the machinery of Charity Organisation Societies.

The Rev. J. F. Kitto, Rector of Whitechapel, read the second paper. It not unfrequently happened that patient, unpretending poverty was overlooked, while barefaced hypocrisy was permitted to flourish; there was, however, a tendency in the organisation of charity to develop a formal and official mode of distribution, from which all true sympathy was excluded. What was wanted was more personal service, and not less. When the element of love was wanting on one side or the other, the inevitable tendency of the so-called charity was to pauperise and degrade. If the applicant was to have the whole of his past history hunted out, and be relieved by unsympathetic officials, it did not matter much whether aid came from the Poor Law or a charity fund; but he claimed more sympathy for the poor and deserving. It was part of Christian tenderness and Christian love to shrink from no effort and to spare no service by which the poor might be cared for and the lost reclaimed, and there was no class which called for more organised effort than the class of destitute children. A good deal had already been done to meet the most pressing needs of that class, as was evinced in the work carried on at workhouses, district schools, orphanage houses, and similar institutions; but surely, while the State had provided that no parent in the future should neglect his children by allowing them to grow up wholly untaught, it should also not allow them to neglect their duty as parents in other respects, so as to cause the rising generation to be a source of danger to the whole community. He hoped that some provision would be made to save the helpless children of bad parents from irretrievable ruin. But, apart from the State, the Church of Christ had a recognised duty with respect to destitute children. They were helpless from no fault of their own, and had, therefore, a strong claim upon their Christian benevolence and regard, and one that might be manifested in various ways. When children left the workhouse school, some communication might be addressed, either to the clergyman of the parish, or some central agency called into existence for that special purpose, and by that way a supervision could be kept over the children; or they could work to rescue such children from workhouse control altogether; for why should destitute children be left to a pauper life, when a practical mode of rescuing was opened out to them? Could not Christian sympathy come to the rescue, and relieve Guardians of the care of destitute children? (Applause.)

Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet (London) said there was but little he differed from in the papers which had been read, and there were many matters he should like to emphasise. Mr. Longley had given a true definition when he described charity organisation as a division of labour—it was an attempt to bring about a division of charitable labour. How far was this possible? It was possible, in the first place, to organise information in regard both to individual cases of distress, and to the agencies most likely to assist them. To make co-operation in charitable work possible there must be some agreement as to principles—hence some principles had come to be associated with the organisation of charity. First among these he would place the necessity for relief being rendered, as far as possible, effectual and remedial. In London it had been much too easy, in some parts, for a person who asked assistance to get a shilling, while it was extremely difficult to get a pound; yet if a pound could be got in some cases it would be really valuable, whereas the shilling was often mischievous. It was a mistake to suppose that charity organisation societies were intended to give relief vicariously for the public. Very much more personal work was needed in this matter; and what was desired was to bring about such a change that there would be more intercourse between the rich and the poor; yet, in such intercourse, the rich should be prepared to visit without dispensing relief at once, which he knew was not easy. Visitors should be prepared to face disagreeables. They should combine sympathy for the individual with farsightedness and regard for general rules. It was desirable that there should be some more precise division of labour between Industrial Schools and the Poor-law. In dealing with children, parental responsibility should not be disturbed without strong reason. In closing, the speaker strongly recommended the boarding-out of pauper children. It was a most admirable system for a limited class of cases, chiefly for orphan girls. The subject was of special interest to the Congress, from the fact that none were so well able to work such a scheme as the clergy; and that it gave their weekly wage-earning parishioners an opportunity of co-operating with them in doing a most Christian work, and one which was charity in the highest sense. (Applause.)

Commander Dawson, R.N., gave some particulars with regard to the

boarding-out system in Ireland. He explained that the children were placed with cottagers in their own parish or diocese, with a family recommended by the clergyman. Before payment was made for the child a certificate as to its attendance at the parochial school, and that it had been regularly visited, must be produced. The children grew up, under such a system, without all their hearts' affections being crushed out of them. The system of putting children by hundreds into a sort of large prison was deplorable, and tended to crush out all the affections of the young heart. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. E. J. Edwards (Trenton) said that the system just advocated had been partially carried out in his own neighbourhood; and there certainly was great advantage in destitute children, and especially orphans, being brought up in all the habits of cottage homes. While a good deal has been said with regard to the blessings of charity to the destitute, people were extremely apt to forget that it was necessary for themselves that they should be brought into close contact with poverty and suffering. (Hear, hear.) It was essential to the formation of Christian character not only to part with their money for charitable purposes, but to come hand-to-hand in connection with the poor, so as to learn what it was to sympathise with their wants. The boarding-out system seemed to have a difficulty in making its way. For orphan girls especially, he thought the system could be easily and well worked; and if attention were not paid to such unfortunates, it was little less than a shame. It would be a good thing if the clergy would co-operate with boards of guardians with regard to this matter. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman remarked that much had been said with regard to what had been done for the poor, but not a word as to how much the poor did themselves to alleviate the wants of the poor. (Hear, hear.) There never was a time in which friendly societies—originated by the working classes themselves—enrolled more members, or gave more in the way of contributions. The working classes contributed in various ways to the wellbeing of their fellow working-men; and no doubt, amongst other things, trades-unions had very largely promoted the welfare of the working classes. Great advantages had resulted from working-men having the management and control of societies which so greatly affected themselves. The training which working-men got by managing trades-unions and friendly societies seemed to him to be one of the most hopeful signs of the times. (Hear, hear.) While there was so much of pauperism existing, it was a matter for gratification that working-men were doing so much themselves for the benefit of those of their own class. Having been himself a large employer of labour, he felt he ought in all fairness to say what he considered was justly due to the working-man with regard to the question which had been discussed. (Applause.)

THE FIRST SCHEME UNDER THE ARTISANS AND LABOURERS' DWELLINGS ACT, 1875.—At the meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, on the 1st inst., the chief engineer (Sir J. W. Bazalgette) and Mr. G. Vulliamy, the superintending architect, presented an important report on the proposed improvement of an unhealthy area adjoining Gray's-inn-road. The report, after reviewing what has been done by the various Dwellings Improvement Associations, and stating that much useful information had been obtained from the report of the Dwellings Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, and from a paper by Mr. Charles Gatliff, gives particulars with reference to the area in question, as to which an official representation had been made to the Board by the medical officer of the Holborn District Board of Works on the 19th of July last. The area is bounded by Gray's-inn-road on the west, Leather Lane on the east, Port-pool Lane on the north, and Greville Street with Fox Court on the south, and contains 10½ acres, nearly three-fourths of which is covered by a low class of houses, courts, and alleys 'unfit for human habitation, owing to their closeness, narrowness, and bad condition.' The report proposes to remove these houses, and to replace them by twenty-two blocks of buildings, surrounded by paved open spaces averaging thirty feet in width, and connected by streets and footways. It is proposed to take advantage of this opportunity to widen a part of Gray's-inn-road from thirty to fifty feet. Some difficulty has been experienced in ascertaining accurately the numbers of the present resident population, but it is believed that the labouring population living upon the area to be dealt with is 5,515, one-half of whom are adults and the other half children. They occupy 335 houses, averaging six rooms per house, or a total of 2,102 rooms:—981 rooms are let in single tenements to 981 families, numbering 3,218 persons, averaging 3.28 persons per room; 766 rooms are let in two-room tenements to 383 families, numbering 1,795 persons, averaging 2.34 persons per room; 355 rooms are let in three or more room tenements to 97 families, numbering 502 persons, averaging 1.4 persons per room, being a total of 2,102 rooms let to 1,461 families, numbering 5,515 persons, averaging 2.62 persons per room, with 132 empty rooms, making a total of 2,234. In addition to these there are four registered lodging-houses, containing 43 rooms and accommodating 144 persons. The cubic space per head varies from 284 to 900 cubic feet, and averages 540 cubic feet. This amount of house-room bears a favourable

comparison with what has been provided by the various model lodging-houses constructed within the Metropolis with such satisfactory results, so that, in fact, the miserable condition of the locality is not due to the overcrowding of the houses, but is attributable to the narrow courts, and want of proper ventilation, cleanliness, and sanitary arrangements. It is proposed to deal with the 10½ acres included within the unhealthy area in the following manner:—2½ acres of factories and other buildings mentioned in the scheme will remain undisturbed; one-third of an acre will be given up to the rebuilding of schools to be removed by this improvement scheme; one acre will be applied to the widening of Gray's-inn-road and the buildings facing it; 2½ acres to the formation of new thoroughfares within the area to be dealt with; and two acres to be left in spaces for air and recreation between the new buildings, so that the open spaces over the whole area will amount to about 4½, instead of the now existing open spaces of 2½ acres only. The new labourers' dwellings will cover an area of about two acres. It would doubtless be economy of space, say the writers of the report, if the basement were converted into playgrounds for children in wet weather, and for the storage of the costermongers' barrows; but the difficulty of keeping such underground premises clean, and from being abused and used as receptacles for refuse, and thus converted into disease-breeding nuisances, has induced us to forego this advantage, and we propose to provide for these requirements by roofs to be formed over a part of the otherwise open spaces. By the foregoing arrangements we shall obtain a covered area for labourers' dwellings of about 15 square feet per individual; and, as we propose to provide not less than 500 cubic feet of air per adult within the new buildings, it will become necessary that each house should contain on the average five separate floors or flats, which will average about nine feet in height from floor to floor, and give a mean superficial area of about 150 square feet for living rooms and 100 square feet for bedrooms. The rooms may be divided into tenements of one, two, and three rooms each, probably in the following proportions:—1,000 of one room, or two smaller at one-room rents; 400, two rooms; 100, three rooms. But our object at the present time is to develop the practicability of effecting an efficient improvement scheme upon the area to be cleared in pursuance of the requirements of the new Act, and upon which to form an estimate of the cost, rather than definitely to determine the details of the improved buildings, which may hereafter, under certain general regulations to meet the requirements of the poor, be modified by those who shall undertake their erection. The rents now paid at Holborn for one room vary from 1s. 6d. to 4s. per week; for two rooms, from 3s. to 5s.; and for three rooms, from 7s. 6d.; giving an average of 2s. 11d. per room, and producing a total rent of £16,000 per annum. It would seem to be an essential feature of this project that the present rental should not be increased, and we have, therefore, in forming our estimates, adopted it as our standard. Under the Metropolitan Street Improvements Act, 1872, the Board is about to provide spaces for the erection of dwellings for the artisans who will be displaced by the pulling-down of the old houses. One of these spaces in Liquorpond Street is already cleared, and, being close to the Holborn area now under consideration, it would, if the new buildings were at once erected, be available for the reception of some of the persons who must be turned out for the present improvement scheme. But the Secretary of State is unable to sanction the building on this site until all the plots of land intended to be covered by artisans' dwellings have been actually acquired. So far as we can judge, it certainly cannot be less, and will probably be more, than a year, before all these plots are actually obtained. The delay thus occasioned will to a very great extent defeat the object of the new buildings, which are to accommodate those artisans who have had to quit their dwellings. But as those will have been driven to seek new homes at a distance from their old ones, and many of them will have found employment elsewhere and never return, the new houses will become inhabited by a fresh set of people. We are of opinion, therefore, that if it is possible, the difficulty should be removed, and these spaces should, as soon as practicable, be covered with such buildings, so that not only may the poorer classes who may have been displaced by the street improvement be provided with houses, but that some, at least, of those who must be temporarily removed by the present improvement scheme may find accommodation there; and we recommend that not more than about one-fifth of the present population of the Holborn area should be displaced at one time, nor the remainder, after the first fifth, until the new accommodation has been provided for that fifth. With regard to the cost of the improvement scheme suggested in this report, we estimate approximately the expenditure and return as follow:—For widening of Gray's Inn Road.—Purchase of property, £——; paving works, £5,000. For the improvement scheme, exclusive of the cost of widening Gray's Inn Road.—Purchase of property, gross, £187,500; formation of new streets, drainage, &c., £17,000; erecting proposed dwellings, £170,000:—total expenditure, £374,500. Upon the assumption that the new rents will be equivalent to the present rental, or £16,000 per annum, and that persons will be found to erect the required houses upon a return of 5 per cent. interest on the outlay, the annual expenditure will stand thus:—The Board would have to expend, in money borrowed for the purchase of property, £187,500, at

£3. 17s. 6d. per cent., £7,266; ditto, for forming roadways and sewers, £17,000, at £3. 17s. 6d. per cent., £700; total, £7,966. And would receive in return ground-rents valued at, per annum, £4,500; leaving a deficit of, say, £3,466 per annum, to be paid out of the rates in respect of this improvement scheme. The society erecting the buildings would pay interest on £170,000, at 5 per cent., £8,500; rates and taxes, £1,800; repairing, &c., £1,260; ground-rents, £4,500—total, £16,050. Present rents, £16,000.

The Report was brought up again on the 8th inst., and was referred to the Works and General Purposes Committee for consideration and report. Several other 'official representations' about areas in various parts of London have been made to the Board, and others are to be sent in shortly, so that the necessary Parliamentary notices may be given before the end of November.

DEATH OF DR. ROSS.—Another valuable life (says the *Metropolitan*) has been sacrificed to the foul emanations of drains. Dr. George Ross, the medical officer of health for Bloomsbury, died on Sunday, September 25, from syncope, while suffering from heart-disease and blood-poisoning. According to his own statement just before his death, it appears he had been over a drain in the back of his premises in Hart-street, Bloomsbury, and he inhaled some of the gas, and he said he had never come in contact with such a smell before. No one can be blamed for the occurrence, but it is sad to think that this is the third physician who has had his life taken from him through sewer emanations. Dr. Ross was an able, deep-thinking physician, and had only lately compiled a set of admonitory rules for guidance in dealing with unhealthy dwellings, in connection with the Artisans' Dwellings Act. At this time, when the local authorities of the metropolis are seeking to put the above Act in force, so able a man as Dr. Ross can be ill-spared. His connection with local government began some 20 years ago, when (says the *British Medical Journal*) "he became a member of the Corporation of London, taking an active part in all sanitary business, such as improving the dwellings of the poor, establishing baths and washhouses, and especially in bringing to a successful issue the project of covering Smithfield with a new dead-meat market, for which, on his retirement from the Common Council, a testimonial was presented to him by the wardmote which he represented. In the year 1869 Dr. Ross was appointed Medical Officer of Health for St. Giles's and Bloomsbury, which post he held, with the highest credit and usefulness, until his death." Dr. Ross was an active member of the Special Dwellings Committee of the Charity Organisation Society.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

'Parochial Charities of the City of London.' The substance of an address delivered at Sion College, May 27, 1875, by the Rev. H. I. Cummins, M.A. King & Co.

Report of the Fifth Annual Poor Law Conference of the West Midland Counties, held at Great Malvern, May 4, 1875. Knight & Co. 6d.

Report of the First Annual Poor Law Conference of the London Guardians, held at the rooms of the Social Science Association, July 12, 1875. Knight & Co. 6d.

Report of the Fourth Annual Poor Law Conference for the four Northern Counties, held at Carlisle 4th and 5th August, 1875. Knight & Co. 6d.

Eighteenth Report of the Inspector of Certified Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Great Britain. 1s. 0d.

'Homes of the London Poor,' by Miss Octavia Hill. Macmillan & Co. 3s. 6d.

'Children Rescued from Pauperism; or, The Boarding-out System in Scotland,' by W. Anderson. Menzies & Co., Edinburgh; and Simpkin, Marshall, & Co., London.

ANNUAL REPORTS of the DISTRICT COMMITTEES for 1874, bound up with the SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT of the COUNCIL, price 2s. 6d., post free 3s., can be obtained on application to the SECRETARY, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 150.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 20, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

It is requested that communications to the Council or District Committees in regard to different cases or subjects may be written on separate pieces of paper. Also, that communications with reference to cases may not be written on Post-Cards.

Any Member of the Council who has borrowed a copy of the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, 1834, or of Dr. Chalmers' 'Christian and Civic Economy of Large Towns,' from the Library at the Central Office, is requested to send the Secretary information.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 p.m.

Present: A. H. Hill, Esq. (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, R. George's; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; J. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; T. B. Spencer, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. Hay-Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Rev. H. P. Kelly, *Shoreditch*; Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran, Esq., C. Lavers-Smith, Esq., *Whitechapel*; L. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End*; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., A. D. Graham, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; T. Parry-Woodcock, Esq., *St. Olave's*; R. M. Hensley, Esq., *Wandsworth*; G. P. Bidder, Esq., Q.C., *Clapham*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Hammer Lane*; I. H. Cole, Esq., *Deptford*; Captain Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; Stephen Fuller, Esq., Dr. Hawksley, *Additional Members*; total, 33. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

A letter was read from Lord Lichfield, regretting that business in the country prevented him from being present.

BOARDING-OUT.

The Chairman called attention to the report of the proceedings under this head in the last *Reporter*. He had only understood the Council to express willingness to leave the matter in the hands of the District Committees.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson thought it hardly within the scope of a District Committee to board children out.

The Secretary had understood that the Council had sanctioned an expression of opinion in favour of boarding-out orphans, though no formal decision had been taken; he had replied to Miss Preusser in this sense. He had said nothing in his reply about Organisation Committees boarding cases out themselves. It was hardly within their scope to do this, though they might make arrangements to facilitate its being done by private individuals.

HOSPITAL LETTERS.

A letter from the Whitechapel Committee was read, asking for two In-Patient letters for the Victoria Park or any other Hospital for Diseases of the Chest.

A member stated that patients taking Out-Patient letters to the Victoria Park Hospital, but requiring treatment in the Hospital, were generally admitted.

Miss Collett asked for assistance in obtaining letters for the Surgical Aid Society. Thirty letters were required by an applicant whose case had been inquired into by the South St. Pancras Committee, and the Committee were endeavouring to obtain them, but had only as yet got three.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson protested against the system pursued by the Society in question.

The Secretary mentioned that a letter for the Eastbourne Convalescent Hospital had been recently received.

THE SOCIETY'S BALANCE-SHEET.

Attention was called to a statement by Mr. W. H. Pannell in the *City Press*, that balances to the amount of £13 8s. had been omitted to be brought forward in the Society's accounts.

The Secretary explained that this did not apply to the accounts of the Council—still less would such an error affect the accounts of the whole Society, as most readers of Mr. Pannell's letter would be led to suppose. Mr. Pannell had summarised the accounts for three years of the Council and of the 37 District Committees, collecting them from 38 separate reports, but not stating that these 38 bodies were financially independent of each other. If errors had been made, they would only affect the balance-sheets of the District Committees which had made them.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CASES.

Mr. Edgcombe asked what amount of inquiry it was the practice of District Committees to make in regard to cases for the Children's Hospital. His own Committee (Kensington) had only had 34 applications; they had always verified the statement brought to them as to wages, and had gone to the Relieving Officer whenever there was any chance of the family being in receipt of parish relief.

Miss Collett said that the South St. Pancras Committee had inquired into more than 300 cases. They proceeded exactly in the manner described by Mr. Edgcombe. The Children's Hospital had authorised them to stamp the letter, if any discrepancy that there might be between the statement brought to them and the facts was explained to their satisfaction.

Several other members said that their Committees made similar inquiries.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending October 9 the receipts had been £1 for the General Fund, and £250 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £90 2s. 8d. and £293 6s. 3d. respectively.

Also, that they had authorised the Organising Secretary to attend the annual meeting of the Winchester Association on Thursday the 28th inst.

THE SECRETARYSHIP.

The following recommendation was brought up, in reply to the reference made last week:—

That as the duties of Secretary to the Society require special qualifications, and as the ordinary course of giving notice by advertisement would lead to a very large number of applications from candidates whose testimonials would have little bearing upon the special qualifications required, the Administrative Committee recommend that a small committee, consisting of the Chairman, the Duke of Westminster, as representing the Vice-Presidents, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Lieut.-General Cavenagh, and Mr. Bosanquet, be appointed, to suggest to the Council the names of a few persons whose views upon the subject of legal and voluntary relief are in agreement with the principles upon which the Charity Organisation Society was established, and who are known to have taken special interest in measures tending to induce habits of self-reliance and providence among the poorer classes.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson thought that, having regard to suggestions that had been made, it was expedient to extend the reference. He would move, as an amendment:—

That the following members of Council be appointed a Committee, to consider and report on the best course to be taken in reference to the vacancy created by the resignation of the Secretary: The Duke of Westminster, the Earl of Lichfield, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Lieut.-General Cavenagh, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. A. H. Hill, Mr. J. R. Holland, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet.

Mr. A. D. Graham seconded the amendment, and urged the importance of attending to District Organisation work.

Mr. Hensley pointed out that there was no time to be lost if the Secretary was to have any opportunity of introducing his successor to his duties.

After some further discussion the amendment was put and carried, 15 voting for it.

It was resolved that a grant of £18 15s. be made to the East End Financial Committee towards the salary of a collector for the quarter ending December 31.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending October 16, 1875:—*Donations*: Captain G. W. Cockburn, £1; Rev. W. A. Wall, £1. *Annual*: A. J. Bingham, Esq., £2 2s.; Mrs. Greathed, £1.

The following business stands for Monday, October 25:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. 'That a grant of £20 on account be made to the Mile End Committee.'
2. 'That a grant of £20 on account be made to the Whitechapel Committee.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of October 1875 was 33,223, and 48,315 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,538. This was an increase of 29 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 19,545, 16,268, and 9,653 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 479. This was an increase of 112 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 86 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1875.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by		Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vacants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undergoing Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospital, &c.
Kensington	3	7	10	2	2	4	2	1	1	1
Fulham	2	3	5	6	2	8	4	1	3	8
Paddington	2	3	5	1	2	3	1	1	1	3
Chelsea	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
St. George's:—										
St. George's Division.	1	1	2	3	3	6	3	1	4	8
Westminster do.	2	2	4	3	5	8	1	1	1	3
Westminster:—										
St. James' & St. Anne's	2	1	3	7	7	14	1	1	2	4
St. Marylebone	2	1	3	7	7	14	1	1	2	4
Hampstead	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	3	5	10
North St. Pancras and Highgate	9	1	10	4	1	5	2	2	2	6
South St. Pancras	2	1	3	10	10	20	1	1	2	4
*Islington	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Hackney	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	2	7	7	14	1	1	2	4
Strand	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Holborn	1	1	2	24	24	48	1	1	2	4
City	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Shoreditch	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Bethnal Green	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	1	3
Whitechapel	3	4	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Stepney	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Mile End Old Town	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Poplar	2	3	5	1	1	2	3	1	4	8
St. Saviour's	3	2	5	1	6	7	2	6	8	16
*Newington	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
St. Olave's	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Lambeth:—										
North	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	2	4
South	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	2	4
*Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Battersea	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Clapham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Camden:—										
*Grove Lane	4	4	8	1	1	2	6	1	6	13
Peckham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Greenwich	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	2	4	8
Deptford	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Woolwich	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Lewisham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Eltham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Sydenham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Total	34	20	54	118	5	123	84	23	5	112

* No returns received from these Committees at time of going to press.

SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday the 7th inst. a paper by Mr. Charles W. Chambers, on 'Certain Desirable Alterations in the Working of the Poor Law System,' was read in the Economy and Trade Section of the Social Science Congress at Brighton, Dr. Farr presiding. The writer, after referring to his experience as a member of the St. George's Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, discussed, amongst other matters, the question how far charitable aid should be given on the principles of the Charity Organisation Society, under its three cardinal rules, namely—Relief: 1. By a competent committee; 2. After due inquiry; 3. With a view to permanent benefit. This might be generally introduced concurrently with the Poor Law System. The idea, as shown by Lord Lyttelton in his paper in the *Contemporary Review* of last June, 'was contemplated by the Commissioners and their best followers.' A plan of the kind was suggested by the Rev. A. Hare in the 'Guesses at Truth,' at the time of the Brede disturbances, and by others. But in the present state of society, it could only be rendered possible by creating in each Poor Law district a charitable centre, consisting of an able Board, aiming at the permanent benefit of the poor, which can discuss cases with authority from a high moral and social point of view, and who should have such means at their disposal as should prevent their being imposed upon—and further who should by this means have the confidence of those disposed to help their poorer neighbours to better their conditions.

Mr. C. J. Ribton-Turner read a paper before the same section on establishing County Poor Law Boards. He suggested that in every county there should be established, by law, one or more Central Boards of Guardians (according to the size of the county), the members of which should be elected by the Local Boards of Guardians, and should hold periodic meetings, either at some central point in the county, or at each workhouse in it in turn. The functions of such Boards should be:—To frame a code (subject to the approval of the Local Government Board) for securing, so far as possible,

uniform principles of administration throughout the county; to bring about a better classification of inmates of the workhouses by arrangements among the Unions; to establish tests for securing the efficiency of all officers appointed by the local Guardians; to register the requirements of employers of labour throughout the county, with a view to provide destitute persons, in receipt of Poor Law relief, with the means of making themselves self-dependent. One great advantage of such Boards would be that their members would have a wider view of the great interests involved in the relief of the poor than a Local Board of Guardians, which is likely to confine its attention to the apparent wants of its own neighbourhood, and is thus led to violate the true principles of Poor Law administration, with the result of increasing pauperism.

On Monday the 11th inst., a paper was read in the same department by Mr. A. H. Hill, on the question: 'What means are practicable for checking the aggregation and determination of unemployed labour in large towns?' suggesting the establishment of a Central Labour Exchange with a Labour Loan Society, and night classes in connection with it, and a paper by the Rev. R. J. Simpson, on the mode of admission into charitable institutions.

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, September 25, 1875:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Cheshire	Eton	Glasgow	Horsham	Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbleton	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	11	2	..	..	11	..	..	2	1	1	1	..
2. Undeserving	24	17	4	1	84	1	..	7	4	4	1	1
3. Cases for Poor-law, or otherwise ineligible	10	13	5	..	14	1	1	10	5	23	..	2
	45	32	9	1	109	2	1	19	10	28	2	4
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	7	2	7	..	9	..	..	2	1	..	..	1
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	9	2	..	2	15	..	..	6	..	1	..	..
3. Private Persons	7	5	9	8	42	..	1	4	1	..	2	..
	23	10	16	8	66	..	1	12	2	1	2	1
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	43	13	8	..	2	3	..	8	6	28	1	3
2. Loans	..	..	..	4	1	..	1	25	..	4	..	2
3. Employment	4	..	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
4. Letters for Hospitals, &c.	..	14	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..
	47	27	9	9	5	3	1	36	7	32	1	7
	115	69	34	15	180	5	3	67	19	61	5	12
Reports sent out	6	53	..	..	95	..	..	25	..	..	9	..
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	4	15	..	1	4	..	..	2	4	..	2	..
Vagrants dealt with	12	426	30	178	..	..	143	52	16	50	159	..

DORSET MENDICITY SOCIETY.—The number of vagrant admissions to the 13 Unions of Dorset, during the quarter ending 30th September, amounted to only 364. This is the lowest number ever recorded in any quarter; and, as compared with the corresponding quarter in the year previous to the formation of the Society, shows the large reduction of 83 per cent. :—

Vagrants relieved in the Casual Wards of Dorset, Quarter ending 30th September, 1869	2,164
Corresponding quarter, 1875	364

ORGANISATION *versus* RELIEF.

The following letter from Mr. W. H. Pannell, a member of the firm of accountants who audit the accounts of Miss Stride's Homes, appeared, during the recess, in the *Beehive*, and (with the initials 'W. H. P.') in the *Standard* and *Metropolitan* :—

SIR,—Will you allow me, through the medium of your valuable journal, to draw the attention of the public to a few circumstances in connection with the Charity Organisation Society? And I must preface my remarks by saying that I was induced to make the investigation which led to the following disclosures by an inclination to test the working of a society which professes to be the perfection of charitable institutions, and which is continually contrasting its work with others of a similar nature to the apparent detriment of the latter.

Well, Sir, on carefully analysing the accounts contained in the society's own reports, extending from 1st October, 1871, to 30th September, 1874, I find the following results:—On October 1, 1871, the society had a balance in hand of £2,646 18s. 4d., and between that date and the latter mentioned above the total receipts for donations, subscriptions, &c., amounted so

£45,321 8s. 5d.; total, £47,968 6s. 9d. This sum was expended as follows, viz.:—By salaries to officers and collectors' poundage, £15,781 0s. 5d.; rent, rates, and taxes, £3,904 17s. 7½d.; office fixtures, fittings, &c., including repairs, £764 0s. 9½d.; sundries—viz., postages, printing, and incidental expenses—£6,854 5s. 1½d.; total expenses for the three years, £27,304 4s. By loans granted (£5,090 8s. 2½d.), less amount re-funded (£4,114 15s. 3d.), £975 12s. 11½d.; aid in grants and relief, £16,265 3s. 0½d.; total grants for relief, £17,240 15s. 11½d. Balance in hand 30th September, 1874, £3,423 6s. 4½d.—£47,968 6s. 9d.

So that of the £45,321 8s. 5d. received, £27,304 4s., or about 60½ per cent., was absorbed in expenses of administration. Surely this is a most extravagant and expensive way of affording relief to our fellow-creatures. That a sum of 12s. in each pound should be first expended to procure a deserving recipient for the remaining 8s., seems to me to be carrying the principle of investigation to extremes, and inclines me to think that even indiscriminate charity, much as it is to be deprecated, would be preferable.

I beg to hand you herewith a copy of the complete statement, and to enclose my card.

The following letters appeared in the *Standard* in reply:—

SIR,—In the absence from town of all the leading members of the Charity Organisation Society, will you allow me, a working member, a small space in which to express to your correspondent, 'W. H. P.', my thanks for so plainly showing that the Charity Organisation Society is doing the work which it has undertaken. As he says he has carefully analysed the accounts, I have no doubt his figures are accurate. But if he had as carefully studied the lists of cases dealt with, he would have seen that a large proportion of those found deserving are referred to private persons or charitable agencies. He would not then have drawn the wrong conclusion—'That it is a disclosure of extravagance.' The society does not 'profess' to be 'a charitable institution' at all in the sense of being a relief society. Its objects have been clearly set forth again and again, but allow me to enclose one of their manuals. By this 'W. H. P.' will see that 'The main object of the society is the improvement of the condition of the poor: (1) by bringing about co-operation between the charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the charities; (2) by securing due investigation and fitting action in all cases; and (3) by repressing mendicancy.' Relief is not even mentioned. Unfortunately, in some cases, after careful investigation, and having found that a person is deserving, the committees are unable to find any private person or charitable agency to afford the necessary relief, and are, therefore, obliged to give assistance out of their own funds. Were this not the case, besides the £27,304 4s. which 'W. H. P.' complains has already been spent in investigation, there would be the sum of £18,017 4s. 5d. still in hand, which would be most useful in further developing the great work of charity organisation.—I enclose my card, and beg to subscribe myself,

AN HONORARY SECRETARY OF FIVE YEARS' SERVICE.

SIR,—As one for whom the Charity Organisation Society has done a great deal of work gratuitously, allow me, on behalf of the well-deserving poor, to bear witness to its value. The worst enemies of the poor are those who give without inquiry. Your correspondent 'W. H. P.' complains of an organising society for doing the work it undertakes—viz., organisation. Does he 'quarrel with food for not being fuel?' The society gives to those who would not be reached by any other charitable agency, and in this way relieves an immense amount of misery.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

S.

SIR,—The *Standard* of the 11th inst., containing a letter on the Charity Organisation Society, has just reached me. I shall be obliged if you will allow me to point out that 'W. H. P.' misconceives the object and position of the society, and to furnish some information, without which those of your readers who are unacquainted with its nature can hardly arrive at a fair decision.

First, let me explain that the society consists of 37 local committees and a central representative council; each of these 38 bodies has separate funds, and reports separately to its subscribers, though the council and the richer committees assist those in the poorer districts.

But 'W. H. P.'s charge has reference to the small proportion of money expended on relief rather than to the amount raised. Had he paid the same attention to the reports which he has paid to their balance-sheets, he could not have failed to see that this charge has been anticipated and answered again and again. The Society was not formed to be an additional relief society; its relief-work is only supplementary, and it would be more reasonable to say, as some of its staunchest supporters have said, that it is departing from its original objects and interfering with other charities by relieving so many cases itself, than to measure it by a standard appropriate to a society formed simply for the relief of distress.

Let me put the matter in another light. If the Society desired to be the great relief society of London, as 'W. H. P.' would have you believe, its policy would be to ignore other relief societies, and to do as much relief-work as possible itself. Desiring, as it does, to promote division of labour amongst such charities, and to co-operate with them rather than do their work for them, it lays itself out to assist them, places its machinery for

inquiry at their service without charge, refers every case to them which it is likely that they will be able to deal with effectually, and when obliged to make a grant itself, frequently sends it through their visitors. Were the Society's ideal realised, it would spend less than it does now in direct relief, but it would do more work for the Relief Societies, and comparison would lie between the expenditure of all the Charitable Societies of London on relief and the expenditure of the Organisation Society on machinery, rather than between the amounts expended by the Organisation Society on these two objects. I should like (if I may express my own opinion) to see all direct relief-work done by agencies working over smaller areas than the district committees of the Organisation Society, and distinct from them, but co-operating with them. Would there, in this case, be work enough for the Organisation Society and its committees to do? I believe that those who have considered the conditions and requirements of London carefully will say, confidently, that there would. Few people realise to themselves what 'London' means. It is difficult to realise three millions and a half of people. It conveys a clearer impression to say that our 37 committees have each of them, on an average, not much less than 100,000 persons in their respective districts. Ought not each such district to have an office in it, open all the year round, to serve as a base of operations for the various relief agencies at work in it?

I ought, perhaps, to refer to some of the kinds of work that the Society has been doing, and which would still need to be done, even though it gave no relief, that I may not be charged with vagueness.

I believe I should not be claiming too much if I said that the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings' Act, which the Government has received well-deserved praise for, would not have been introduced had it not been for the Special Committee of the society which reported in 1873; at any rate, there is no doubt that the information collected and the suggestions made by this committee were of material use to the promoters of the Act, as Mr. Cross cordially acknowledged. Several excellent associations had been working for many years at the problem of improving the dwellings of the poor; but the Organisation Society, though not itself a Dwellings Society, was able to bring their representatives together, and so materially to promote the objects which they were aiming at. A similar Special Committee of representatives of charities for the blind was formed towards the end of 1874, and will soon report. Apart from the value of its report, those who know the difficulties that attend any attempt at promoting co-operation will see that it is a matter of some importance to have brought the representatives of 14 kindred charities into friendly communication.

But it may be said that these Special Committees do not cost much money. I can easily mention more costly kinds of work. The society undertakes to inquire, without charge, for any resident in London, legitimately interested, into the circumstances of any applicant for relief. This can only be done effectually by persons who know the neighbourhood where the applicant for relief resides and its charitable agencies, and would by itself almost necessitate keeping up offices with paid officers throughout London. And it is not only private individuals that avail themselves of this offer. Last autumn the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, wished to ascertain the circumstances of those who were using its out-patient department. Ten years ago such an inquiry could hardly have been made, the number of fresh patients averaging several hundreds a week, and coming from all parts of London. The Organisation Society made no difficulty about undertaking the task. More recently, at the request of the Committee of the Children's Hospital, the society has undertaken to verify the statements of all the persons who bring children to the out-patient department there, and it has also undertaken to inquire into and deal, to the best of its judgment, with all cases of distress referred to it by the Divisional Committees of the London School Board.

It will be seen, from what I have said, that the Organisation Society does not profess, as 'W. H. P.' assumes, to be 'the perfection of charitable societies,' but to be different in kind from almost all others. It was called into existence by a crying need, by which I mean not so much the indiscriminate charity of the public as the absence of any unity of purpose or principle of division of labour amongst the numerous relief agencies of London, including the Poor Law, and the consequent ineffectiveness of most of the relief given. The difficulties in its way have been and are very great, and it has no doubt made mistakes and enemies, still I believe that it has done substantial good. It has been greatly indebted hitherto to the support of the public and the press, and to their decision it will willingly leave the present issue.

My letter has run to a considerable length, but I am omitting much which I should like to have said. For instance, I have not pointed out that the society's offices and paid officers have made it possible for it to call out a great deal of unpaid work and thought, or that the influence—and in some sense the work—of the society has extended much beyond London. I will only add, however, that I shall be very glad to give further explanations if they should be required.—I am, your obedient servant, CHARLES B. P. BOSANQUET, Secretary.

A correspondent, writing from 194, Commercial Road, E., to the *Tower*

Hamlets Independent, in reply to a letter signed 'Children's Friend,' points out that 'the amount appearing in the Society's balance-sheet as spent in relief by no means gives an adequate idea of the amount of help which it is the means of affording.'

'In some instances,' he continues, 'the Committee has obtained permanent weekly allowances for the aged poor from benevolent private persons. They prefer that, whenever possible in such cases, the donor should himself bestow his gift, and deprecate the idea of charitable work being done by proxy, and "officialism" substituted for personal kindness and sympathy.'

'Let me, by way of illustration, instance one or two cases dealt with by the Whitechapel Committee. Not one penny of the large expenditure incurred in relieving them appears in the Committee's balance-sheet. I will give them as concisely as I can:—

'M. R.—This poor woman was sent twice last year to Convalescent Homes for the benefit of her health—travelling expenses 30s., defrayed by private persons. She has since received, on the representation of the Committee, a very large amount of relief in the form of nourishments supplied weekly from the Baroness Coutts' Charity and other sources, besides £5 or £6 in money; and this year she has been sent for three months to the Bath Mineral Water Hospital, involving an additional expenditure of £8.

'W. F.—A working-man, seriously ill, not long enough on his club to be eligible for sick benefits, but of good character, and provident. The clergyman was helping as much as he could, but quite inadequately to the requirements of the case, there being a wife and children. Committee obtained additional relief to the amount of 5s. per week for three months, and assisted him to go to the country on his recovery, which had been despaired of.

'H. H.—An old man, for whom the Committee have "organised" regular weekly relief, from former employers and others, to the amount of 4s. weekly.

'D. P.—A hardworking dressmaker, whose husband's health entirely failed, and on whom the support of the family entirely rested. A sewing-machine was obtained, and they were helped to remove to their native place in the country. £7 spent.

'G. G. and F. E.—Two children removed from wretched homes and bad influences, and sent to the English Lake District, where they have been boarded out under the supervision of a Committee of Ladies, and are doing well in every respect. Cost, £12 a year each child.'

AN IMPOSTOR.—A man named Edward Mansell, giving as his address 21 Great Chapel Street, Westminster, recently applied for assistance to a clergyman residing at Lewisham, stating that he was a member of the English Church Union, and had been recently at St. George's Hospital suffering from an attack of congestion of the lungs. Subsequently he forwarded a letter of recommendation, purporting to be written by another clergyman. It was found, on inquiry, that this letter was a forgery; that he had not been in St. George's Hospital during the present year; that he had been entered three years ago on the books of the English Church Union as a member, but had never paid any subscription; that his name had been removed from the books, as it was understood he had been obtaining money by using the names of other members; and that a warning against him had been published in the *Church Review* of 9th October, by the Hon. Secretary of the Railway Guild of the Holy Cross, of which he had represented himself as a member, and the names of members of which he had made use of in his appeals as having authority from them in the name of the guild to appeal for assistance. His case was investigated by the North St. Pancras Committee some weeks ago, and it was then discovered that he had been for some time writing begging-letters, and that he had made false statements as to his employment and other circumstances. A letter also appeared in the *Times* of 28th August, which appears to refer to him, and from which it seems he has been endeavouring to impose on the public in various localities.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 151.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 27, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicancy.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Fulham Committee have removed their Office from 14 Devonshire Street, Hammersmith Road, to 7 Brook Green Terrace, Hammersmith Road, nearly opposite St. Mary's Church.

District Committees are reminded that their Annual Reports should be made up to September 30, and should be ready for issue not later than December 1.

The recommendations of Council with reference to the form and print of Reports were set out in the *Reporter* for October 14, 1874.

It is also recommended that a footnote be added to the Balance-sheets, stating the amount of liabilities (if any) at the end of the financial year.

The Council request that District Committees will send 150 copies of their forthcoming Annual Reports to the Central Office. It will be an advantage if 75 of these can be made up without List of Subscribers, with a view to binding.

The Council undertake to send copies of each Report to the other District Committees. The Council will pay for the copies furnished to them when Committees wish it. It is requested that, in that case, an invoice may be sent.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair, and subsequently the Earl of Lichfield); Sir Alexander Gordon, *Kensington Committee*; Miss Emma Howes, *Fulham*; Major Yard, *Paddington*; Major Prendergast, *St. George's*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Miss

Collett, *South St. Pancras*; T. B. Spencer, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; Bishop Beckles, J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, O. L. Corkran, Esq., *Whitechapel*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End*; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; T. Parry-Woodcock, Esq., *St. Olave's*; R. M. Hensley, Esq., *Wandsworth*; J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; I. H. Cole, Esq., *Deptford*; G. Parker, Esq., A. Annesley, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., *Lewisham*; W. Day, Esq., *Sydenham*; A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., G. Blount, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 39. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., *Secretary*. Rev. C. D. Beaufort, Miss McGachen, *Visitors*.

The Secretary reported that Mr. A. G. Middleton would act as a representative of the St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee during the absence of Lord William Compton; and that Mr. W. F. Lawrence had resumed an Honorary Secretaryship of the St. Giles's Committee, *vice* Mr. J. J. Bickersteth, resigned; also that the St. George's East Committee was without an Hon. Secretary, and had asked the Council to endeavour to find a gentleman to fill the post.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.

A letter from a District Committee was read, asking whether any funds were applicable, under the arrangement with Mr. Peek, to a case which was described.

The Secretary pointed out that under the arrangement cases sent by the Divisional Committees were to be dealt with according to the ordinary principles of the Society, and that the chief question for the District Committees in most such cases was, whether temporary assistance would save the family from having to apply to the parish, and whether this would be a lasting benefit to them. Boarding-out, which was a mode of assistance suggested, was hardly suitable, as the mother was living.

The Chairman thought that if the mother was given to drink, as was believed to be the case, pressure should be put on her to pay what was required.

It was referred to the Administrative Committee to reply to the letter.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CASES.

The Secretary read a statement which he had received from the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, with reference to the number of out-patients during the quarter ending September 30. There had been 4,115 new applicants. Of these, 47 had been summarily rejected at the hospital, on account of over-age, or the infectious nature of their complaints; 439 had received 'casual papers,' and had been seen once, their ailments being so slight as to make it unnecessary for them to attend again. 131, whose fathers or mothers were receiving more than 30s. a week, also received 'casual papers,' and were seen once, on the ground of their requiring good advice, and being unable to pay a consultation-fee. 3,498 were furnished with letters and referred to the Committees of the Charity Organisation Society, after being seen once, that these letters might be stamped by them, if the statements

made by the applicants at the Hospital proved to be substantially true. 122 letters had been returned to the Hospital unstamped, for various reasons; but the Committees had not in all cases sent information about rejected cases, and the Hospital were unable to say how many of the 3,498 had returned, as they did not enter second attendances. He was informed that there had been 400 fewer applicants than during the corresponding quarter of last year, whilst the opening of the new buildings might have been expected to increase the number. The District Committees would be able to say how many letters had been brought to them during the quarter, and how many they had stamped.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending October 16 the receipts had been £5. 2s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £97. 8s. 8d. and £274. 11s. 3d. respectively.

That a District Committee had called their attention to the fact, that the returns of cases decided during the recess (though published in the *Times*) did not appear in the *Reporter*, and that they had directed that in future years the returns for August and September should be inserted in the first number of the *Reporter* in October.

Also that they were in communication with the Geneva Society, about a Swiss, employed in London, who had left a child at Geneva unprovided for.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Grants of £20 on account were made to the Mile End and Whitechapel Committees.

The Rev. W. H. Langhorne urged that a grant of £10 to their Permanent Loan Fund, which the Whitechapel Committee had applied for, should be made in addition, if the funds of the Council warranted this.

The Secretary said that, if it had not been for a grant of £100 from Kensington, the Council would not have been able to make the two grants under consideration without trenching on the £250 given by Mr. Peek, and recommendations to the amount of £95 would have to be considered at the next meeting. A gentleman had recently brought £10 to the office, to be given to one or more District Committees for their Permanent Loan Funds. He proposed to give a moiety of this to the Whitechapel Committee. Its Loan Fund amounted to £42. 10s., but was no doubt hardly equal to the demands on it, as the Committee sometimes made rather large loans. He read a statement of the cases decided by the Whitechapel Committee since their separation from the St. George's East Committee at the beginning of April: 201 cases had been dealt with, 86 had been dismissed, assistance had been obtained for 62, and 47 had been assisted by the Committee—10 of these by loans; a few others had been simply reported on, and left in the hands of persons asking for information.

Mr. Langhorne did not press his suggestion, and the recommendation having been adopted, the Council adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending October 23, 1875:—*Donations*: W. F. Higgins, Esq., £1; J. Walter, Esq., M.P., £20. *Annual*: W. G. Darwin, Esq., £1. 1s.; Rev. J. J. Thornley, 2s. 6d.; E. J. Valentine, Esq., 2s. 6d. *District Committee Aid Fund*: Kensington Committee, £100.

The following business stands for Monday, November 1:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. 'That a grant of £50 on account be made to the St. Olave's Committee.'
2. 'That a grant of £25 be made to the Bethnal Green Committee.'
3. 'That a grant of £20 on account be made to the Shoreditch Committee.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, OCTO- BER 23, 1875	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with			
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans					Employment	Letters for Hospital-acc.	Class total
Kensington	6	3	5	14	..	3	..	3	4	..	..	4	21	8	3	16
Fulham	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	3	..	..	..
Paddington	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	4	..	..	4	7	6	1	13
Chelsea	..	..	1	1	..	5	..	5	2	..	1	3	9	..	6	..
St. George's:—																
St. George's Division.	1	..	5	6	..	3	..	3	3	..	..	3	20	5	1	26
Westminster do.	2	3	4	9	2	1	1	4	4	..	1	5	3	..	..	..
Westminster:—																
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	..	..	1	..	7	1	8	..	..	..	7	9	6	13	9
St. Marylebone ..	1	4	3	8	..	7	3	10	2	4	..	7	25	3	..	..
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	..	3	3	..	4	1	5	..	1	..	1	9	6	2	..
South St. Pancras ..	2	1	4	7	..	5	..	5	..	2	2	2	14	2	..	..
Islington	8	2	2	12	..	26	2	28	..	1	1	1	41	16	4	..
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury Street	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	10	..	..	..	..	10	..	3	..
Strand	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	10	1	..	1	1	11	6	4	..
Holborn	1	..	7	8	..	26	..	26	2	..	2	2	36	2	8	..
City	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	3	6	3	10	..
Shoreditch	..	5	5	10	..	2	..	2	2	1	1	1	11	1	10	..
Bethnal Green	1	..	3	4	1	..	2	3	2	..	1	3	10	4	1	..
Whitechapel	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	3	5	6	6	1	2	..
St. George's-in-the-East	2	1	2	5	..	1	1	2	..	2	2	2	9	2	5	..
Stepney	2	1	2	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	6	5	2	..
Mile End Old Town ..	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2	5	..	4	..
Poplar	..	..	1	1	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	4	1	3	..
*St. Saviour's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Newington	1	1	3	5	..	1	1	2	..	1	1	1	7	4	..	..
St. Olave's	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	2	..	1	1	1	3	3	..	..
Lambeth:— { North ..	..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	2	10	1	7	..
{ South ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2	2	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney ..	..	..	3	3	..	4	..	4	1	..	2	2	9	5	2	..
Battersea	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	2	1	1	1	4	6	1	..	..
Clapham	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..
Camberwell:—																
Grove Lane	1	..	1	2	..	2	..	2	..	..	2	2	6	..	..	..
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greenwich	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	2	2	3	10
Deptford	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	4	4	..	..	8
*Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	3	6	1	22	12
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Total	33	18	62	113	6	121	14	141	44	14	5	17	80	334	101	116

* No returns received from these Committees at time of going to press.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE DURING THE RECESS.

—During the recess the Administrative Committee, in pursuance of the powers given to it, transferred £200 of the General Fund of the Council to the District Committee Aid Fund, and made grants amounting to £200 to seven Committees, as follows: St. Pancras South, £45; Islington, £10; Lambeth, £80; Newington, on account, £20; Poplar, £45 (£25 being for a Permanent Loan Fund); and Bethnal Green, £20. The Administrative Committee also sent two circulars to the District Committees—one relating to the Seaford and Margate Hospitals; and the other offering them copies of the *Index to Streets and Places in the Metropolis*, forty copies of which were placed, at half-price, at the disposal of the Council. In accordance with replies to the offer, thirty-one copies have been sent to District Offices.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of October 1875 was 33,630, and 47,101 received outdoor relief, making a total of 80,731. This was a decrease of 807 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 10,296, 6,708, and 19,950 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 645. This was an increase of 166 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 175 on the corresponding day of last year.

THE ATCHAM UNION.

The result of the late Sir Baldwin Leighton's careful administration of the Atcham Union has been so often referred to, during the last two or three years, that it appears worth while to reprint the following letters. The Atcham Union is now united with the Shrewsbury Union:—

From the Chairman of the Alresford Board of Guardians to the Chairman of the Atcham Union.

Arle-Bury, Alresford, July 16, 1870.

SIR,—I hope you will excuse my troubling you, as the matter on which I write is one of public interest. We are to have a meeting of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Boards of Guardians for Hants and Berks on the 18th of this month, and I want to draw attention to the small amount of out-relief given in the Atcham Union.

May I ask you to explain whether this small proportion arises from the circumstances of the population, or from the system pursued by the Board of Guardians in their administration of Poor-Law Relief?—I am, &c.

FRANCIS MARX.

From the Chairman of the Atcham Board of Guardians to the Chairman of the Alresford Union.

Loton Park, Shrewsbury, August 2, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—I am very sorry that, owing to the neglect of our clerk, I have not been able to reply sooner to your letter of the 16th ult., which was only put into my hands yesterday at our Board Meeting.

There is nothing very peculiar in our population, except that we have no town in the Union. The inhabitants are agricultural, with the exception of a few coal and lead miners.

The chief reason, therefore, for the small amount of our outdoor relief is to be found in the administration of it by the Board. I may mention we have had less change in our officials, probably, than any Board in the kingdom. This Union was formed thirty-three years since, and we have had during that time—

- 1 Chairman.
- 5 Vice-Chairmen (we have two at the same time).
- 2 Clerks. (The father died about six years since, and his son succeeded.)
- 7 Relieving Officers (we have two)—of these one was promoted to be Rate Collector, one resigned through old age, one married a wife with money, and two were dismissed.
- 3 Masters. Son-in-law succeeded father-in-law.
- 4 Matrons. One resigned, one died, one (a daughter) retired on her father's marriage.
- 4 Schoolmasters. Three resigned.
- 1 Industrial trainer, female.

Many of the working Guardians have also attended the Board from ten to fifteen years, so that by this means we have been able to act on a uniform system.

I may explain that, as Chairman, I endeavour to encourage thrift, and in my own neighbourhood I am able to persuade a large number of labourers to save. At present I have about thirty Savings Bank books in my keeping, the sums entered varying from ten shillings up to eighty pounds, and besides this, I am aware of many of my neighbours who keep their own books.

As a Board, we always endeavour to make children support their parents, and I am happy to say there are very few cases where they fail to do so, when the alternative is the workhouse. At the present time we have only one married couple in the workhouse, and they were brought in owing to the wife being bedridden, and the cottage in a dirty state. We have also an old married man whose wife is taken care of by a daughter, and a deserted Cornish wife. This shows that our rule does not bring many of this class into the workhouse. We have about nine couples only on our permanent Out-relief List.

You may have observed how few children we have on out-relief. This shows the small number of young persons with young families who apply, and in almost all these cases the destitution is occasioned by sickness, and the relief is not permanent.

When this class apply, and also widows with families, we offer to take some of their children into the workhouse, and then, if ill, we grant out-relief. At the present time we have thirteen children of widows who are not receiving other relief, and two of a man to whom, just at this time, we are giving 8s. a week.

I observe in Alresford there are a large number of children in the workhouse—5 per 1,000; we have 3 per 1,000. While on out-relief Alresford has 20 per 1,000, Atcham has only $\frac{1}{2}$. I cannot account for this great difference, as you appear to make great use of the workhouse test for this class.

I ought to mention that we have a very good school. Our boys and girls are taught reading, &c. by a master together. They play in the same playground—a gravel path separating the two sexes. The playground is enclosed by a low hedge only. The girls have their own kitchen, where the officers' dinner is cooked by them under the industrial trainer; and they have a laundry adjoining, where they wash their own clothes, and when there is sufficient strength the industrial trainer's linen. Although in the same house, they are quite isolated from the adults, except at meal-times. Every endeavour is used to make them handy, and to draw out their intellect. Among other things, the advantage of the Savings Bank is strongly impressed, and I have found several, in consequence, put by money before they have left us three years.

As we have a regular system, our rules become known, and we have but few applications—only from forty to fifty during the half-year. We meet twice a month. Thus this is not an average of four per meeting, and

perhaps twice or thrice per annum we have a blank book with no applications.

We give no permanent relief out of the workhouse:

- 1.—To any who rent more than half an acre of land.
- 2.—To orphan children, i.e. without both parents.
- 3.—To deserted wives or deserted children.
- 4.—To applicants residing out of the union.

In cases of funerals we do everything or nothing—i.e., we will not give the coffin and allow the relatives to do the rest.

If a cottage is very dirty, we endeavour to get it made clean under the threat of refusing out-relief.

If rent is £4. 10s. or even £4, we only grant relief for a short time, until the pauper can obtain a cheaper place.

We never grant out-relief on the plea of no work.

We do not give clothing, except to children going to service.

These rules do not apply to occasional relief caused by sickness.

While, on the one hand, we act in what some may call a very stringent manner, the Board endeavour by various plans to raise the condition of our poor. Two applicants came before the Board, who were paying £5 each for their cottages, under a nobleman who was non-resident. The Board wrote to point out to him that that rent was higher than was asked by any other gentleman in the union. He wrote a very civil reply. The agent was very angry, but our letter has, I believe, done good. The rent of cottages with gardens under gentlemen varies from £2. 10s. to £3. 10s., and is rarely £4.

The Board lately wrote to a baronet, who is also non-resident, pointing out that a house where a pauper died was not fit to live in. He promised to pull it down.

The Board also writes to landlords, requiring them to sewer and to make privies—also pointing out the bad and dirty state of their cottages.

Some years since, when work was scarce, the Board took the initiative in endeavouring to procure work, and were thus enabled to send applicants to places in the union where they could procure it. By this means we kept the applicants from becoming pauperised.

In all these cases my personal influence, no doubt, does something; still no landlord likes being found fault with (if he is to blame) by a public body, and thus we are able to do a good deal in this way without having recourse to law. Indeed, we have only once had occasion to summon a party for a nuisance; the others, by dint of writing and perseverance on our part, carrying out what we required.

We are very particular about vaccination. If a parent applies for relief, one of the questions asked is, "Have your children been vaccinated?" and if there is any doubt, it is the duty of the relieving-officer to examine the arm. If a fit case for relief, it is granted only for a fortnight, and in the meantime the child must be vaccinated, or a certificate of unfitness given.

Our vaccinations are from 90 to 95 per cent. on our births.

I may add our wages are low—day labourers, 10s. to 12s. a week, piece-work a little more; women 1s. a day, but few work in the fields; labourers, with food, 4s. 6d. to 6s. a week; waggoners, £10 to £14 per annum, with food and lodging; servant-girls above 18, £6 to £10—above 12 up to 18, £2 to £6. Our cottages, with good gardens—and almost every cottage has a garden—are let at from 50s. to £5, and we have many who have land sufficient for a cow attached to their holding. On this property, out of nearly 70 cottages, 30 have cow-land; and on another small estate I had there were 21 cottages, and eight kept cows. Coal also is cheap, 10s. to 13s. at the pit, and many labourers get their masters' team to haul it for them without payment.

I shall be happy to give you any other information, but fear I have written already too long an epistle.—Yours truly, BALDWIN LEIGHTON.

From the same to the same.—Extract.

Loton Park, August 11, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—I have been very much interested in reading the account of the proceedings at your meeting at Basingstoke respecting the administration of the Poor Laws. I am sorry I was prevented from attending it, owing to our assizes taking place at that time. The interchange of ideas among those interested in Poor Law work no doubt will lead to good when carried on, as your meeting seems to have been, in a friendly spirit. . . . There is an error into which, I think, several speakers fell, of supposing, if a Board decline to grant out-relief, the applicant must of necessity come into the house.

I frequently go over the list of applicants with our relieving-officers and the master, with a view of ascertaining how many have come in to whom we have refused outdoor relief, and it is astonishing how few will accept our offer. Our Board refuse outdoor relief, even in our limited number of applications, to nearly half of those who apply. Practically, I find that most of these are supported by their children or other relatives when outdoor relief is refused. I examine the list with the view of ascertaining how far we were right in our order.

In this union we never allow want of work to be an excuse for applying for relief, and consequently we have but few applicants of this class.

Should we have, however, great slackness of work, and should it become evident that there were a large number out of employment, I should apply to the waywardens to undertake an improvement on their roads; and I have no doubt that, partly by subscriptions and partly by rates, we should be able to offer employment to all who were really willing to work and unable to procure it. . . . I may add that, though as a guardian I refuse outdoor relief to an able-bodied applicant, yet out of the Board room, if the man is of fair character, I always try to procure him the offer of work, and during the winter I generally take on extra hands on my own property. By this means, in my own neighbourhood, no labourer able and willing to work need complain that he is unable to procure it.—Yours, &c.,
BALDWIN LEIGHTON.

ORGANISATION OF CHARITY IN GERMANY.

SIR,—While in Würzburg I have noticed, by the entrance of several houses, a plate with the inscription, 'Verein für freiwillige Armenpflege. Jede Gabe an Bettler ist verboten.' I find, on inquiry, that this society has been established since February last. The number of beggars who came in from the surrounding districts rendered it necessary that some step should be taken to prevent mendicancy becoming a nuisance to the inhabitants. To Prof. Regelsberger is due the formation of this society, which has for its objects (by co-operation with benevolent institutions and persons) the relief of deserving needy people, without reference to their place of abode, and the suppression of house and street begging. The conditions of membership are the payment, quarterly, of 50 pf. (6d.), and an undertaking to suppress begging, and to refuse alms on all occasions. Every member has to put up a plate bearing the inscription above mentioned. The executive consists of a committee (elected yearly at general meeting) and officers. The society does not employ paid agents to investigate the cases; the work is undertaken by members in leisure hours. The aid given, on decision by the committee, consists either of money (to be paid in a lump sum or by instalments), or of gifts of clothing, food, furniture, &c. Although this society is of such recent formation, it has already done much good in diminishing the number of beggars. No society of the same size in Germany has more wealthy hospitals, and the inhabitants (possessed of the spirit of the good Bishop Julius) have been liberal in aid to the poor. The society hopes to have the support of most of the inhabitants, but it has to meet with the opposition of many of the clergy. The receipts have, however, already amounted to 4,000 marks (£200), and 1,400 marks (£70) have been distributed.—Your obedient servant,
Würzburg, October 12, 1875.

HENRY PETO.

PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

BATTERSEA.—'The Committee of the Battersea Dispensary' (says the *British Medical Journal*) 'have had under their consideration what steps it was desirable to take to adapt the institution to the altered condition of the parish. After careful deliberation, they have unanimously decided to adopt the provident system. The dispensary was founded in 1844, when Battersea was a mere village; and its regulations are hardly suited to a populous suburb, of which a large proportion of the inhabitants belongs to the well-to-do artisan class. In reconstructing the dispensary upon the provident basis the Committee have introduced a novel feature. They propose to divide the members into two classes: first, those whose weekly earnings do not exceed thirty shillings; and, secondly, those who are receiving from thirty shillings to fifty shillings. The former class will be expected to pay one penny a week, the latter twopence, with proportionate payments for children. We are glad to see this experiment tried. It is a step in the right direction. There can be no doubt that many of those whom it is proposed to enrol in the second class are as much in need of a system of "sick assurance" as their poor neighbours.'

MANCHESTER.—The Central Committee of the Manchester Provident Dispensary Association are said to have resolved to admit Friendly Societies to the benefits of the provident scheme. A correspondent writes to the *British Medical Journal* that the medical men connected with the provident dispensaries are dissatisfied with this decision.

THE ADVANTAGE OF A PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—We have recently been told, by the chief promoter of a successful village provident dispensary, that the key to its success, as compared with various sick-clubs which had preceded it, lies in the members being at liberty to choose their own doctor.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN.—It is stated that at Macclesfield some years ago, the appointment of a 'Collector to the Guardians,' whose business it was to seek out and communicate with the relatives of persons receiving parish relief, has resulted in a saving to the Union of £5,000 a year. In one case a man, who had been compelled to contribute towards the support of his old mother, came to the office of the Board after her death and expressed his gratitude to the Guardians for having brought him to a sense of his duty.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 152.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 3, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

District Committees are requested to inform the Secretary to the Council what number of Letters for the Children's Hospital were brought to them during the three months ending September 30, and how many of these they declined to stamp.

District Committees not having occasion to apply for a Grant from the District Committee Aid Fund, during the current quarter in the ordinary way, but desiring to be reimbursed expenditure on School Board cases, under the arrangement with Mr. Peek, are requested to send in a written intimation to this effect.

One of the poorer Committees has an application in the case of a deserving person in poor circumstances, and crippled by rheumatism, for a Bath-chair, to enable her to be wheeled about out of doors, with a promise from a private source of half the cost of obtaining a second-hand one. Perhaps some of the readers of this paper, or their friends, may know where such an article is to be had cheap at second-hand, and will kindly communicate the information to the Secretary of the Council.

Country Societies are requested not to send up persons in distress to the London Society without allowing time for an exchange of letters in regard to them, and not to intrust such persons with letters about themselves. Personal applications are not, under ordinary circumstances, received at the Central Office.

The Bristol and Clifton Charity Organisation Society has united its offices. Its address in future will be 19 College Green, Bristol.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, Miss Merington, *Kensington Committee*; Miss Emma Howes, *Fulham*; Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Holland, Esq., *Paddington*; Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, A. G. Middleton, Esq., *St. George's*; F. C. Mills, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's)*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marglebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; T. B. Roberts, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. H. P. Kelly, *Shoreditch*; Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; C. L. Corkran, Esq., *Whitechapel*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Rev. W. H. Langborne, *Mile End*; S. C. Bosanquet, Esq., F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., A. D. Graham, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Heathcote Long, Esq., Lambeth*; R. M. Hensley, Esq., *Wandsworth*; J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; I. H. Cole, Esq., *Deptford*; A. Annesley, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., *Lewisham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, *Vice-Chairman*; A. H. Hill, Esq., J. W. Willis-Bud, Esq., G. Blount, Esq., S. Fuller, Esq., Dr. Hawksley, *Additional Members*; total, 38. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., *Secretary*. Miss Potter, R. Ellis, Esq., *Visitors*.

A letter was read from Dr. West, expressing satisfaction at the working of the arrangement under which the District Committees verify the statements of applicants for out-patient relief at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, after the applicant had been seen and prescribed for once.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending October 23 the receipts had been £22. 6s. for the General Fund, and £100 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £21. 10s. and £334. 11s. 3d. respectively.

That the Finance Sub-Committee had held their usual Quarterly Meeting to examine the accounts for the quarter ending September 30; that £529 had been granted during the quarter from the District Committee Aid Fund, being £179 in excess of the amount granted during the corresponding quarter of last year; and that £200 out of £421 received on account of this fund had been a contribution from the General Fund of the Council.

That the Croydon Charitable Society had requested that a representative of the Organisation Society might attend their Annual Meeting on November 26, and that they hoped to be able to meet the wish of the Croydon Society.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A grant of £50 on account was made to the St. Olave's Committee in pursuance of a recommendation from the Administrative Committee.

Major FitzRoy, in the absence of a representative from St. Olave's, explained the position of the Committee and its requirements.

The desirableness of obtaining an Hon. Secretary resident in the District as colleague to the gentleman at present holding that office, who comes from some distance at great expenditure of time, was referred to.

A grant of £25 was made to the Bethnal Green Committee

The Rev. J. D. McGachen mentioned that the cases referred to his Committee by the Divisional Committee of the School Board had not, for the most part, been such as admitted of effectual assistance from charity. In some cases the parents were earning good wages, but spending their money in drink.

A grant of £20 on account was made to the Shoreditch Committee.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending October 30, 1875:—*Donations*: M. J. F., £3. *Annual*: The Clothworkers' Company, £10. 10s.; James Duncan, Esq., £5. 6s.; Major Fitzroy, £2. 2s.; Mrs. Guest, £1.

The following business stands for Monday, November 8:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. That the Administrative Committee be empowered to reimburse District Committees on application by them for expenditure actually incurred in dealing with cases referred by the School Board, such reimbursements not to require the sanction of Council.

2. That a prosecution be instituted.

3. That a grant of £25 on account be made to the Fulham Committee.

4. That a grant of £30 on account be made to the St. George's in the East Committee.

5. That a grant of £25 on account be made to the Poplar Committee.

To receive and consider the report of the Committee appointed on October 18, to advise on the best course to be taken in reference to the vacancy created by the resignation of the Secretaryship.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, OCTO- BER 30, 1875	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with			
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for Hospitals, &c.	Class total	
Kensington	1	3	2	6	..	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	4	12	7	6	9
Fulham	1	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	3	..	1	3	4	4	2	3	10
Paddington	2	1	..	3	..	3	2	5	3	4	1	1	9	17	12	3	..
Chelsea	2	1	3	6	..	7	1	8	2	2	..	..	4	15	4	4	..
St. George's:—																	
St. George's Division.	1	..	3	4	..	2	1	3	3	..	1	4	..	19	6	1	..
Westminster do.	..	2	2	4	..	1	..	1	4	..	1	5	..	..	3	..	..
*Westminster:—																	
St. James' & St. Anne's	..	..	..	..	..	7	4	11	..	2	..	3	..	23	7	11	..
St. Marylebone	3	3	3	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..
Hamstead	2	..	1	3	1	3	1	5	1	..	..	1	9	..	2	..	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	1	3	6	..	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	7	..	2	3	..
South St. Pancras	..	6	6	12	13	3	17	..	..	..	..	..	23	1	4	..	..
Islington	4	1	..	5	..	9	..	9	1	5	..	6	20	13	2	1	..
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	2	2	4	8	..	8	..	..	..	1	1	11	..	5	..	..
Strand	..	..	..	..	6	1	7	2	2	1	1	4	11	6	5	..	..
Holborn	7	7	1	21	22	2	22	2	2	1	..	3	32	2	10	1	..
City	1	1	1	3	..	1	2	1	2	1	..	3	6	21	16	..	..
Shoreditch	..	4	4	8	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	2	11	1	11	..	..
Bethnal Green	2	1	4	7	..	1	1	2	2	..	..	2	10	7	2	..	..
Whitechapel	2	2	4	8	2	1	3	..	1	1	1	3	10	1	4	..	..
St. George's-in-the-East	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	4	1	1	..	..
Stepney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	..	1	..
Mile End Old Town	1	..	1	2	1	1	2	..	2	..	..	2	5	..	2	..	..
Poplar	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	3	4	1	1	..	..
St. Saviour's	..	4	1	5	1	1	2	1	1	..	1	2	9	4	5	..	..
*Newington	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Olave's	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Lambeth:—																	
North	1	1	2	4	1	1	3	3	..	..	3	11	4	6	..	..	..
South	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	3	1	4	1	2	..
Wandsworth & Putney	..	1	1	2	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	..	..
Battersea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2	2	2	..	2	1	..
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2	2	2	1	1	13	..
Camberwell:—																	
Grove Lane	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	8	..	..	8	11	..	..	..	..	..
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greenwich	3	3	..	6	1	1	2	1	3	4	..	4	8	4	..	9	..
Deptford	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	3	3	4	2	2	4	..	..
Woolwich	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	3	4	..	7	8	1	..	20	..	..
Lewisham	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	3	4	..	6	4	..	13	..	..
Eitham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	6	..	..
Total	22	19	53	94	6	93	20	119	54	30	6	17	107	320	122	117	131

* No returns received from these Committees at time of going to press.

WINCHESTER CHARITY ORGANISATION ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of this Association took place at the Guildhall, Winchester, on Thursday evening, the Right Hon. Lord Selborne presiding. His lordship was supported by the Mayor (C. Fielder, Esq.), the Dean of Winchester, the Archdeacon of Winchester, Dr. Ridding (head master of the College), Mr. Ribton-Turner (Organising Secretary of the London Society), the Revds. G. Richardson, H. Haigh, H. J. Wickham, and E. A. Were, and Messrs. E. J. Turner (hon. sec.), F. Morshead, Alderman W. Budden, Alderman J. Naish, &c. The Dean, with brief introductory remarks, proposed that the chair should be taken by

Lord Selborne, who said he had come amongst them at the invitation of the Dean, and also because the subject before them was one of great public interest, and not only so, but one of great and general importance. (Hear.) The aim of the Association was to assist people to give wisely and well—a most difficult yet most necessary thing. It was a most difficult thing to do, because to give when asked was the impulse of every generous heart, and seemed at first sight in accordance with the Gospel precept, 'Give to him that asketh.' This was a feeling that influenced him, and no doubt many of those present, when young. But the practice of giving to all in need, without seeing, and justly seeing, whether the person receiving was worthy or unworthy of relief, would not bear measurement by any high moral standard, and was rather a mischievous and unsatisfactory practice. The aim of the Society was, by observation and a careful line of action, to obtain discrimination and wisdom in giving. The opportunities for judging of this often lay upon the surface, and might easily be seen if the feelings were not carried away by believing the case to be one of pure distress. In some cases he was quite sure that more harm than good was done by indiscriminate giving, and his experience was summed up in a few words—the more you give, the less good you will do; the less you give, the more good you will do.

There were three classes of cases to which, with their permission, he would refer. Of course there were the cases which people knew thoroughly, of persons in service or under their eye, but who yet had no direct or moral claim upon them. Everyone must judge for themselves in giving in these cases what effect their gifts would have, what kind of need there was, and the degree of the claim—whether it should be met by regular assistance in the shape of a small allowance, or an annuity. If the help afforded were permanent it did most good. These cases were distinct from the three classes against which he desired to warn givers of charity. The first of these classes was that for which the Poor-law made proper provision. No good was done by attempting to encourage such persons to believe that the Poor-law was not a true and lawful provision for them, if they were not in the possession of means of earning their own livelihood, and if one were not in a condition to support them. To hold out hopes of support to such persons without the ability to realise them was running the risk of disgracing them. (Hear, hear.) Suppose he were reduced to that state of things that he must either beg or go into the workhouse, he was certain that the moral principle within him would be better preserved by submitting to the condition in which he found himself, and by availing himself of his right to a portion of the burden laid by the law on the whole land, than by obtaining a living from day to day at the hands of private charity. By law the maintenance of the people was a charge on the land, and there was not a charge superior to it. People, sooner than starve, ought to be maintained by it, and, if they could not maintain themselves honestly by other means, they should not look upon it as something disgraceful. The Poor-law of England, if wisely and well administered, was just and merciful in its provisions, and its aid nothing to be ashamed of. Therefore, if people could not give a person in distress a permanent allowance, it was better that he should at once avail himself of that provided by law. The second class consisted of those persons who were struggling in life, having before them a reasonable prospect of maintaining themselves. It was a dangerous practice to give these persons help without there was a sound and good reason for doing so. If there were a reason the help would do good and not harm, but if there were no sufficient reason they would be encouraging those persons to look from time to time for further assistance. If a person asked for money, and got it, he came again, and each successive gift diminished that man's sense of independence, making him look to others rather than rely on himself, doing him more harm than good, and, in fact, demoralising him. He had seen the good effect of refusing in such cases, and also seen the ill effect of repeated giving. (Hear.) The third class, arising, in a great measure, from the neglect of sound rules of economy and prudence in dealing with the other two classes, were a more numerous body. Indiscriminate giving to these went a long way to increase the number of habitual and demoralised mendicants. (Hear, hear.) He had himself had some experience of this class, and in becoming acquainted with their ways his fingers had been somewhat burnt. (Laughter.) Amongst the most ingenious of these were the begging-letter writers. They preyed especially upon those whose names appeared prominently in the newspapers, such as members of parliament and others, the former being especially open to such attentions from their constituents—he did not mean in the way of influencing votes. (Laughter.)

For himself, he had found that the more pressing the necessity of the case was represented to be the more likely was it that the applicant did not require, or that it would not be wise to give, help. If, for instance, something was said to have happened that rendered it absolutely necessary, in order to save a man from ruin, that he should have money that very evening, there was a certainty that the case would not bear inquiry. His rule was to make inquiries, and he found that if he did not adhere to that rule, and inquire into the character of the applicant, the result was unsatisfactory. His lordship gave an instance of this. He was once, whilst engaged as a barrister, told that some one wished to see him on urgent business, and a letter was handed to him. It purported to come from the principal clergyman of Plymouth (a town he then represented in Parliament), and he thought the writing was certainly that of his clerical friend. It was to the effect that the bearer was a most respectable man, and that he (the speaker) had been introduced to him at the house of the Mayor of Plymouth; that this person had lost a lunatic sister at Hanwell Asylum, and desired to take her to Plymouth for burial. Would he lend him £20? He hesitated; but, on getting into court, he found a promissory note for the amount in the letter. He at once thought it was a genuine appeal, and sent the amount to the address indicated. The cheque which he sent, however, was returned a short time afterwards from the Dead Letter Office, and he thought himself more fortunate than he deserved. (Laughter.) It was an unhappy consequence of this pauperism and mendicancy that many persons, to prevent imposition on themselves, buttoned up their pockets, and did not give at all. This was to be regretted, as this was an age in which there was a tendency to selfishly give way to worldly pleasure and self-indulgence. To lift people out of temporary difficulties, and enable them to keep their place in life, was the object of their Association, and he was pleased to speak on its behalf.

Mr. E. J. Turner then read the Annual Report, which, besides the usual particulars, referred to the progress of a Penny Bank and Provident Coal Club, and announced that a Provident Dispensary had been formed at the suggestion of the Association, and would commence working on the 1st inst.

Mr. C. J. Ribton Turner, in moving the adoption of the Report, gave some interesting details with reference to the treatment of the poor, which he had collected during a recent visit to the Continent. We hope to give the substance of his speech next week.

Mr. Budden seconded the adoption of the Report, which was put and carried.

The Dean of Winchester, in proposing a vote of thanks to Lord Selborne for presiding, stated his experience of the inability of agricultural labourers to provide for their old age, excepting they began at an early day, by such means as were offered by the Hants Friendly Society.

Dr. Ridding seconded the vote of thanks, and it was carried amidst applause.

THE HULL BOARD OF HEALTH AND THE ORGANISATION OF CHARITY.

We learn from the *Eastern Morning News* that at the monthly meeting of the Board of Health for Hull on the 28th ult., on the minutes of the Sanitary Committee being brought up for confirmation, Mr. T. J. Smith called attention to the desirability of the health of infants in the town being attended to. The Hospital for Sick Children attended to indoor patients, but he thought that, if possible, something should be done, the same as in other towns, for outdoor patients.

Mr. Witty intimated that it would be done when the funds of the institution permitted it.

Mr. Smith trusted that the collections on Hospital Sunday would realise something substantial towards such an object. He moved: 'That, with a view to supplementing the action of the Sanitary Committee, the Urban Sanitary Authority and Local Board of Health will afford every assistance within its power in aid of a charity organisation society (if established) to prosecute its labours for the improvement of the health of the town.'

Alderman Lambert: I suppose that means moral support.

Mr. Smith said on cases being reported, every assistance could be rendered by the sanitary authorities.

Alderman Dowsing seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

BRIGHTON, HOVE, AND PRESTON CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

The following cases were brought before the Committee during the week ending Saturday last, October 23rd:—

No. 1256.—An application for assistance on behalf of a man who has been known to the parochial authorities for the last thirty years. About a year ago his out-door relief was stopped for very sufficient reasons, and he has since been offered an order for the house on twelve different occasions.—Referred to parish.

No. 1257.—A man in bad health and in receipt of parish relief. Family large, but his wife and three of his sons earn a little, and might, it is thought, earn more, but they have no energy. Last winter they received substantial assistance from the Society and various kind friends, but are now as badly off as ever. Help is best bestowed on those who use it to help themselves.—Ineligible.

No. 1258 and 1259.—Applications for dispensary letters by two deserving persons. The cases being urgent, the secretary granted the letters at once.—Approved.

Recurrent cases:—No. 361: Assistance requested for a sick man who has been twice sent to prison for theft and has now in his possession an order for the workhouse, which is precisely the best place for him.—Undeserving. No. 670: A thriftless man who has no idea of putting by for a rainy day. Well-known to the guardians, who have offered him an order for the house. The family, it is believed, receive a good deal of assistance in the form of charity.—Ineligible. No. 805: An inquiry as to the best means of giving permanent relief to a respectable old woman. After due consideration the Committee recommended the inquirer to pay the poor woman's little debts, and to send her by rail to her son, who is willing to receive her.—Return of post brought a sum of money which will be spent on the objects named, through the agency of the Society. No. 880: Inquiry respecting the character and management of an excellent local institution that is doing a vast amount of good.—A favourable report forwarded. (The frequent exposure of sham charities and the doings of artful impostors is beginning to make people inquire before they give.) No. 901: A dispensary letter requested by a respectable woman.—Granted by the secretary and approved by the Committee. No. 1238: A poor deformed girl, but not in destitute circumstances. The Committee would have gladly supplied her with a reclining board, but the surgeon to whom the case was referred says that it is unnecessary.—Ineligible. No. 1245: A woman lately relieved by the Society and recommended by one of its members to a situation which she refused without sufficient reason. Her daughter, a servant in Brighton, is about to give notice that she may go with applicant to a neighbouring county, where they say they are partly engaged as cook and housemaid. In the meantime the mother wants to be supported by the Society for a month, till the two are ready to start.—Undeserving.

A hundred and eight wayfarers, pleading hunger and in search of work, were relieved with bread, which was eaten in the Office, 182 Edward Street, Brighton.—*Sussex Daily News*.

EAST AND WEST.

At the ordinary meeting of the Guardians of the St. George's (Hanover Square) Union, on October 20, Col. Lyon Fremantle called the attention of the Board to the fact, that for the week ended September 4, there were only 262 children on the out-door relief list in the large, populous, and poor district comprised within the Whitechapel and Stepney Unions and the parishes of St. George in the East, and Mile End Old Town; whereas in the comparatively wealthy Union of St. George, Hanover Square, the out-door pauper children numbered 744; and moved 'That the attention of the Out-relief Committee be drawn to the system steadily pursued by certain Boards of Guardians at the East End of London, whereby out-door relief (which falls entirely upon the unions or parishes granting it) is being rapidly curtailed by offers of the District School test to numerous children. The maintenance of such children (when the offer is accepted), falling upon the Metropolitan common poor fund, and the families in any case being struck off the out-door relief lists.'

The following statements were supplied for the information of the Guardians showing the number of paupers relieved, the ratio of in-door and out-door paupers, and the amount expended in out-door relief in the St. George's (Hanover Square) and Whitechapel Unions, in the sixth week of the quarter ended Lady-day for the undermentioned years.

The reason the year 1870 is given in the case of the Whitechapel Union only, is that at Lady-day 1870 the St. George's Union was not formed, whereas it was in the course of that year that the Guardians of the Whitechapel Union were first induced to voluntarily suspend the out-door relief regulation order, and to apply strictly the out-door relief prohibitory order, which latter is still practically in force in that Union, the out-door relief regulation order being reserved only for periods of temporary extremity.

Union	Year	In-door Paupers relieved	Out-door Paupers relieved	Total No Paupers relieved	Ratio per cent.		Cost of Out-door relief
					In-door	Out-door	
St. George's	1871	2230	5454	7684	29	71	£ 394 4 4
	1872	1880	4085	5965	32	68	298 0 2
	1873	2113	3582	5695	37	63	269 8 1
	1874	1963	3182	5145	38	62	240 13 4
	1875	1856	2647	4503	41	59	218 12 7
Whitechapel	1870	1419	5339	6758	21	79	168 17 4
	1871	1219	2568	3787	32	68	120 14 3
	1872	1000	1568	2568	39	61	75 18 7
	1873	1163	845	2008	58	42	50 4 5
	1874	1154	609	1763	65	35	36 11 1
	1875	1170	346	1516	77	23	22 9 0

The motion was carried.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its thirty-second meeting (and first after the recess) on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Major-General Bainbrigge, Col. Mansfield Turner, Dr. Armitage, Messrs. D. Connolly, W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, Edmund C. Johnson, C. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

A letter was read from Mr. Wheelhouse, M.P., on the best mode of making public aid available for the education of the Blind.

The Committee resumed consideration of Head VI.:—'To what extent should the education and training of the Blind be provided for from the rates or other public sources.'

It was resolved, on Mr. Harris' motion:—

'That this Committee is of opinion that it is expedient that grants in aid should be given by the State towards the education and industrial training of the Blind.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of October 1875 was 34,028, and 47,605 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,633. This was an increase of 902 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,830, 15,654, and 19,930 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 691. This was an increase of 46 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 5 on the corresponding day of last year.

ORGANISED CHARITY.—'A proper system of charity elevates the poor,' says the writer of 'Two Letters on the Abuse of Charity and its Remedy,' 'an improper system degrades them.' The evils of the present system may be summed up in a few sentences. The givers of charity act in ignorance of the condition of the persons receiving, and in ignorance of each other's proceedings. They squander time, labour, and money; they give to the undeserving, and over-give to the deserving. They encourage and support the indolent and profligate, and demoralise the well-doing; and while they harden the hearts of charitable persons against deserving objects of charity, they leave the great body of the really deserving poor neglected. One of the great arguments in favour of [a system of visitors] is the facilities it affords to everyone for performing his charitable duties. An applicant for charity may be an impostor, and he may not. It is an embarrassing position to be placed in, to be obliged to decide without a knowledge of the facts of the case—whether you should incur the risk, on the one hand, of encouraging profligacy; or, on the other hand, of wounding the susceptibilities of an unfortunate fellow creature, and refusing a small contribution towards alleviating what may be great suffering and distress. The system of charity above described relieves us from all perplexity as to how we are to deal with such applications. We do not require to say a harsh word to, or harbour an unkind suspicion of, anyone appealing to us for aid. Neither do we require to incur the slightest risk of encouraging imposition or vicious habits. All that is necessary is to hand to the applicant the order on the visitor.'

THE ARTISANS AND LABOURERS' DWELLINGS ACT.—'The medical officers of health in the metropolis,' says the *Metropolitan*, 'are not letting the grass grow under their feet in carrying out their part of the duties created by the Artisans and Labourers' Dwellings Act of the last session. In addition to the schemes for improving unhealthy areas in Holborn and Whitechapel, to which we have before referred, and which are now being dealt with by the Metropolitan Board of Works, the medical officers of health of Marylebone, St. George-in-the-East, and St. George, Southwark, have all made representations to the board of the unhealthiness of certain parts of their districts, and yesterday there was a further representation from the medical officer of Whitechapel as to another part of that district.' The medical officer of health for the City, Dr. Sedgwick Saunders, has laid a report before the Commissioners of Sewers, containing a list of places in the City coming, in his judgment, within this Act.

WILLESDEN.—The first quarterly report of the medical officer of the new sanitary district of Willesden, now scarcely a year old, illustrates the neglected state of a fast-increasing suburb of London, in parts only about two miles from the Marble Arch. Being outside the metropolitan area, it has been allowed to grow up, as it were, of its own accord,—hence its unsanitary condition. The new local board are doubtless doing their best to remedy the defects, but it is always some time before a new board can get into working order, and therefore they are still, we believe, without any legal building regulations. It is much to be regretted that steps are not taken to obtain an Act of Parliament, applicable to the whole kingdom, to regulate the proper construction of houses, for securing stability, the prevention of fires, and the purposes of health generally. Such an Act, so far as fires are concerned, was, we believe, recommended by a Committee of the House of Commons in 1868, appointed to consider the means of pre-

venting fires, and, as it seems to us, would be most useful in the extended form above suggested. The present permissive system of local regulations appears wanting in uniformity and completeness to make it work satisfactorily.—*Builder*.

BEGGING LETTERS.—The Reading Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity request us to mention that they have recently inquired into the case of K. Emans, a resident in that town, and have ascertained that she is an habitual writer of begging-letters, and is undeserving of assistance. She appears of late to have been practising on charitable Roman Catholics.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES of the Charity Organisation Society, and their Offices.

KENSINGTON—39 Holland Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—7 Brook Green Terrace, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—3 Leinster Street, W.
CHELSEA—5A Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRA'S and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRA'S—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Barnsbury, N.
HACKNEY—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur Street, W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBORN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
SHOREDITCH—56 St. John's Road, Hoxton, N.
BETHNAL GREEN—297 Bethnal Green Road, E.
WHITECHAPEL UNION—194 Commercial Road, E.
ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST—194 Commercial Road, E.
STEPNEY UNION—598 Commercial Road, E.
MILE-END OLD TOWN—116 Mile End Road, E.
POPLAR UNION—129 East India Dock Road, E.
ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK—9 St. George's Circus, S.E.
NEWINGTON—Vestry Hall, Walworth Road, S.E.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, SOUTHWARK—172 Tooley Street, S.E.
LAMBETH—Archbishop Sumner's Schools, Kennington Road, S.E.; and 21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
WANDSWORTH and PUTNEY—The Plain, Wandsworth, S.W.
BATTERSEA—1 Clifton Terrace, High Street, S.W.
CLAPHAM—73 Bromell's Road, Clapham Common, S.W.
CAMBERWELL—1 Grove Lane, S.E.; and Meeting-house Lane, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWICH—14 Haddington Terrace, King Street, S.E.
DEPTFORD—Mission Hall, King Street, Broadway, S.E.
WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDENHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards the expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' of the Council.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY: ITS OBJECTS AND MODE OF OPERATION.

Longmans, Green, & Co., Paternoster Row, E.C.; and at the Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C. 3d.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 153.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 10, 1875.

Price 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Miss Emma Howes, *Fulham*; Major Yard, J. R. Holland, Esq., *Paddington*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., *Chelsea*; Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, *St. George's*; Major-General Blunt, Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marglebone*; Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; Rev. W. T. Thornhill-Webber, Sir Richard Wilbraham, *Holborn*; Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, *City*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Ralph Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; S. C. Bosanquet, Esq., F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; F. Du Pre Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., *St. Olave's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Heathcote Long, Esq., Lambeth*; R. M. Hensley, Esq., *Wandsworth*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; I. H. Cole, Esq., *Deptford*; A. Annesley, Esq., G. Parker, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., *Lewisham*; C. A. Barry, Esq., *Sydenham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairmen*; J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., George Blount, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 40. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*; Rev. H. F. H. Burchell Herne, *Visitor*.

A letter from a lady was read, stating that a friend connected with the Government of South Australia had asked her help in finding a number of suitable respectable women and girls of from 16 to 45 years of age to send out there. They need not have been in service, but must be willing to enter service on their first arrival, though free to leave it again as soon as they liked. Widows could take daughters over 15 with them. All would be sent free of cost under safe conduct, and on arrival would be received into a Home. Reference to be made to Mr. H. W. Baker, 10 New Weston Street, Bermondsey.

Major FitzRoy said he understood that the opening was considered suitable for persons in reduced circumstances of a

somewhat higher class than that from which domestic servants were generally drawn.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Ralph Ellis had been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Poplar Committee *vice* Mr. A. L. Young.

Also that a letter had been received from the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee stating that several charitable persons had been recently victimised by Ralph Ouseley, a man of colour and native of Demerara, living in Westminster.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending October 30 the receipts had been £21. 17s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £29. 10s. 8d. and £239. 11s. 3d. respectively.

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE AID FUND.

The Secretary said that he had been directed by the Administrative Committee to state that recommendations for grants on account had been already made by that Committee to the amount of £150, and that, to complete these and other grants on account, a further sum of £232 would be required; it would be seen, therefore, that contributions from the richer District Committees or elsewhere were much needed.

MR. PEEK'S GIFT.

The Administrative Committee was empowered to repay any District Committee, simply requiring reimbursement for expenditure incurred in dealing with cases referred by the Divisional Committees of the School Board, without special sanction from Council, subject only to the Administrative Committee being satisfied that the expenditure was in accordance with the principles laid down in the circular paper of May 10th.

The Secretary stated that returns with reference to School Board cases for the quarter ending September 30 had been received from 34 out of the 37 Committees, and that 25 Committees had had cases sent to them. Several Committees had been unable to assist any of the cases sent to them; this had been so with the Kensington Committee, which had always co-operated heartily with the School Board. The Honorary Secretary had noted on the return that the cases sent were not such as could be appropriately dealt with by charity; they were usually persons in squalid misery from mismanagement.

The prosecution of an impostor was authorised.

Grants on account of £25, £30, and £25 were made to the Fulham, St. George's-in-the-East, and Poplar Committees.

Lord Lichfield stated that the Secretaryship Committee was not yet in a position to report. They had some good names before them, but would be glad to hear of any specially qualified candidates.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending November 6, 1875:—*Donations*: E. Coulthurst, Esq., £3. 3s.; H. D. Greene, Esq., £2. 2s.; J. C. Ireland, Esq., £5; The Marquis of Lansdowne, £25; The Earl of Lichfield, £25; A. C. Mitchell, Esq., £2; The Duke of Norfolk, £100. *Annual*: H. Cowland, Esq. (1875 and 1876), £2. 2s.; J. B. Dalton, Esq., £1; W. F. Laurence, Esq., £1. 1s.; *District Committee Aid Fund*: A. C. Mitchell, Esq., £2.

The following business stands for Monday, November 13:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. That as considerable discredit to the Charity Organisation Society may arise by ill-advised legal proceedings, Committees be requested not to embark in any such proceedings (except in the ordinary business of the recovery of their own loans and in such cases as are provided for in the bye-laws, paragraph 19a), without consulting the Council; and that Committees be advised to exercise great caution in taking up the cases of applicants who profess to have been defrauded by Benefit and Insurance Societies.

2. That a grant of £30 on account be made to the St. Saviour's Committee.

3. That a grant of £10 on account be made to the Islington Committee.

4. That a grant of £30 on account be made to the Stepney Committee.

To receive and consider the report of the Committee appointed on October 18 to advise on the best course to be taken in reference to the vacancy created by the resignation of the Secretaryship.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Report of the Shoreditch Committee.

Fourth Annual Report of the Local Government Board.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, NO- VEMBER 6, 1875	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with	
	Not requiring relief	Under-servicing	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.					Class total
Kensington	2	6	2	10	3	2	1	6	5	1	...	6	22	10	4	15	
Fulham	2	1	2	5	...	1	...	...	1	5	3	1	10	2	2	8	
Paddington	2	1	2	5	...	1	1	2	1	5	3	1	10	8	5	...	
Chelsea	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	1	2	4	6	...	...	...	
St. George's:—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
St. George's Division	...	7	7	...	...	1	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Westminster do.	...	5	5	10	...	4	1	5	4	...	...	4	31	2	1	...	
Westminster:—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
St. James' & St. Anne's	...	4	4	...	10	3	14	...	...	...	...	...	18	4	9	10	
St. Marylebone	1	2	3	...	17	7	24	...	2	1	1	4	31	3	9	...	
Hampstead	2	1	1	4	...	2	2	...	1	1	1	3	9	...	...	...	
North St. Pancras and Highgate	4	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	2	1	
South St. Pancras	1	4	5	...	19	2	21	...	...	...	...	...	26	2	4	1	
Islington	9	1	10	...	23	...	23	4	1	...	...	5	38	16	...	...	
Hackney	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	2	3	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	6	...	
Strand	1	1	...	...	3	...	3	...	1	1	...	2	6	8	5	1	
Holborn	...	4	4	...	15	...	15	...	1	1	...	1	20	...	12	...	
City	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	5	3	15	...	
Shoreditch	1	2	3	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	
Bethnal Green	2	1	3	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	6	1	3	...	
Whitechapel	1	...	1	...	1	3	4	...	...	1	...	1	6	3	2	...	
St. George's-in-the-East	1	3	4	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	6	...	...	...	
Stepney	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	1	...	
Mile End Old Town	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	
Poplar	1	...	1	...	3	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	5	1	5	...	
St. Saviour's	1	2	4	...	1	4	5	1	...	...	...	1	10	6	3	2	
Newington	4	1	6	...	3	...	3	3	1	...	...	4	13	2	3	1	
St. Olave's	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	...	
Lambeth:—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
North	...	2	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	4	...	
South	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	4	2	3	
Wandsworth & Putney	2	2	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	3	6	1	2	5	
Battersea	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	7	10	1	1	3	
Clapham	2	2	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	17	
Camberwell:—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Grove Lane	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	1	1	...	...	2	1	8	...	...	
Peckham	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	
Greenwich	2	3	5	...	2	...	2	...	2	1	3	...	10	2	...	17	
Deptford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	2	1	2	4	
Woolwich	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Lewisham	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	34	
Bilham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Sydenham	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	8	
Total	33	22	65	120	7	134	18	159	49	14	7	8	78	357	104	120	160

COMING MEETINGS.

BETHNAL GREEN.—The Annual Meeting of this Committee will be held at the Queen Adelaide's Dispensary, Bethnal Green Road, to-morrow (Thursday), at 3 P.M., Lieut.-General Cavenagh in the chair.

LAMBETH.—The Annual Meeting of this Committee will be held at the Vestry Hall, Kennington Road, on Tuesday next, the 16th inst., at 4 P.M., Mr. Alderman McArthur, M.P., in the chair.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its thirty-third meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Major-General Bainbrigge, Col. Mansfield Turner, Dr. Armitage, Dr. Hawkey, Dr. Moon, Messrs. T. Clarke, D. Conolly, W. Harris, Edmund C. Johnson, C. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, and W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Committee resumed consideration of Head VI.:—'To what extent should the education and training of the Blind be provided for from the rates or other public sources.'

It was resolved, on Mr. E. C. Johnson's motion:—

'That as the question would embrace so large a field of inquiry, the Committee would urge upon the Council to use their influence with the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the whole subject of State aid to the Blind.'

Also, on General Bainbrigge's motion:—

'That this Committee consider that the existing laws with reference to the Blind should be more effectually carried out, so as to place the Blind more nearly on a level with the sighted, e.g., by facilitating their education in elementary public schools; by granting to all efficient schools, for each blind child in them, special aid after inspection and in proportion to results; and by assisting systematically in the maintenance of blind adults whilst they are being taught trades.'

The Committee then proceeded to consider the miscellaneous notices.

It was resolved, on Mr. Harris's motion:—

'That in consideration of the well-known suffering and misery which result from marriages between two blind persons, this Committee strongly recommends that such marriages be discouraged and prevented by all reasonable means, especially by the proper authorities providing entirely separate accommodation for the two sexes, in schools, workshops, and at all gatherings of blind persons under their control; and by making a rule that in case any blind person receiving the benefits of their institution or charity do, after having been duly warned, marry another blind person, both such persons shall forfeit the benefits of such institution, or charity, unless it be otherwise decided by the Committee of an institution in exceptional cases.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

GREENWICH.—*Annual Meeting.*—The annual meeting of this Committee took place on Saturday, the 29th ult., at the Lecture Hall, Royal Hill, Greenwich. The chair was occupied by Admiral Hamilton, of Blackheath, and there were also present Major-General Bainbrigge, Rev. I. W. North (Holy Trinity, Greenwich), Rev. F. Storer Clark (St. Peter's, Greenwich), Rev. D. Reith (Christchurch, Greenwich), Mr. H. S. Richardson, Mr. J. Watson, Mr. A. Budds (hon. sec. to the Branch), Mr. Ribton-Turner (Organising Secretary to the Society), and a large number of ladies.

The Chairman said when they understood the working of the Society, they would be able to appreciate more fully the good that was being done. He was certain when they heard the report read not only would they assist the Society themselves, but advise all with whom they came in contact to follow their example. In loans the Society last year lost one per cent.; but this year it was only one-half per cent., which showed how much good had been done for poor honest persons, and the admirable rules, and it showed also that much was due to their energetic officer, Mr. King.

The Rev. F. Storer Clark then moved that those present 'were glad to hear that charity organisation committees were established in every part of the metropolis, and were of opinion that uniformity of practice amongst them was most important.' He had come to the conclusion that these organisation committees could do more good than the local clergy in relieving the really deserving, for the clergy had been continually taken in, loaves encouraged, and the deserving deprived of the help they should have received. He referred to a local effort on his part to assist the poor with loans, in which his confidence had been much abused, and, with regard to the working of the School Board, said if the Society was to extend its operations to providing clothes for the children of those parents who said they could not send their children to school for want of boots and other articles there would really be no end to its work, and they would find that instead of Mr. King wanting one assistant, he would require two or three. After alluding to the indefatigable exertions of that officer, Mr. Clark urged upon those present to become collectors on behalf of the Society, which would greatly relieve Mr. King, and if they only adopted the course he recommended, that meeting would not have been held in vain.

Ribton-Turner seconded the resolution, and said that the balance showed that the loans were in proportion to grants as eight to one, at the Committee wish to encourage self-dependence among the poor. ought something might be done to improve the position of the pauper as to the School Board, which had been touched upon by a speaker, and which was a matter which required the gravest consideration.

A magistrate in London had a woman summoned before him by the Board authorities for not sending to school her girl of 9 or 10 years, and the woman's excuse was, that she kept her child at home to be a baby. The magistrate admitted the plea, and said if they wished to commit the woman to prison they must obtain a *mandamus* to compel her to do so. That was a sad state of things (although he had no doubt the magistrate thought he was acting rightly) in a Christian country, millions a year were spent in charity. Here was a girl permitted to be idle—he believed it was in the district of Holborn—and he asked what would be the future of that girl but idleness and vice, here no means of preventing it? It was pretty certain that the baby would not be left at home by itself, and he was afraid if the matter had been quired into it would have been found the mother was addicted to and dirty. It was necessary that something should be done, and he proposed was a crèche or something of that kind in the neighbourhood.

He must not, however, say too much in favour of institutions, for children were herded together in institutions, they carried away the habits of the institution, became what he might call institutional and unfitted to make their way in the world. He thought could make every boy and girl fit to take their place in the world, at could only be done through the medium of the family circle. of orphanage institutions the children could be boarded out, which prevent much money being spent in bricks and mortar when the object could be attained in another way. Then, again, there was it of power in the lower strata of human nature to run in the right direction. They had a large number of vagrants; their prisons were for every variety of crime; but idleness and crime were connected, a majority of their criminals came from the vagrant class. The public not give the beggar into custody, but gave him what he asked for. ggar having been thus encouraged, the question arose whether someone could be done to reclaim him and make him a useful member of society. ought they should be able to show in each district a diminution of crime year by year, and not an increase in the number of persons themselves relieved. And they were not doing their work well if they support on the ground of the extra number relieved. It was their lessened mendicity. Some of the points he had touched upon he would come home to some of them, and tend to the reduction of crime. If they had a large pauper class, they had a body who looked very at the classes in comfort, and it did not occur to them that they do anything to help themselves, as they had only been educated as paupers, and were dangerous to society. The Committees could not attain the object if they were disunited, and should help one another, and give her the benefit of their advice, and to meet the common foe of both the poor there must be a system of close co-operation.

Mr. Bainbridge, in supporting the resolution, said that he hoped all read the report carefully to enable them fully to understand what the Committee are doing, and that, as regards their success, they might ask themselves, who would tell them that beggars did not annoy their customers as they formerly did; the district visitors would say that great benefit had resulted from their sending the poor to their office for without interest, and the members of the School Board would express satisfaction at the aid afforded in dealing with cases in which want of money was mentioned as a reason for children not going to school. He said that he hoped the ladies especially would recollect the words of the Rev. 'Consider the poor'—that is, consider whether the help they such as will permanently improve the condition of the poor. With to the cases coming before the School Board, he must observe that there are different kinds of 'cases of distress.' Cases were sometimes caused thus: a man wants money to get drunk, he pawns his wife's clothing, and when they are in rags he says that they cannot go to work. Care must be taken not to manufacture such cases. The resolution was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the Rev. I. W. North, and seconded by the Rev. D. closed the proceedings.

THE ORGANISATION OF CHARITY IN HULL.

On Thursday, the 4th inst., a large and influential public meeting was held in the Town Hall, to consider the formation of a Charity Organisation Society. The Mayor (Alderman Wells) presided, and there were also the ex-Mayor (Alderman Seaton), the High Sheriff of Yorkshire (Mr. F. Bethel), the ex-High Sheriff (Admiral the Hon. Arthur Dundas), Mr. C. H. Wilson, M.P., the Sheriff of Hull (Mr. Summers), the Mayor's Magistrate (Mr. Travis), the Town Clerk (Mr. G. C. Roberts), Clerk to the Board of Health (Mr. Todd), and Councillors Priestman and J. Smith (hon. secretaries of the movement).

A resolution of the Board of Health, promising assistance to a Charity Organisation Society, having been read, and the Mayor having explained the objects of the meeting,

Mr. C. H. Wilson, M.P., then moved 'That it is desirable to establish in Hull an Association, to be called the Hull Charity Organisation Society, for the improvement of the health and condition of the poor, and for repressing mendicity.' He found there were in existence, and had been for many years, several similar organisations. He found in England alone fifty such Societies, and that some of them were founded a great number of years since, but a great majority of them were of recent date, having sprung up within the last four or five years. The parent Society, as it might be called, in London, had, he found, forty District Committees, and in addition to these Societies in their own country, foreign countries and America had similar organisations. He thought all present must feel—there could be no doubt about it—that in initiating this Society in Hull they were doing what could only be productive of great good. (Hear, hear.) From the large meeting they had, he felt no doubt that their fellow-townsmen would have great pleasure in giving their cordial and also their material support in placing the Society on a safe and proper footing. (Hear, hear.) He had very great pleasure in moving the resolution, thinking that it was one which must be to the benefit of the town and district. (Applause.)

Mr. Travis seconded the proposal, remarking that the Society proposed had for its primary object the welfare of the poor. Now, the poor could not be got rid of, and anything they could do to assist in helping them it was their bounden duty to do if not interfering with organisations already existing. But, with regard to the latter part of the resolution he could speak more confidently, for he had had considerable experience during the last thirty years as to the close connection between mendicity, vice, and crime. (Hear, hear.) He could say with confidence that the Society, which would take the matter in hand so as to systematise the relief of the deserving poor, would at once strike a vital blow to the general organised system of dissipation and wretchedness practised by beggars, and do an immense amount of good. (Applause.) On that point alone, if there were no other good, he felt the movement should have his utmost support. Anything he could do to support the Society would be done with the greatest possible pleasure. (Applause.)

Mr. J. Booth thought that those who knew anything about the working of Societies such as the one proposed, would agree that the step was a proper one to take. Some few years ago he resided in Leeds, and he took pleasure in supporting a Society then organising. That Society had worked well.

Mr. J. Reckitt was glad to be able to say that there was already an organisation which was somewhat analogous to the one proposed, as through the officers of the School Board they were able to find many necessitous cases, and these cases were only discovered by the officers paid to look after the work. Of course the Society would appoint officers of their own to substantiate any claims which might be made, and he presumed that one suitable class to be relieved was the one the School Board was brought in contact with. Some most distressing cases were brought before the Board, and it was sufficient to say they were not the beggars who came to their doors and asked for bread or money, but those who remained in back streets and garrets, and only came forward when influenced to do so by the School Board or their own knowledge of what was right, and desiring to get their children to school. (Applause.) The health of the town was the wealth of the town, and even some of the working men's clubs had been seriously affected by the number of sick thrown on them during the last year or two. The funds of one club, he knew, had been almost exhausted by the number of sick on the books. It was absolutely necessary that something should be done on behalf of the working classes, and he believed they would be glad to pay more rates if their districts could be rendered more healthy. He felt something would be done towards assisting them if they organised in Hull a charity such as the one proposed. (Applause.)

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

The Rev. J. McCormick (Holy Trinity) said that he, perhaps, was amongst the few persons in the room who had had anything to do with a charity organisation society. Some time ago, in the part of London where he resided, they started what was called a Mendicity Society, and afterwards put themselves into connection with the Charity Organisation Society. The good they were able to effect in a very short space of time was something surprising. In his parish they had the famous Mill-lane, a place notorious for the number of beggars and tramps who went to reside there, and where he believed most of the Fenians, at the time of the Fenian conspiracy, were arrested. In consequence of this lane and other low places in the neighbourhood, the respectable residents were incessantly infested with beggars at their houses; but after they had organised their society they were able to get rid of these beggars, so that instead of seeing three or four in the street whenever he went out, scarcely one was met with in a day's walk. The system adopted was that an officer was chosen, who had a particular room assigned to him, and he was in this room at given hours. Any person who was a supporter of the society received a packet of tickets, so that if a beggar called at his house for relief one of the tickets was handed to him, and he could go down to the charity office—if he

chose to seek help there—and on presenting himself his address was taken, and the charity officer went to the address given to investigate the case, afterwards supplying relief if he found the applicant to be a deserving character. If he were merely a tramping mendicant, he perhaps got a little assistance did the charity officer think it was necessary; and in this way they soon got rid of the beggars. It was found they did not care to receive the tickets, and gave up troubling the residents at their homes. The fact was, a large number of these beggars had lived simply by the trade of begging, and when they found it would not pay, they left for Hull or some other place (a laugh) at any rate they got rid of them from Deptford. Another good effected by the society—and he thought it ought not to be lost sight of—was this, that from time to time they had cases of artisans who, through some cause or other, had got into difficulties, and, perhaps, had been compelled to pawn their tools. To such persons a little help was a great boon. They did not give them money, but lent them it; and he was thankful to be able to say that in the majority of cases—in fact it was an exception when the contrary occurred—the money was returned, even though many of such persons had emigrated to America and elsewhere. He hoped they would put themselves in connection with the Central Society in London, for he was sure if they had to find out themselves how the proposed society had to be worked, they would be wasting a considerable amount of trouble.

Mr. T. J. Smith stated, in reply to a remark made by the Rev. J. McCormick, that the originators of this movement in Hull had already been in communication with the metropolitan society, who had sent down a number of their books and papers bearing on the subject.

The officers and a committee having been appointed,

The Rev. W. C. Walsham (Sculcoates) moved a vote of thanks to the Right Worshipful the Mayor, 'for his readiness to call the meeting, to allow the use of the Town Hall, and to preside so ably thereat.'

Mr. Walliker seconded, and the motion was cordially carried.

The Mayor, in acknowledging the compliment, intimated that when the society was started he should hand over to the officials the recommendations he at present possessed for various medical and other charities, and refer applicants for such recommendations to the society, who could investigate their claims.

[We may state, in reference to an expression in the report of Mr. McCormick's speech, that it is the practice of the London Society to give tickets with the address of the Office to all who apply for them, not to supporters only.]

ADOPTION OF THE FREE SYSTEM AT THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

We learn from the *Birmingham Daily Post* that an adjourned meeting of the Governors of the Queen's Hospital, to consider the report of the Income and Expenditure Sub-committee recommending the abolition of the privilege system, took place on the 1st inst. The Rev. C. Clarke presided; and amongst those present were the Rev. Canon Wilkinson, the Rev. J. C. Blissard, the Rev. Willoughby Wilkinson; Mr. G. Dixon, M.P.; Messrs. J. T. Bunce, G. J. Johnson, jun., W. H. Dixon, G. F. Muntz, and R. Chamberlain.

The Chairman opened the business by reading the resolution which was before the meeting when the debate was adjourned on the 9th of July. It was as follows:—'That this meeting approves generally of the recommendations of the Sub-committee's report, and instructs the Committee to consider and decide on the mode and time in and at which such recommendations shall be carried into effect.'

Mr. Muntz moved, and the Rev. J. C. Blissard seconded, a series of amendments in favour of ascertaining the fitness of all applicants, supplying printed forms of certificates to subscribers, and charging a registration fee of 6d. After a brisk discussion, in which Canon Wilkinson referred to the inconvenience caused to the poor when they were obliged to travel about to obtain a ticket of recommendation, the amendment was put and lost, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. G. J. Johnson, seconded by Captain Bullock, it was resolved, 'That the privileges of governors and subscribers, enumerated in Laws 3 to 15 inclusive, shall cease with the current annual subscribers; and that the Committee be instructed to endeavour to obtain from all life governors a surrender of their privileges.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of October 1875 was 34,470, and 47,954 received outdoor relief, making a total of 82,424. This was an increase of 791 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,694, 15,876, and 20,902 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 716. This was an increase of 25 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 5 on the corresponding day of last year.

THE WEST SUSSEX MENDICITY SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the Central Committee of this Society, held on Thursday, at the Council Chamber, Chichester, under the presidency of Lord Leconfield, the Hon. Secretary, Capt. Montgomerie, read the following report:—My Lords and Gentlemen, I beg to lay before you a report of the working of the West Sussex Mendicity Society, which commenced issuing tickets on the 3rd of January in this year. Since that time 4,381 bread tickets have been presented to the 49 bakers and exchanged for bread, being 1 ton 19 cwt. 3 lbs. For the year ending 29th September 1874, there were 164 persons apprehended under the Vagrant Act; in this year there have been 138; and during the nine months that the Society has been at work 23 persons have been apprehended for begging, against 64 in 1874 in the corresponding period. In the different union-houses where the police relieve tramps, in the year ending 29th September 1874, there were 6,885 tramps relieved, and in this year 5,263, being a decrease of 1,622. The following are the numbers of tramps relieved in the different unions throughout West Sussex, to which a new union has been added at East Preston since 1874:—

	1874.	1875.
Quarter ending 31st March ...	1,623	1,218
" " 30th June ...	1,961	1,370
" " 29th Sept. ...	1,875	1,103
	5,459	3,691

(Decrease 1,768.)

In the city of Chichester, where the tramps are relieved by the Borough Superintendent, the numbers for the respective quarters were:

Quarter ending 31st March...	200	185
" " 30th June ...	283	174
" " 29th Sept. ...	285	136

(Decrease 273.)

768 495

MANCHESTER PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES' ASSOCIATION.—The *British Medical Journal* of Saturday contains a letter from Mr. O'Hanlon, in which he explains the arrangement between the Friendly Societies and the Provident Dispensaries' Association, referred to in the *Reporter* of October 27. He argues that the arrangement is for the interest both of the Friendly Societies and the medical men, and says that, though the Club Doctors and some other medical men dislike the system, many members of the medical staff have expressed their entire satisfaction with its financial results. One doctor says that 'his private practice has doubled since he joined the dispensary'; another, that 'his dispensary work is as well paid as any work in connection with a practice amongst the poor'; another is in receipt of £250 a year from his dispensary alone, although he joined but three or four months ago and, I believe, had not been in practice before. This fact is becoming more and more prominent, that the Manchester Provident Dispensary system, when fairly established, will well recompense the medical men who give it a fair trial.

THE NATIONAL PENNY BANK, LIMITED.—This company, which has for its object the promotion of thrift by affording facilities for the exercise of thrift which are not at present afforded by the Post Office or other Savings Banks, has commenced active operations. The first branch, at 257 Edgware Road, was opened on the 9th October. In three weeks 1,978 deposits were made, and £353. 14s. 1d. taken. On Saturday and Monday evenings the bank is so crowded that it is as much as the two clerks can do to attend to the depositors. The branch at 195 Hackney Road opened on the 26th October, and during the first six nights 480 deposits were made and £17. 8s. 4d. taken. The branch at 7 Cannon Street Road, Wapping, opened on the 28th October, and on the first four evenings 213 deposits were made and £7. 17s. 2d. taken. Branches will be opened in a few weeks in Brompton, Oxford Street, Waterloo Road, Old Street Road, Stepney, &c., and in as many schools and workshops as possible.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY: ITS OBJECTS AND MODE OF OPERATION.

Longmans, Green, & Co., Paternoster Row, E.C.; and at the Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C. 3d.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 14d. s. d.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENBICITY.

No. 154.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 17, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is
the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies at are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

District Committees which have not yet reported to the Council the number of Letters for the Children's Hospital ought to them during the three months ending September, and how many they declined to stamp, are requested to furnish this information in pursuance of the notice of the Council instant.

Committees which had no Letters brought to them during the same period are requested to inform the Secretary to the Council of this by post-card.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, *Paddington Committee*; Major Yard, Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Holland, *St. George's*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., *Chelsea*; Major Prendergast, P. M. Esq., M.P., *St. George's*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *Marglebone*; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *St. George's*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; F. Burdett-Roberts, Esq., *St. George's*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Sir Richard Wilbraham, *Holborn*; Mr. M. S. A. Walrond, *City*; Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Hon. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran, Esq., H. Lavers-Smith, Esq., Rev. S. A. Mallet, *Whitechapel*; A. G. Crowder, Esq., E. L. O'Malley, Esq., Mrs. Mallet, *Stepney*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End*; Ralph Mallet, Esq., *Poplar*; S. C. Bosanquet, Esq., F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., *St. George's*; F. Du Pre Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., *Clare's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; F. Green, Esq., J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; S. Etches, Esq., *Clapham*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; V. Tidman, Esq., *Lewisham*; W. Day, Esq., *Sydenham*; A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; J. W. Willis-Band, Esq., George Blount, Esq., Stephen Mallet, Esq., Dr. Hawksley, O. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 47. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Ross, Esq., *Secretaries*.

INUNDATION IN LAMBETH.

Mr. A. H. Hill asked whether any information had been received with reference to the inundation at Lambeth of the previous night. It was stated in the *Globe* that a Relief Committee had already been formed.

The Secretary said that no information had been received at the Central Office, but that the District Offices were no doubt aware of the emergency. They had had experience of a similar calamity in March 1874, and had, he believed, been of material use to the Relief Committees by making inquiries for them.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen said that careful inquiry was very necessary at such times. During the former inundation the Bethnal Green Committee had been asked to inquire into the claims of a resident in their district, who alleged that he had had a number of things swept away in the flood. The story proved to be quite false.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending November 6 the receipts had been £166. 8s. for the General Fund, and £2 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £126. 13s. 11d. and £161. 11s. 3d. respectively.

That they had received a Report from the Sub-Committee on Visits to Offices, and had referred it to the Finance and Inquiry Sub-Committees, which had been requested to hold over their joint Report on the distribution of the work of the Office till the Visits to Offices Sub-Committee had reported.

And that they had ordered payment of two accounts of £7 and £1. 8s. to the Newport Market Refuge, for food supplied to two families, under a special arrangement, pending inquiry.

The Secretary explained in reference to this payment, that it was contrary to the rule for the Central Office to undertake the relief of individual cases, but that these families had been referred to the Council by provincial Societies, and that these charges had thus been incurred by the Council, and not by any District Committee. Country Societies had been requested not to send up cases in future without allowing time for an exchange of letters.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A recommendation of the Administrative Committee (printed as a notice in last week's *Reporter*) with reference to the action of District Committees in regard to legal proceedings was referred back to the Administrative Committee on the motion of Sir A. Gordon, chairman of that Committee.

A grant of £30 on account was made to the St. Saviour's (Southwark) Committee.

A comparative statement of the cases dealt with by the St. Saviour's Committee in the years 1874 and 1875 was read, showing that they had increased from 178 to 339, exclusive of 100 inquiries for other Committees, and 18 homeless cases.

Consideration of a grant to Islington was postponed, the Administrative Committee having sent up a recommendation for a grant of £20 in addition to the £10 of which notice had been given.

A grant of £30 on account was made to the Stepney Committee.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARYSHIP COMMITTEE.

A Report was brought up from the Secretaryship Committee signed by Lord Lichfield, recommending that Mr. C. S. Loch, Hon. Sec. of the Islington Committee, and at present in the Secretary's Department of the College of Surgeons, be appointed Secretary, at a salary commencing at £300 a year.

The Chairman said that the only thing that had made the Committee hesitate about their recommendation of Mr. Loch was his comparative youth; this was a defect he was likely to outgrow.

It was stated that Mr. Loch had taken a second class in Modern History at Oxford in 1872, and had gone through all the preliminary steps necessary for being called to the Bar; he had had two years' experience of secretarial work in the College of Surgeons, and had entered with great spirit into the work of the Society, first as a member and then as an Hon. Secretary of the Islington Committee, having gone to reside in Islington in order to be near his work. Mr. Loch was prepared to give his whole time to the work of the Society.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen moved:—

That the Report be received, and that Mr. Loch be offered the secretaryship at a salary commencing at £300 a year.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson seconded the motion. He thought it very inexpedient to make any provisional arrangement. It was desirable that the new Secretary should come to the Office as soon as possible.

Mr. Wightman Wood questioned the propriety of the Council coming to a decision on so important a matter without having had the Report in their hands for a longer time.

The Chairman pointed out that the Council had directed that notice should be given of the Report, in order that they might be at liberty to consider and adopt it without delay.

Mr. Ralli thought that it would be well to come to a decision at once. The Council had referred the matter to a Committee and could not do better than accept that Committee's recommendation.

After some further discussion the motion was put and carried, 28 voting for it, and none against it.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending November 13, 1875:—*Donations*: R. Burnett, Esq., £10; Miss Courtenay, £3; St. Marylebone Committee, £5. *Annual*: Miss Courtenay, £2; Miss Ewart, £3. *District Committee Aid Fund*: The Duchess of Grafton, £5; St. Marylebone Committee, £20.

The following business stands for Monday, November 22:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. That when inquiry is asked for as to any companies which have appealed to the public for support on charitable grounds, information should be given as to whether they are or are not commercial ventures.
2. That a grant of £30 on account be made to the Islington Committee.
3. That a grant of £25 be made to the Fulham Committee.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fifth week of October 1875 was 34,689, and 48,346 received outdoor relief, making a total of 83,035. This was an increase of 611 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,641, 16,412, and 21,381 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 576. This was a decrease of 140 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 135 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1875	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
Kensington	4	6	10	3	1	4	3	3	6	20	8	2	3
Fulham	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	5	3	4	10
Paddington	3	2	5	4	1	5	3	1	5	15	8	4	27
Chelsea	1	2	3	4	4	8	1	1	1	12	2	3	17
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	6	14	4	2
Westminster do.	1	4	4	9	3	3	2	1	3	20	8	1	29
Westminster:—													
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	1	2	6	6	7	19
St. Marylebone	1	3	7	11	12	3	16	1	3	4	31	6	6
Hampstead	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	6
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	2	3	10	1	11	1	1	1	14	1	2	18
South St. Pancras	1	7	8	14	1	15	2	2	2	25	3	8	36
Islington	1	2	3	21	1	22	2	1	2	27	4	4	35
Hackney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Strand	1	1	2	6	6	2	2	2	2	10	10	6	26
Holborn	1	4	5	15	16	1	1	1	1	22	4	13	39
City	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	6	18
Shoreditch	2	5	7	4	4	4	1	1	1	12	2	1	15
Bethnal Green	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Whitechapel	3	1	3	1	4	8	1	1	1	9	2	3	14
St. George's-in-the-East	1	7	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	2	1	15
Stepney	3	1	3	1	1	5	1	1	1	9	9	1	19
Mile End Old Town	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Poplar	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
St. Saviour's	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Newington	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
St. Olave's	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Lambeth:—													
North	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
South	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Wandsworth & Putney	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Battersea	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Clapham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Peckham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Greenwich	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Deptford	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Woolwich	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Lewisham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Eltham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	9
Total	26	31	60	117	6	105	24	135	31	11	7	13	62

* No return received from this Committee at the time of going to press.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its thirty-fourth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office. There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Major-General Bainbrigge, Col. Fyers, Col. Mansfield Turner, Dr. Armitage, Dr. Hawksley, Dr. Moon, Rev. B. G. Johns, Messrs. T. Clarke, D. Conolly, W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, Edmund C. Johnson, C. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, J. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

It was pointed out that the words 'and instruction' should have been inserted after 'maintenance' in the resolution passed last week on General Bainbrigge's motion.

A printed paper prepared by Mr. Wilkinson, setting forth the present state of the law in its bearing on blind children and adults, was submitted. The thanks of the Committee were voted to Mr. Wilkinson on Mr. E. C. Johnson's motion.

The Committee then proceeded to consider the form of the Report.

Col. Mansfield Turner moved:—

'That while it is desirable that the Report should fully embody the resolutions passed at the various meetings, the resolutions themselves be not published in the Report.'

After discussion, the motion was put and negatived, 5 voting for it and 9 against it.

THE BRIGHTON SOCIETY.—The fourth annual meeting of the Charity Organisation Society for Brighton, Hove, and Preston will be held in the Royal Pavilion on Monday next, November 22, at 3 p.m., the Mayor (Henry Abbey, Esq.) in the chair.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

BETHNAL GREEN.—The fifth annual meeting of this Committee was held on Thursday last at the Queen Adelaide's Dispensary, Pollard Row, Lieutenant-General Cavenagh, Vice-chairman of the Council, in the chair, supported by the following ladies and gentlemen: Mrs. Aubrey, Mrs. McGachen, Miss McGachen, Miss Bontein, Revs. S. Hansard, M.A., C. Kirton, B.A., J. Sumners, Mr. Wooding, Dr. Mainwaring, Rev. J. D. McGachen, hon. sec., and others. Letters were read from the Right Rev. Bishop Beckles, D.D., Rev. H. G. Henderson, and Mr. J. Sapsford, regretting their inability to attend.

In opening the proceedings the Chairman said a great many of the public still believed that the promoters of the Charity Organisation Society were hard-hearted political economists, but he denied that such was the case; he believed that the principles of the Society, if carefully carried out, would be a blessing to the poorer classes. They wished that charity should go to the deserving poor, and not be thrown away in indiscriminate relief. Mendicity is an organisation, and must be met by an organisation, so as to root out begging-letter writers and others who have for many years lived on the benevolence of the charitable. He believed that charity would be more liberal when it was understood that no help would be given except to those who, after strict inquiry, were found to be deserving. (Cheers.) The hon. secretary then read the following report:—

The year just closed has been one of steady work and uniformly good attendances at Committee meetings. The ladies who had been hitherto prevented from attending and taking an active part in our proceedings have been regular and interested, and their practical experience in the district has been of great advantage in the decisions arrived at.

Mr. Peek's gift of £1,000 per annum, for three years, to the Charity Organisation Society, for the special benefit of the poor unable to send their children to the Board Schools, has caused an unexpected demand upon the time alike of the Committee and the agent, and the inquiries thus rendered indispensable have tended to confirm the opinion of all interested in the poor, that there are other and more distressing reasons than at first sight would appear for nearly all cases of established wretchedness. The Committee are, however, faithful in carrying out the strict letter of the instructions of the Central Council, as agreed upon with Mr. Peek, and his munificent generosity will have more direct influence than was perhaps at first supposed in unravelling the real causes of neglect and ignorance. The School Board officers are acting loyally and prudently with the Committee, and express their approval of the searching investigations as conducted by our agent, and it is confidently anticipated that the munificence of Mr. Peek may solve in an almost unexpected way the question which has engaged the attention of all interested in East London for years, viz. How to account for such apparent discrepancies in the same class of the poor and the conditions of different families under similar circumstances of earnings and expenditure. The School Board visitors deserve every consideration from the Committee for their kindly co-operation.

The Committee regret to observe that the more exhaustive the investigation only the more patent is the absolute necessity for the inquiry; but it is hoped that the poor will gradually become convinced of the determination of the charitable to help only the deserving, and leave those who can but will not help themselves to be dealt with by a less sympathising and more exacting agency.

It will be observed that the number of cases under investigation is in considerable advance of last year. The 'Loan Fund' has been more extensively used, and in almost all cases the repayments have been punctually made.

The increased number of persons applying at the office of their own accord is a proof of the greater publicity acquired by the office, and of its more 'established position' amongst the institutions of the parish.

The Committee venture to view another year's gratuitous labours with satisfaction, and, while drawing attention to the list of cases dealt with, and the samples given in the appendix of their 'decisions,' to express a hope that by firmness, kindness, and discretion, guided by the known principles of the Society, 'Charity' may yet be proved the handmaid of thrift and misfortune, and not a blind and mischievous subsidist of extravagance and vice.

It is with deep regret that this Report must close with the announcement of the death of the late hon. financial secretary, Mr. R. J. Donovan, who, both by his pen and in the press, was a warm friend and liberal advocate of this Society.

The Rev. Septimus Hansard, in moving the adoption of the report, said he could bear testimony to the necessity of the Society in Bethnal Green, and thought that too much praise could not be given to the Committee, and more especially to the honorary secretary, Rev. J. D. McGachen, for their trouble not only in attending the weekly meetings, but for the attention they pay to the cases brought before them. He also wished to acknowledge the kind and discreet manner in which their agent carried out his duties. (Cheers.)

Mr. C. L. Corkran, seconded the resolution, and expressed his belief in the ultimate success of the principles of the Society.

Mr. Mainwaring, in support, thought that the more the Society was developed the more good it would do.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Rev. J. D. McGachen moved the re-election of the following ladies and gentlemen on the Committee: Chairman, The Rev. Septimus Hansard, M.A.; treasurer, Sir T. F. Buxton, Bart.; hon. secretary, the Rev. J. D. McGachen, M.A.; W. M. Alexander, Esq., Mrs. Aubrey, Right Rev. Bishop Beckles, J. Barber, Esq., Miss Bontein, Mr. C. L. Corkran, E. Dent, Esq., C. W. Greenwood, Esq., Rev. J. Harrison, Rev. H. G. Henderson, Rev. J. Jeakes, M.A., Rev. C. Kirton, B.A., Rev. R. W. Loveridge, J. D. Link, Esq., Miss McGachen, J. G. Mainwaring, Esq., M.R.C.S., J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. Sumner, Rev. William Tyler, Mr. W. Wooding. He said he wished to thank the ladies present for their kind co-operation on the Committee during the past year. They had been of great assistance in deciding many of the cases brought before them. He next referred to Mr. Peek's gift to the Society of £1,000 per annum for three years, to

assist the children of poor parents who pleaded that they could not send their children to school for want of boots and clothing. He felt that if the Committee had done nothing more than attend to the cases sent by the School Board authorities, they had done enough to justify the existence of the Society in Bethnal Green. (Cheers.)

The resolution was seconded by Rev. J. Sumner, and carried.

Rev. Charles Kirton moved, and Rev. S. Hansard seconded, a vote of thanks to General Cavenagh for presiding, which was carried unanimously.

General Cavenagh briefly replied, and the proceedings closed.—*Tower Hamlets Independent.*

School Board Cases.—During the past few weeks, says the *East London Observer*, the Bethnal Green Committee have dealt with 24 cases sent by the School Board for investigation and assistance. In each case the parents stated that the children could not go to school for want of boots and clothing. More than ordinary care has been exercised in making the investigations, so that no injustice should be done to the applicants by a onesided inquiry, and to enable the Committee to arrive at the real cause of so much wretchedness and misery.

The 24 cases were decided as follows:—10 found deserving, to all of whom boots were given, and in some cases clothing; 3 undeserving; 7 not requiring relief; and 5 were found to be cases that could only be successfully dealt with by the Poor-law.

The following is a brief outline of the cases dismissed by the Committee as 'Undeserving,' 'Not requiring relief,' and 'Referred to the Poor-law.'

Undeserving.—Case 1,396: a man, wife, and five children; wife stated that four of the children could not go to school for want of boots. Inquiry proved the man to be a confirmed drunkard, hardly ever sober.—Case 1,398: a widow and five children, two able to work: application for a boy and girl, aged 11 and 8 years; home wretchedly poor and dirty; the applicant never married; lived with two men, and had children by each. The last man, who has just left her, is a married man, and father of another family; his wife still alive. The applicant and her family lived and slept in one room not three yards square.—Case 1,411: a man, wife, and six children: application for boots for two children. This man is a book-binder, and in constant employment, earning 36s. per week; two girls are also at work; the united earnings of the family amounting to 50s. per week. The man drinks, and the home is very filthy and wretched.

Not Requiring Relief.—Case 1,413: a man, wife, and five children; three of the children not going to school, having no boots. Application made by the wife, who could not give her husband's employers, and when the agent called he was informed that her husband would rather not have inquiries made about him; would do without the charity and buy the boots himself.—Case 1,420: A man, wife, and four children; application for boots for the eldest child. Inquiry proved the man to be intemperate, and when the agent visited the case he was told that they did not want charity; had bought the boots and the child was at school.—Case 1,432: A widow and two children; application for boots and trousers. Upon inquiry it was found that the woman stands in the streets with her two boys, begging. The agent saw the boys and they were decently clothed.—Case 1,438: a woman applied for boots for her two children, and stated that her husband only gave her 20s. per week. Upon inquiry it was found that the man was in constant employment, and his wages were 35s. per week. Total earnings of the family 45s. per week.—Case 1,406: a man, wife, and five children; woman applied for boots for two children, and stated that her husband's work was very slack, and he was not earning more than 15s. per week. Could not say where he worked, but would let the agent know when he called. The agent visited the case next day, and was informed that the husband refused to give any information; did not wish inquiries made about him; could do without charity, and buy the boots himself. Case 1,446: application for boots for children; woman stated that her husband's work was very slack, and he only earned 12s. per week. Before inquiries were made, the applicant called at the office and said her husband did not wish to have inquiries made about him; would buy the boots himself and send the children to school.

Poor Law.—Case 1,404: a widower and four children: application for boots and clothing for the two youngest. Inquiry proved the man to be in a chronic state of poverty; the eldest girl, who is big enough to take care of the children, grossly neglects them, and is a source of trouble to her father, and will only work when she likes. The man has been continually helped by his friends till they can do no more. The home is very wretched, and the children ragged and dirty.—Case 1,408: a widow, and two children: applicant stated she could not send her boys to school for want of boots. The woman is a hawker about the streets, and earns a very precarious living; she had been a pauper on and off for several years, and her children were in the parish schools at Leytonstone, but she took them out; they are now in a most wretched state. The applicant has been helped by a district agency with money to get stock, but she spent the money in drink.—Case 1,413: a man and wife and four children; one a hopeless idiot: application for help to get the idiot into an asylum. The parents were found to bear an excellent character, but the Committee could not deal with the case, except by referring it to the 'Poor Law.'—Case

1,433: a woman and three children; husband in prison, having been sentenced to six months for felony: application for boots and clothes. This case was before the committee two months ago, when the applicant applied for help in a false name, and said that her husband had been sent to goal for an assault. Upon inquiry, it was found that he was convicted for felony. Applicant and her children are in a hopeless state of poverty, and would be better off in the workhouse.—Case 1,443: a widow and four children: application for boots for the two eldest, aged 12 and 9 years. Upon inquiry, it was proved that applicant had been a pauper on and off for years, and will not let her children go to the parish schools; she is a regular cadger, and is continually applying to the district agencies for help.

ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE POOR.

On Tuesday the 9th inst., the annual meeting of the subscribers to this Society was held in the Square Room, Music Hall Buildings. Lord Provost Jamieson in the chair.

The Lord Provost said:—Ladies and gentlemen, this is the sixth anniversary of this Society, and I am sure that there is no Society in Aberdeen that does more good than—I think I may almost say that does so much good as—this Society does. It was a happy idea indeed that originated it, and I am sure that we could ill want its efforts at this time. (Applause.) The principle upon which the Society proceeds is not to support the poor so much as to enable the poor to support themselves. All that is done is in this direction. No doubt the Society has to expend considerable sums of money when it meets cases of extreme distress; but the great object is to stimulate the poor in assisting themselves. I am sure that the persons who have had anything to do with the poor, in endeavouring to carry out their conscientious convictions as to promoting their elevation, must feel that this Society is a very great help to them. (Hear, hear.) It enables them to not only find out the poor, but to make sure that they are deserving people. Many persons come to us—to all of us—now and again, and solicit our charity, and we have been many a time led by their solicitations to give them sums of money, and we have afterwards found that these sums of money were thrown completely away; that we were merely supporting mendicancy and promoting it. Whereas, if now a case comes before us we have but to send to the secretary of the Society, and we shall get the whole case so explicated that we can come to a conclusion at once as to whether we should give money to the party applying, whether we should support them, and how long we should continue to support them. We get a history of the case at all events, and that should guide us intelligently how to act. You are aware that this Society sets itself to find employment for those willing to work. A person may be in want, and in want because he cannot find employment, because he cannot find anything to do; and he has but to apply to our secretary, and he will make at least an effort, and, if possible, will find him employment. Then again, we assist those who, from unforeseen causes, from a long series of sickness in the family or otherwise, are completely cast down—(hear, hear)—and who are almost obliged to cast themselves into the arms of the parish for aid. We do support them; we must support them; and we support them until they are enabled to get up from their exceedingly exhausted pecuniary condition, and until they get some heart to proceed again in the support of themselves and family. (Applause.) Then we find that there are a great many societies in this town instituted for the very end of supporting the poor. Many persons that are deserving of the aid of these societies do not know how to apply, and even do not know of the existence of these societies. This Society, by the entire knowledge that they have of the means that exist in the town for the support of the poor, are enabled to direct them to these sources, and where the case is a proper one, and where the charity is applicable to the case, then they are enabled to get something from it. I was very much struck in reading the report at the advantages of such a society in bringing, in a very small matter, those wanting employment and those wanting service together. In the case of the late snow-storm, it appears that by the Society supplying those who were out of employment with a pick and a spade, and sending them with a card from the Association, they were very quickly employed by a number of persons wanting the side pavement cleared of snow. So much was this the case that it appears in a very short time there were more applications for men to do this work than they had service to give. I was struck in reading the report, too, as to the repayment of sums received by parties from the Society. It showed at least that this Society had done some considerable amount of good by preventing individuals from slipping down into the slough of pauperism. (Applause.) We have in connection with this Society, as you all know, a Prisoners' Aid Society, and from the report you will find that some good has been done there. The Society is scarcely in full operation yet, but very evidently it will be of considerable benefit in enabling prisoners who are willing to do well to get into employment, placing them so as that they shall be enabled to earn their livelihood in an honest way. You know how thoroughly prejudiced families and individuals are against receiving

a person who has been a criminal; and, however anxious they may be to return to the paths of virtue and propriety, there is a very great difficulty to get any of us to receive them into our families. Well, this Society is for the purpose of doing something towards this, and I hope it may be successful. We have, lastly, here, the Flower Mission, which, I am sure, has done as much good to the young ladies who have been carrying it on as it has done to the poor people who have been so benefited and pleased by a kind word and the presentation of a flower at their sick-bed. (Applause.) His lordship concluded by mentioning that a letter of apology for inability to be present had been received from the Marquis of Huntly, who stated his intention of subscribing £25 to the funds of the Society.

The report for the year was then read by the secretary, Mr. Milne.

Sheriff Comrie Thomson, in moving its adoption, said: We wish to bring sympathy into action, and we wish to guide that action, after due inquiry, by the exercise of sound judgment—(hear, hear)—sympathy brought into action, and action preceded by inquiry, and regulated by discretion. Something like that, I take it, is what this Association aims at. We desire to extinguish, or at least we desire to frown upon mere barren, inoperative sympathetic feeling and mere expression of sympathy, and we insist that if a man feel sympathy, or says so, he shall show it by what he does. (Applause.) And, further, we undertake as far as we can, for our fellow citizens who have not leisure or opportunity of doing so, to see that this sympathetic action shall be wisely guided. (Applause.) Further, it is a prominent feature of this Association that we do not ask our supporters merely to give us money. Money we must have, but I take it there is no association in the community in which so little money is used in doing so much good. A great deal more is wanted than money. We want something better than money. We want the noblest part of man's nature. We want his heart, and we want his head.

The motion was seconded by Ex-Baillie Esslemont, and carried.

The Rev. A. M. Fairbairn moved that the Association deserved the continued support of all classes of the community. It is a great matter, he said, that the charity of this city should be organised charity, doing its work in systematic ways, and this Association is but the organised charity of Aberdeen systematically doing work amongst its poor. (Applause.) It is well distinctly to remember that there is nothing that so takes the fine edge off self-respect and self-reliance from the spirit as parochial aid or the necessity of seeking charity from door to door. It is an evil thing for a man to be a beggar for the man himself. Archbishop Whately once said, 'Pay a man for working, and he will work; pay a man for begging, and he will beg;' but the loss of it is that while the man becomes better by working, he becomes worse by begging, and it becomes a good service to the community to reduce the number of those who seek aid and manage to obtain it. It is well distinctly to remember that, while this is a charitable association, it is, as has been said, not an association for giving charity. It is far more important to lift people above the necessity of needing it and seeking it, than of giving and teaching them to expect to receive day by day charity.

The motion was seconded by Dean of Guild Walker, and agreed to.

The Lord Provost moved a vote of thanks to the Acting Committee, and to ex-Provost Nicol, their chairman.

Ex-Provost Nicol, in returning thanks, said he hoped that the work would continue to receive the support and encouragement of the people in Aberdeen, because he really believed that, in the course of time, if the committees and the visitors could be kept up, it would soon go far to supersede the necessity for Parochial Boards. (Hear, hear.) I should much rather, he said, see the poor supported by voluntary contributions, in this way, than in the way we are obliged to do by the rate. I do not expect that that will be done in a few years. I think it will take some years; but I am of opinion that when the young who are now being educated come to be grown men, the State should distinctly tell them that they who have been educated at the public expense shall never receive one farthing of legalised charity, that they must look out for themselves in time, and be prepared to meet their own necessities during their time—all those, at all events who are able-bodied and able to make their living. (Applause.)

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 155.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Miss Emma Howes, *Fulham*; J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., *Chelsea*; Major Prendergast, Major Sanford, *St. George's*; R. Mills, Esq., *Westminster (St. James' and St. Anne's)*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marglebone*; E. Bond, Esq., *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; F. Burdett-Roberts, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Sir Richard Wilbraham, *Holborn*; Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End*; R. Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., *St. Saviour's, Southwark*; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., *St. Olave's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; J. H. Cole, Esq., *Deptford*; Capt. Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; C. A. Barry, Esq., *Sydenham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., Dr. Hawksley, *Additional Members*; total, 35. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

DEATH OF MR. MIDDLETON.

A letter was read from the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee announcing the death of Mr. A. G. Middleton, a representative of that Committee, and referring to his painstaking work in East London and elsewhere.

Mr. J. R. Hollond reminded the Council that Mr. Middleton had been one of its early supporters, and had done the Society excellent service, first as a member of the East End Enquiry Committee, and then as its Chairman.

A letter was read from the Lambeth Committee, stating that Mr. Powell had resigned the joint Hon. Secretaryship of the Committee owing to ill-health, and had been succeeded by Mr. Heathcote Long.

A letter was read from the St. Saviour's Committee, stating that Mr. W. F. Smith had been appointed a representative during Mr. Courthope Bosanquet's absence.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending November 13 the receipts had been £23. 3s. for the General Fund, and £25 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £124. 16s. 1d. and £120. 2s. 6d. respectively.

INQUIRIES ABOUT COMPANIES.

Major Prendergast moved the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee:—

That when inquiry is asked for as to any companies which have appealed to the public for support on charitable grounds, information should be given as to whether they are or are not commercial ventures.

He referred to the results that had come from the Report of the Society's Committee on Dwellings, and urged that as much information had been accumulated, the Council ought to be prepared to express an opinion about the various agencies which were preparing to carry out the improvement of the dwellings of the poor, in concert with the authorities to which the working of the Artisans and Labourers' Dwellings Act had been entrusted.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson seconded the recommendation. It was clearly the duty of the Society to furnish such information, in the interest both of the philanthropists and of the poor.

The Secretary stated that he frequently received letters asking for information about Provident Dispensaries, Dwelling Companies, and other agencies, which were of a more or less self-supporting or even commercial character, but were intended to benefit the poor. It had always been one of the objects of the Society to act as a centre of information in regard to charitable agencies, and he thought that charitable agencies should for this purpose be construed in a wide sense.

Sir A. Gordon desired to move, as an amendment, that the words 'charitable institutions' should be substituted for 'commercial ventures.'

The Rev. H. I. Cummins thought it a mistake to try and draw a sharp distinction between charitable and commercial agencies. Some charitable objects could be best attained by acting on commercial principles. He would second Sir A. Gordon's amendment, and would suggest the addition of the following words: 'but not as to their probability of success as commercial ventures.'

After some further discussion the recommendation was adopted, in the following form:—

That when inquiry is asked for as to any companies which have appealed to the public for support on charitable grounds, information should be given with regard to the charitable aspect of the undertakings, but not as to their probability of success as commercial ventures.

GRANTS.

The Council then took into consideration a recommendation that a grant of £30, on account, be made to the Islington Committee.

Mr. Burdett Roberts stated that the Islington Committee had inquired into a very large number of cases for the Royal Free Hospital and the Children's Hospital; they had had to put on a second inquiry officer in order to meet the demands on them.

Mr. J. R. Hollond called the attention of the Council to the fact that they had really no money to grant. The apparent balance to the credit of the District Committee Aid Fund had been contributed by Mr. Peek for a special object, and the balance of the General Fund would be required to meet current liabilities at the end of the month.

Mr. Willis-Bund moved that the consideration of the grant be postponed.

The motion was put and lost, 3 voting for it, and 9 against it; and the recommendation was adopted, with the addition of an instruction to the Administrative Committee to pay the amount as soon as funds are available.

Consideration of a grant of £25 to the Fulham (and Hammersmith) Committee was deferred.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contribution has been received during the week ending November 20, 1875:—*Donation*: E. Chaplin, Esq., £5. 5s.

The following business stands for Monday, November 29:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. a. That while District Committees should certainly not refuse to investigate the cases of persons applying to them, whose distress is alleged to have been brought on by their having been defrauded by benefit societies, enquiry into the general bona fides of the societies themselves (unless they have issued charitable appeals) should not be instituted, but the investigation should be limited to the particular transactions of such societies with the individual applicant.

b. When District Committees have come to the conclusion, from their own investigation, that a clear case of fraud on the part of any society has been made out, they are strongly urged not to embark in any legal proceedings in reference to it, without laying the case before the Administrative Committee.

2. a. That the Council undertake all canvassing and collecting in the City, assisted, if they should require it, by such aid as the City Committee can afford.

b. That the City Committee send in an estimate at the commencement of their financial year of their probable expenditure; that this be considered a first-charge upon moneys collected in the City, and be paid in equal quarterly payments on the 1st of January, 1st of April, 1st of July, and 1st of October.

c. That all subscriptions paid, from whatever source, to the City Committee, shall be handed over at the end of each quarter to the Bankers of the Council.

3. That a grant of £25 be made to the Fulham Committee.

4. That a grant of £10 be made to the Whitechapel Committee.

Mr. W. Day to move—That the continuous application to the Council of this Society for grants, by some of the District Committees, is opposed to the principles of self-support. That it arises more from want of better organisation than from poverty. That a house-to-house collection and free distribution of Charity Organisation Society's Tickets, properly carried out, should enable each District soon to become self-supporting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its thirty-fifth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Major-General Bainbrigge, Col. Fyers, Messrs. W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, R. Bruce Reid, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The Committee resumed consideration of the miscellaneous notices.

Major-General Bainbrigge moved:—

'That the Committee, finding that at least one-half of the Blind now receiving instruction or working in the metropolitan institutions come from

the country, recommend that this system, whereby many of the blind residents are neglected, should be checked by establishing more workshops in those counties in which none exist.'

The previous question was put and carried, it being understood that a reference to the importance of convenient centres in different parts of the country should be introduced into the draft Report.

The first of the motions of which Mr. Wilkinson had given notice was carried in the following form:—

'That the framers of the Report be requested to inquire into the present legislation for the Blind, and to communicate with the several public authorities in whom the powers given by legislation are vested, for the purpose of ascertaining how far they can be made available for the benefit of the Blind.

It was resolved, on Mr. Wilkinson's motion:—

'That it be suggested to the Institutions that they should invite Government Inspection.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, NO- VEMBER 20, 1875	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with			
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans					Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.	Class total
Kensington	2	1	3	6	1	4	1	6	4	3	1	7	19	8	5	6
Fulham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	5	4
Paddington	1	1	2	4	3	3	2	5	1	2	1	4	14	11	6	31
Chelsea	1	1	2	4	3	2	2	5	1	2	2	5	8	2	3	13
St. George's:—	5	1	3	9	2	2	4	6	2	2	2	6	33	12	1	46
St. George's Division.	2	1	5	8	2	1	3	5	3	2	2	7	14	4	1	20
Westminster do.	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Westminster:—	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	1	3	5	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
St. Marylebone	1	1	3	5	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	21	9	5	35
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	1	3	6	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	10	4	2	16
South St. Pancras	1	1	3	5	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Islington	2	2	4	8	16	1	17	1	1	1	1	3	22	10	2	34
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Strand	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Holborn	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
City	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Shoreditch	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Bethnal Green	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Whitechapel	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Stepney	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Mile End Old Town ..	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Poplar	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
St. Saviour's	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Newington	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
St. Olave's	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Lambeth:— North	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
South	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Wandsworth & Putney ..	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Battersea	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Camberwell:—	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Grove Lane	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	8
Total	30	27	70	127	7	105	21	133	48	18	8	92	352	142	125	619

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of November 1875 was 34,968, and 48,322 received outdoor relief, making a total of 83,278. This was an increase of 243 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,761, 17,385, and 21,941 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 553. This was a decrease of 23 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 30 on the corresponding day of last year.

LEAMINGTON.—The *Royal Spa Courier* says, that it is proposed to hold a meeting to support the cause of charity organisation in Warwickshire, and particularly in Leamington.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

Information from Guardians.—At the meeting of the City Board of Guardians on the 16th inst. the Rev. H. I. Cummins moved—‘That the acting officers be instructed to give to the officers of the Charity Organisation Society, upon application, the same reasonable information with regard to paupers on the books of this union as is furnished by the other unions in the metropolis.’

London seconded the motion, which was strongly opposed by Mr. H. H. H. who argued that by passing this proposition the Board would put this particular society for their approval—in his opinion a most unreasonable proceeding. Any guardian, he added, anxious to assist this society, could himself personally obtain any information he might require regarding any pauper, without such an instruction as the above being given to their relieving officers.

Mr. B. opposed the motion, and thought the Board should strongly disapprove the proceedings of the Charity Organisation Society.

Hatchett and Mr. Freeman also disapproved of the motion in its present form, and some further discussion ensued, after which it was decided that the resolution should be amended so as to read as—‘That the acting officers be permitted to give to the officers of the Charity Organisation Society, upon application, reasonable information with regard to paupers on the books of this union.’

The motion, thus amended, was put and negatived by a large majority.—*Metropolitan.*

Annual Meeting.—This Committee held its annual meeting in Kensington Vestry Hall on Tuesday the 16th inst., Mr. Alderman H. H. H., M.P., in the chair. There were present Canon Fisher, Colonel H. H. H., Mr. Hart, the Rev. Allen T. Edwards, jun., Mr. G. W. Barnard, Mr. J. Ribton-Turner, the Rev. Jeffrey Worthington, Mr. S. S. Tayler, Douglas Brown, Q.C., and others.

The Rev. Allen T. Edwards (Hon. Sec.) read the annual report, which said the Committee were glad to report the continued success of the particular work which the Society undertook to perform, and it proceeded to state what that work was—that it was not for the purpose of relief, so as for organising charity and for providing the machinery for investigating cases, so as to prevent the funds of the charitable from flowing through wrong channels, and to direct the course of charity to the aid of the deserving. The report referred to the acknowledgment which the principles of the Society had received from the hands of the Government and local authorities, the magistrates, as well as in the extended and extending aid it had received from the Society's officers by charitable societies and persons; and it stated the aid given to the hospitals to prevent those institutions from being the subject of abuse by persons who could afford to pay for medical aid and medicine. With regard to the numbers of persons who have been under the Committee's attention during the year, the report stated that 112 had been dismissed; 50 as not requiring relief, 113 as ineligible, 9 as undeserving. There had been 100 recommended; namely, 26 to Poor Law, 46 to district agencies, 23 to private persons, and 5 to charitable institutions. The numbers relieved had been 175; namely, 124 by direct aid, 28 by loans, 21 by letters to hospitals, and 2 by employment; making in all 487 cases. In addition there had been 103 reports on cases out, 176 inquiries from other Committees, and 24 vagrants relieved by direct aid; being a total of 790 cases dealt with. The report stated that every penny sent to the Committee to distribute, it was applied to purposes for which it was sent without any deduction whatever. With regard to the loan system, only £4. 9s. 6d. had had to be written off as bad in the last four years. The Committee regretted to say that the cash account was not of so encouraging a character as last year, for it showed only a balance of £26. 10s. 11d. as against £148. 13s. 1d. of a year since.

The Chairman said he thought that the principles and objects of the Society were too well known to need any explanation. If any information was needed, it could be obtained in the Society's papers. Mr. Ribton-Turner, one of the Society's indefatigable Secretaries, whom he was glad to see present, could give the results of practical experience in the work. As to his (the Chairman's) own part, he could say that if the Society had done nothing but clear the streets of the mendicants who used to beset the public, it had done a work worthy of its existence, for wherever the Society worked, there the professional beggar was unknown. In every important work, too, the Society had been most successful in the detection of the fraudulent impostors who used to ‘work’ upon the public, and Mr. Ribton-Turner and the authorities in Buckingham Palace had been most successful in bringing to public notice the shameful practices which used to be perpetrated. The report had touched upon the work of the Society by the charitable institutions, and notably by the hospitals. One remarkable illustration was the investigation carried on in connection with the Royal Free Hospital; it was found that no less than 49 per cent of the applicants for medical relief were in a position to obtain for themselves the aid they sought from charity. There was another service which the Society had rendered to the public, for which it deserved the warm

support of all, and that was the work it had done in regard to the dwellings of the artisan classes. The Committee of the Society issued a very startling report, which aroused attention to the condition of the poor as regards their dwellings; and the Home Secretary, in bringing forward his measure of last session referred to that report, and acknowledged its practical value by basing his proposals for legislation in many points on the Committee's recommendations. It was to be hoped that the day was approaching when the existing miserable wretched hovels in which the poor were sheltered would be swept away, and give place to better dwellings—for thereby the material and spiritual welfare of the people would both be advanced. He was glad to see that the Metropolitan Board of Works and the Corporation of London had both taken up this subject, and he trusted there would be a practical issue to the labours of the Society. Regarding the loan question, he thought this branch might be well extended, and he then proceeded to refer to the disastrous floods which the day before had thrown many persons in the parish into destitution. He thought that the time had come when the Metropolitan Board of Works should take the subject of preventing these recurring calamities into consideration—for he thought such flooding was quite preventable, and he proceeded to express the warmest sympathy for the sufferers, and to direct attention to the aid necessary for their relief.

The Rev. A. T. Edwards said he had just received a note stating that Mr. Chance, the magistrate at Lambeth, had sent to say that 100 tons of coal had been presented by Mr. A. Booth of the Midland Railway Coal Company, and that the distribution would be left in the hands of this Committee. This, Mr. Edwards said, was proof of the estimation in which the Committee was held by the magistracy.

Mr. Barnard, in moving the adoption of the report, said the comparative smallness of the constituency he had to address showed that the subscribers to the Committee had every confidence in the work carried on. He quoted the words of Lord Selborne in regard to the necessity of all charity being discriminate, and proceeded to urge that the Society's work was to extend true charity, for as imposture impeded charity, so the establishment of confidence, as the Society purposed, extended the work of the charitable. He regarded the loan system as a more efficient mode of assisting need than by giving money, and the Committee had been most successful in this, as the smallness of its losses testified. The aid given from the Lambeth Police Court (£50) was a satisfactory proof of confidence, and showed that the magistrates knew the need of inquiries being made, for the money was not given for distribution, but to lead to discriminate charity. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. C. J. Ribton-Turner seconded the motion, and made a lengthened and interesting speech in regard to the efforts being made on the continent to lessen pauperism and poverty. He showed that the authorities of different nationalities were fully alive to the importance of this question, and were working energetically to lessen the numbers of those who lived upon legal and charitable aid; and this, too, he said, in face of the fact that the numbers who so lived in these different nationalities were vastly less than the army of people who in England lived on the charitable or on the poor rates. He declared that by the numbers of those who lived on charity abroad being reduced, production would be increased, and that the country which had the largest number of those who lived on others would be hardly beset in the race of life, for a heavy pauperism hung like a millstone around the neck of labour.

A person who gave the name of ‘Mr. Joseph Foster’ here rose, and said he wanted to speak. He said that five weeks ago he applied to the rector of his parish for relief, being ill, and the rector gave his case over to the Charity Organisation Society, who made inquiries, and then never gave him an answer. The speaker said he considered his was a case which ought to be relieved, and he thought it was a disgrace to the Society if it did not relieve every person who applied to it, as he understood it had an income of £4,000,000 or £5,000,000 a year. (A laugh). What he wanted was immediate aid, to be sent to the seaside, and then established in some little business.

Some questions were asked of Mr. J. Foster, and it was elicited that he had applied to the Committee of the adjacent district in which he lived, and the chairman promised that attention should be directed to the case.

The motion was then carried.

The Rev. J. Worthington then moved the second resolution: ‘That this meeting, sincerely impressed with the importance of the efforts of the Committee (as sketched in the report), pledges itself to further their operations by every means in its power.’ The speaker urged that steps should be taken to organise the clergy, dissenters as well as church, to explain from the pulpits the objects of the Society; for, he said, he was sure that these objects were not generally known.

Mr. S. S. Tayler seconded the motion, and urged that the parishioners should support the Committee with funds, as the Committee's successful efforts materially lessened the rates.

The motion was adopted; and on the motion of Mr. Douglas Brown, Q.C., seconded by Mr. Hart, thanks were voted to the chairman for presiding, and to the churchwardens and overseers for the use of the Vestry Hall.

The meeting then closed.

POPULAR.—Co-operation with Guardians.—It is reported in the *Metropolitan* and other papers, that at the last fortnightly meeting of the Board of Guardians, a member of the Board, Mr. Martin, said that 'a short time ago a woman who had a brother in New Zealand came before the Bow Relief Committee, and asked for assistance to enable her to go to her brother who had forwarded her £17 towards the cost of conveying her and her children out. This, it appeared, was not sufficient, and about £12 more was required. The Committee being powerless, they directed the relieving officer to apply to the Charity Organisation Society. That had been done, but nothing had resulted.' There appears to have been some misunderstanding about this, for the Poplar Committee had taken the case in hand some time before, and finding it deserving, had obtained the necessary money for outfit and railway fare from various charities. The woman and her five children started for Plymouth on Monday the 15th, on their way to New South Wales, where her brother is living.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.—The following letter has been recently addressed to a District Committee:—

'Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Administrative Committee to say, in reply to your letter—

'1. That Mr. Peek's Gift is available for the relief of any case of distress referred by the Clerk of a School Board Committee, provided such relief is in accordance with the principles of the Society. A School Board case, I may point out, for Mr. Peek's purpose does not necessarily mean a case in which children need help to get to school, but any case of distress which the School Board visitors meet with.

'2. That such a person as you speak of is suitable for assistance from our funds, in the form of clothes for children or otherwise, if her character and position are such that assistance is likely to be of substantial and lasting use to her, and if such assistance cannot more properly be obtained from another quarter, e.g. relations, local charities, or Poor Law.

'3. That boarding out is not, generally speaking, suitable for any but orphan children, and in this case should be at the expense of the Guardians rather than of an Organisation Committee.

'I enclose a copy of the arrangement with Mr. Peek, and of *Reporter* No. 137, containing a letter from the Council on this subject, in case you should not have them at hand.—I am, yours truly, CHAS. B. P. BOSANQUET.'

M'CULLAGH TORRENS' ACT.—At the weekly meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works last Friday, it was referred, on Mr. Richardson's motion, 'to the Works and General Purposes Committee to consider and report the advisability of the Board seeking such an extension of the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Act, 1868 (known as Torrens' Act), as will enable the Board to put in force its provisions within the metropolis.' The Vestries and District Boards are at present the only authorities who have power to put M'Cullagh Torrens' Act in force in the metropolis. It is obvious that unless its provisions can be used by the Metropolitan Board, to which the working of the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Act is entrusted, there is danger of the latter Act furnishing a premium on houses which are allowed to fall into a state unfit for human habitation.

METROPOLITAN POOR LAW CONFERENCE.—The adjourned Meeting of the First Annual Conference of Metropolitan Poor Law Guardians will be held at 1 Adam Street, Adelphi, on Monday, the 29th inst., when the discussion on 'The Law of Settlement and Removal' will be resumed. The chair will be taken at 11 o'clock by the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P.

CENTRAL POOR LAW CONFERENCE.—The Fifth Central Conference of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Poor Law Guardians will be held at 1 Adam Street, Adelphi, on Wednesday, December 8th, at 11 o'clock. The opinions of the representatives will be taken on the present state of the law of settlement, and a Paper will be read on the subject of 'Out-door Relief as it affects Wages.' The Right Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P., will preside.

CHARITABLE RELIEF IN FRANCE.—It appears from an article in the 'Bulletin' of the Bureau de Bienfaisance of Geneva, based upon the report of the inspectors of the department of 'La Bienfaisance Publique,' that the number of persons having received state-relief in ten large towns of France has been, in two towns (Lille and Rheims) 31 per cent. of the population; in one town (Toulouse) 13 per cent.; in two towns (Rouen and Havre) 12 per cent.; in one (Lyons) 10 per cent.; in three (Paris, Marseilles, and Nantes) 9 per cent.; and in one (Bordeaux) 8 per cent. Taking the whole number of French towns (13,367) in which Bureaux de Bienfaisance are established, it appears that one person in every thirteen had, in the year 1871, received state-relief; whereas in 1833 only one person in fifty-four had been so assisted. From 1847 to 1871 (that is in a period equal to two-thirds of the former period) the increase in the number of Bureaux de Bienfaisance was from 9,336 to 13,367, or 43 per cent.

CROYDON.—The annual meeting of the Croydon Charitable Society will be held in the Small Public Hall on Friday next, November 26, at 8 P.M. Immediately after the meeting a conference will be opened on the subject of almsgiving. Ladies and gentlemen interested in the distribution of charity, or in the real welfare of the poor, are invited to attend.

ANNUAL REPORTS of the DISTRICT COMMITTEES for 1874, bound up with the SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Council, price 2s. 6d., post free 3s., can be obtained on application to the SECRETARY, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY: ITS OBJECTS AND MODE OF OPERATION.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 156.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 1, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

The Newcastle Charity Association have removed their office to 3 Carlisle Square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Alsager Hay Hill, Esq. (in the chair); Sir Alexander Gordon, Dr. Anderson, Kensington Committee; Miss Emma Howes, Fulham; Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., Chelsea; Major Fitz-Roy, P. Ralli, Esq., M.P., Major Prendergast, St. George's Union; H. Peto, Esq., R. C. Mills, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marglebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; C. S. Loch, Esq., Islington; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, St. Giles's; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Hamilton Hay Hill, Esq., Strand; Sir Richard Wilbraham, Holborn; Rev. H. I. Cummins, City; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran, Esq., Whitechapel; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mile End; R. Ellis, Esq., Poplar; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., St. Olave's; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; G. P. Bidder, Esq., jun., Clapham; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; W. Day, Esq., H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-President; Stephen Fuller, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Member; total, 44. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries.

A letter was read from the St. George's Committee stating that Mr. Ralli, M.P., had been appointed a representative during the absence of Lord William Compton.

A letter was read from the Islington Committee stating that Mr. H. Matthews had been appointed a representative during Mr. Burdett Roberts' absence.

A letter was read from the North St. Pancras Committee stating that Mr. W. Legg had been appointed an Hon. Secretary of the Committee.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

The Secretary read a summary of returns of Children's Hospital cases during the three months ending September 30. He stated that 3,498 cases had been registered at the Hospital during that time; that was to say, 3,498 patients had received letters and had been told that before a second attendance they must get a District Committee to stamp them in proof that the statements they had made as to earnings were correct. It appeared from the returns that 1,487 letters only were brought to the offices; of these 1,213 were stamped, and in the case of 266 the stamp was refused.

Mr. Bidder called attention to a scurrilous statement about the Society which had been sent to a friend of his.

It was stated that a similar statement had been sent to many of the supporters of the Society. A number of persons whose interests the Society had interfered with had banded themselves together for the purpose of discrediting it.

Mr. Hollond thought that the statements, though circulated, would not necessarily be read. If the Society did its work properly such attacks would not hurt it.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending November 20 the receipts had been £5. 7s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £44. 1s. 9d. and £105. 6s. 10d. respectively.

The Committee sent up a Report of the Sub-committee appointed by them in February to consider the Reports of the District Committee Visitors and of the Organising and Assistant Organising Secretary, with a view to strengthening and consolidating the Society's work in the several districts of the metropolis; also a joint Report of their Finance and Supervision Sub-committees, to which this Report had been referred, and recommendations of their own on these Reports.

It was ordered that the Reports should be sent to all Hon. Secretaries and representatives of District Committees, and to Additional Members of Council.

COLLECTION IN THE CITY.

The recommendations with reference to Benefit Societies having been postponed, the Committee proceeded to consider the following recommendations:—

2. a. That the Council undertake all canvassing and collecting in the City, assisted, if they should require it, by such aid as the City Committee can afford.

b. That the City Committee send in an estimate at the commencement of their financial year of their probable expenditure; that this be considered a first charge upon moneys collected in the City, and be paid in equal quarterly payments on the 1st of January, 1st of April, 1st of July, and 1st of October.

c. That all subscriptions paid, from whatever source, to the City Committee, shall be handed over at the end of each quarter to the Bankers of the Council.

Mr. J. R. Hollond having moved the adoption of the re-

commendations, the Rev. H. I. Cummins explained that the City Committee were of opinion that the Council ought to be at liberty to collect funds in the City. At the same time it would not do to have two collections going on together; the Committee had, therefore, suggested that the Council should collect for both bodies. The recommendations had been agreed to at a conference of members of the City Committee and members of the Administrative Committee. He suggested that the word 'equal' should be omitted from the second recommendation.

After some further discussion the amendment was agreed to with this modification.

GRANTS.

The Secretary stated that the Administrative Committee had considered the financial position of the Society. The apparent balance in the District Committee Aid Fund was not available for ordinary grants to Committees as it formed part of Mr. Peek's gift. The Committee were of opinion that the immediate wants of District Committees should be supplied by borrowing from the General Fund. About £80 had been contributed to that fund during the preceding week, and it was to be hoped that December would bring in contributions to both funds. The Administrative Committee desired, however, to press on members of Council the importance of endeavouring to obtain contributions.

A grant of £25 to the Fulham Committee having been moved by Mr. Holland,

Mr. Day called attention to the large amount granted to Fulham and other Committees during the last three years. He thought that in all but the poorest districts a Committee, after it was once fairly started, should be self-supporting.

After some discussion the recommendation was adopted, as was the recommendation of a grant of £10 to Whitechapel.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending November 27, 1875:—*Donations*: Mrs. Bathoe, £2; Miss Octavia Hill, £4. 4s.; T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., £10; S. R. Townshend Mayer, Esq., 10s. 6d.; J. L. Walker, Esq., £10; A. Young, Esq., £2. *Annual*: Right Hon. Sir C. B. Adderley, M.P., £2. 2s.; E. Bayley, Esq., £1; Major-General Blunt, C.B., £1. 1s.; Mrs. E. W. Blunt, £1. 1s.; Rev. Dixon Brown, £1. 1s.; H. Bonham Carter, Esq., £2; Mrs. Bonham Carter, £2; Lieut.-General Cavenagh (1876), £2. 2s.; J. C. Colvin, Esq., £1. 1s.; A. Hutton Croft, Esq., £1; F. Crowder, Esq., £2. 2s.; W. Day, Esq., £1. 1s.; Dr. Dobell, £1. 1s.; Mrs. Henry Eden, £1; Miss Octavia Hill, £1. 1s.; T. Hughes, Esq., Q.C., £1. 1s.; Lady Jenner, £1. 1s.; Capt. Liebenrood, R.N., £1; Lord Napier and Ettrick, £2. 2s.; C. Payne, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss Phillips, £10; Heathfield Smith, Esq., £2. 2s.; Smith, Fleming, & Co., £2. 2s.; W. Spottiswoode, Esq., £1. 1s.; Sir Walter Stirling, Bart., £1. 1s.; G. Sturge, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss E. O. Ward, £1; A. G. Watson, Esq., £5; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., £1. *District Committee Aid Fund*: J. Austen, Esq., £21; E. Bond, Esq., £5; T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., £10; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., £1.

The following business stands for Monday, December 6:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. a. That while District Committees should certainly not refuse to investigate the cases of persons applying to them, whose distress is alleged to have been brought on by their having been defrauded by benefit societies, inquiry into the general bona fides of the societies themselves (unless they have issued charitable appeals) should not be instituted, but the investigation should be limited to the particular transactions of such societies with the individual applicant.

b. When District Committees have come to the conclusion, from their own investigation, that a clear case of fraud on the part of any society has been made out, they are strongly urged not to embark in any legal proceedings in reference to it without laying the case before the Administrative Committee.

2. That a grant of £30 be made to the St. Olave's Committee as soon as funds are available.

3. That a grant of £35 be made to the Mile End Committee as soon as funds are available.

4. To consider Reports of the Visits to Offices and Joint Finance and Supervision Sub-committees of the Administrative Committee, and the recommendations of the Administrative Committee thereon.

Mr. W. Day to move:—

That the continuous application to the Council of this Society for grants, by some of the District Committees, is opposed to the principles of self-support. That it arises more from want of better organisation than from poverty. That a house-to-house collection and free distribution of Charity Organisation Society's Tickets, properly carried out, should enable each District soon to become self-supporting.

Mr. J. R. Holland to move:—

That Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet be elected an additional member of Council.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, NO- VEMBER 27, 1875	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with			
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans					Employment Lettres for Hospitals &c.	Class total	
Kensington	1	6	8	15	1	2	3	5	..	..	4	24	12	6	11	
Fulham	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	5	4	6	12	
Paddington	1	..	2	3	..	4	..	4	..	3	7	14	12	4	4	
Chelsea	..	..	2	2	..	4	..	4	2	1	3	9	..	..	..	
St. George's:—																
St. George's Division	1	1	1	3	..	1	1	2	2	1	..	3	23	11	4	
Westminster do.	1	3	2	6	1	6	..	7	1	..	1	2	6	2	1	
Westminster:—																
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	..	..	1	..	5	..	5	..	..	..	6	2	3	9	
St. Marylebone	4	2	6	12	..	4	2	6	1	3	1	6	24	4	2	
Hampstead	2	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	5	..	4	
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	..	..	1	..	7	1	8	..	..	..	9	3	2	7	
South St. Pancras	3	..	5	8	..	9	1	10	..	..	2	20	6	3	2	
Islington	5	2	1	8	..	15	1	16	2	1	..	27	18	2	1	
Hackney	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	..	2	3	..	3	3	6	2	..	2	11	2	2	2	
Strand	1	3	4	8	..	3	3	6	3	..	3	10	5	2	2	
Holborn	..	..	2	2	..	11	1	12	4	1	..	19	2	20	1	
City	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	3	24	1	
Shoreditch	..	2	..	2	..	2	..	2	3	..	1	5	1	4	1	
Bethnal Green	2	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	6	1	1	11	4	3	2	
Whitechapel	1	1	4	6	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	7	2	2	2	
St. George's-in-the-East	..	..	3	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	5	5	3	3	
Stepney	1	1	..	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	3	6	1	5	
Mile End Old Town	..	..	6	6	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	8	1	1	1	
Poplar	1	..	3	4	..	3	4	7	1	..	1	11	..	..	..	
St. Saviour's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Newington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. Olave's	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	4	1	3	2	
Lambeth:—																
North	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	4	2	2	
South	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	2	2	1	
* Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Battersea	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	
Clapham	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	1	1	1	2	6	2	..	..	
Camberwell:—																
Grove Lane	..	1	1	..	3	..	3	4	..	..	4	11	..	1	..	
Peckham	1	..	1	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	6	2	1	14	
Greenwich	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	4	..	4	2	1	14	
Deptford	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	2	2	5	1	1	5	
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	4	3	..	7	
Lewisham	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	..	2	3	5	2	2	13	
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	..	
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	16	
Total	28	25	60	113	5	89	19	113	39	20	6	20	85	31	127	146

* No return received from this Committee at the time of going to press.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Deptford and Sydenham Committees.

Report of the 6th Annual Poor Law Conference for the South-Eastern District (Knight & Co., 6d.)

Pauperism in Southampton: a reprint of a series of letters published in the *Hampshire Independent* during September and October 1875. By R. W. Wandby Griffin.

Charity Organisation: with special reference to the Glasgow Society. By John S. Robertson, Secretary of the Glasgow Association.

A letter addressed to the Governors and Subscribers of the Plymouth Public Dispensary. By W. H. Alger.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of November 1875 was 35,300, and 48,440 received outdoor relief, making a total of 83,740. This was an increase of 462 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,414, 17,790, and 21,912 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 502. This was a decrease of 51 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 81 on the corresponding day of last year.

COMING MEETING.

HAMPSTEAD.—The Annual Meeting of the Hampstead Committee will be held in the Boardroom of the Guardians, New End, on Saturday next, December 4, at 3 P.M., J. R. Holland, Esq., in the Chair.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

HACKNEY.—*Annual Meeting.*—The annual meeting of this Committee was held on the 23rd ult. at the Old Town Hall, Mare Street, when there was a tolerably numerous attendance, and Mr. Robert King presided.

The Chairman expressed the pleasure he had in meeting the subscribers to the Society on that annual occasion, to whom the Committee might render an account of their stewardship. After dwelling on the progress that had been made since the Committee was first formed, he went on to say that one of their objects as a society was not being fulfilled as could be desired—namely, the organisation of charity. They had seen the different measures he had referred to passed in consequence of the advance of public opinion, and how the legislation indicated had succeeded. But in the organisation of charitable relief they had met with a considerable amount of prejudice amongst what he might call the 'denominational charity-mongers' of all sects, each sect giving away its charity, feeling that it was doing so for its own benefit, but not giving really for the benefit of the recipients. This was what the Society had had to contend against. Let them, therefore, not be faint-hearted. Let them go on with their work as the great work to be achieved. The overlapping of charities had done much mischief; and they must preach, and preach, and preach again until men felt there was a responsibility in giving, the object of the giving being the good of the receiver. The Poor Law drew a hard and fast line, and left a blank in cases of sudden emergency and loss which it was the province of the Charity Organisation Society to fill, stepping in and preventing a family suffering from calamity from lapsing into pauperism, by means of loans and grants of money. The Society had been successful in the way of giving grants and thus saving families from pauperism; and he trusted its influence in the parish of Hackney would gain ground.

The Rev. L. E. Shelford, one of the hon. secretaries, read the 8th annual report. In no previous year had more care been taken in the investigation of cases of applicants for relief or in the granting of relief. The Committee had decided to restrict the power in the latter case as exercised by the visitors, so as to avoid the dangers attaching to the 'dole system'; and the result of such restriction had been found to be satisfactory. The Committee owed thanks to the subscribers, especially to those gentlemen who had acted as visitors to the homes of the poor, for their attention to the work, and also for the readiness with which they had accepted the restrictions upon their liberality which had been found from time to time necessary. The number of tramps applying for help declined every year. The number last year on the books was 115. A new class of cases had been brought before the attention of the Committee. The divisional committee of the School Board had found that one of the chief obstacles to education was the want of clothing for destitute children; and they had referred to the Charity Organisation Society for help in the matter, and this was being dealt with. The Committee finally pleaded for increased and continued subscriptions.

Mr. Beedell, treasurer, having presented the finance statement,

The Rev. T. H. Woodroffe moved the adoption of the report and financial statement, which was seconded and carried.

Mr. W. Godfrey proposed the thanks of the meeting to the officers, especially the visitors, for their services, and spoke of the arduous labours they had performed, for which they were entitled to the warmest acknowledgments.

The Chairman bore testimony to the vast labour and care they had bestowed in investigating the cases.

The resolution was carried.

The Rev. W. H. Langhorne moved the appointment of the officers for the ensuing year, paying an especial tribute of praise to the secretaries—the Rev. L. E. Shelford and Mr. Charles Kemp—for the interest they had evinced in the work of the Society and the amount of work performed, notwithstanding the many calls upon their time.

Mr. B. S. Olding seconded. Referring to the allusion in the Report to the School Board, he was the acting chairman of the divisional committee of the School Board for this district, and he assured them the assistance the Society gave in the direction indicated would certainly be of very great value. They had as many as sixty or seventy cases of the kind to deal with on an evening; and amongst that number there were many cases of deep distress. He endeavoured to deal with them as far as possible individually; still it was found they were liable to very great imposition, and they (the School Board Committee) had not the means of ascertaining with accuracy the exact condition of the applicants for assistance, certainly not the same means that the Charity Organisation Society possessed; so that they were 'taken in' considerably, and the committee of the School Board had to give it up. This led to a supposition on the part of many parents who pleaded tales of extreme poverty before the School Board Committee that they could get relief in that way without a proper check upon their applications. He hoped, however, they would be able, out of their own resources

as well as out of Mr. Peek's munificent gift, to deal with the cases that came before them.

The resolution was carried, and votes of thanks to the Chairman and the Officers of the Society brought the proceedings to a close.

POPULAR.—*Co-operation with Guardians.*—At the fortnightly meeting of the Poplar Board of Guardians, on the 19th inst., the Clerk, says the *Metropolitan*, reported the receipt of a letter from the Charity Organisation Society, intimating that the case of a woman requiring funds to enable her to emigrate, which was referred to them by the Board, had received attention. The Clerk added that he had since been informed that the woman had left England. Mr. Marsh said that the relieving officer had informed him that the assistance rendered by the Charity Organisation Society had enabled him to get the woman off. The Chairman observed that the reference of the case to the Society had been attended with very satisfactory results.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Charity Organisation Society for Brighton, Hove, and Preston was held on the 22nd ult. in the Royal Pavilion. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Abbey) presided, and there were present, amongst others, the ex-Mayor (Mr. Alderman Bridgen, J.P.), the Rev. R. P. Hooper, M.A., and the Rev. Dr. Hamilton (Vice-Presidents), the Rev. J. H. A. Gibson, Sir Cordy Burrows, J.P., Col. Baines (Chairman of the Hove Commissioners), Col. Mellor, Capt. Kirby, Mr. Councillor Tankard, and Mr. R. Patching (Chairman of the Board of Guardians).

The Mayor explained that, in virtue of his office as Mayor of Brighton, he had been requested to preside on this occasion, and he complied with very much pleasure, having been a member of the Society since its formation, and having watched with considerable interest its progress from that time till this. He could not do better than read a very succinct account of the Society which had been placed in his hands. It was as follows:

This Society was established about four years ago as a Mendicity Society, and afterwards affiliated to the Charity Organisation Society in London. As a Mendicity Society it has done a great deal of good in clearing the streets of importunate beggars, to the great relief of visitors and residents. But this is not the principal work of the Society, which aims at organising the various charities of the town, that they may act in friendly union, giving and receiving information for the benefit of each and all, instead of conducting their affairs as independent bodies, as if they had no interest in each others' proceedings. The Charity Organisation Society offers itself as a medium of intercommunication, and offers its services in the investigation of all doubtful cases in which application for relief is made either to public institutions or private persons. The good effected by the Society in this direction has been very considerable, and it would have been much more considerable if those who indulge in indiscriminate charity had sent to the office for information before they parted with their money. Another department of the Society's operations is relief. Every wayfarer passing through the town may have on application a pound of bread. To guard against abuse, the bread must be eaten in the office and not carried away. Upwards of 2,600 have been thus treated during the year, and doubtless the diminution of street beggars may be attributed to a great extent to this fact. But this is not the only relief afforded by the Society. It should be understood, however, that the Society is not primarily a relief society. Its great duty is inquiry, that others—whether institutions or individuals—may give to the deserving. Hence its principal expenditure in maintaining the machinery for investigation. It does, however, give, and give effectually, in cases that come within its sphere of operations. It does not give when other sources of relief are available—as the Guardians, charitable institutions, or private persons; but when none of these can be brought to bear upon the case—when the Guardians cannot and dare not help, when institutions and private persons cannot be applied to—the Society steps in and grants relief, at any rate, till some other or more permanent relief can be found. And not only does it give itself, but by its investigations it enables the charitable to give, by assuring them of the respectability of the poor applicants who solicit them. The Society likewise undertakes the application of alms to deserving persons, according to the wishes of the donors, and in this way a considerable amount of good has been done during the year.

In concluding, he stated that he had a strong conviction in his own mind that this Society was doing a great amount of good, and he hoped its operations would be extended. (Applause.) Other gentlemen would speak as to the leading features and operations of the Society more fully.

The Secretary read the following report:—

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society, in presenting its fourth Annual Report, is happy in being able to state that the Society continues to prosper, that there has been no diminution of the support hitherto afforded, and that influential names have been added to the list of members of the Council. In the Report of last year allusion was made to the amount of negative resistance which had been offered to this as well as to other branches of the Charity Organisation Society in their efforts to promote a better administration of local charities. It is not considered that more opposition to this part of the Society's programme has been offered in Brighton than elsewhere, and time alone can gradually bring about changes which cannot but meet with resistance in quarters where many conflicting interests are involved. At the same time it may be confidently asserted that your Society is gradually acquiring the support of a growing public opinion on these matters. The increasing attention given by politicians of all shades of opinion to the questions of pauperism and vagrancy, and the administration of the laws affecting them, has been largely influenced by the action of the Parent Society of London, and in this county by your Local Society. A recognised system and societies for the suppression of mendicity have within the last year been adopted by the two divisions of the county. The decrease in the number of vagrants is very observable. There is a decrease in the number applying at the Society's office of 672. A large decrease is reported from the Brighton workhouse, and many unions in the county bear witness to the same fact. Your Society has worked in cordial co-operation with the Brighton Board of Guardians since its commencement, and its influence is steadily extending. The thanks of the Society are due to the Press for the publicity and countenance it has given to its proceedings and principles. The classified list of cases appended to this report will show the working of the Society during the past year. There is a decrease of 12 in the total number of cases investigated, though there is a considerable increase in the number referred to the Society by the clergy of the town and by local and other societies. An important step has been taken in the removal of the offices of the Society from Church Street to Edward Street. This was rendered absolutely necessary by the increasing amount of business transacted.

A list of the cases dealt with by the Society during the past year showed a total of 3,118, including 2,645 wayfarers.

Sir Cordy Burrows moved that the report and balance sheet should be received and adopted. The report was, he thought, a most valuable one. As a public man, moving about the town, he was quite certain that there had never been established in the town an institution that has done so much good in so short a time as that had done. Everyone must have noticed a great diminution of the number of vagrants in the town. It was a source of pleasure to know that the Society worked so harmoniously with the Board of Guardians. That body dispensed the legal charity of the town, and if they had anything to be proud of in the town, it was the admirable way in which the Poor Law is administered. The report was an admirable one, showing as it did that in four years 12,000 cases had been investigated by the Society. The number of people relieved and the diminution of vagrants recommended the institution to the notice of the public and their support. He hoped it would continue in its work, and in the end rid the town of these vagrants. He did not like to speak unkindly of the blind, but he thought the authorities ought to move those blind people from the streets. They were there in all weathers, and it was pitiable to see them. They would be far better off in the workhouse. (Applause.)

Mr. A. Creak with pleasure seconded the proposition, cordially endorsing the remark that there was not a society which, with such slender means, had, in so short a time, effected so much good, and which, in combination with other societies, was likely to work such a national benefit and revolution. The condition of the country as regarded pauperism and beggary was very serious—in 1873, with unexampled prosperity, nearly 800,000 persons, in a population of 22,000,000, were kept out of the poor rates, at a cost of close upon £8,000,000—and he rejoiced to observe that such a society as this was earnestly and effectively working towards the reduction of mendicity in Brighton.

Mr. Douglas Fox was the next speaker. He said it was a great thing to make the community understand that this was not a harsh or cruel Society, that it was not one that wanted simply to stamp out the pestilence existing in society in the form of vagrancy. They did certainly want to stamp it out, but at the same time they wanted to do good to the vagrants themselves. Vagrancy was in a great many cases hereditary. If they could sweep off the parents and make them work for their living and become useful members of society, there would be a chance for the children, and good would be done all round. He had been connected with the Association from its formation, and could say, having looked into it carefully, that it was working fruitfully, and if persevered in it would be a great blessing to society and to the vagrants themselves.

Dr. Hamilton moved a resolution recommending the public to support the Association.

Colonel Baines seconded the resolution, and stated that when deserving cases came before the Committee they did not shirk their duty in relieving them.

The Ex-Mayor said he had had a practical acquaintance with the Association's work, and could speak of its efficiency and utility. He knew that great care and attention were always devoted to the consideration of all the cases, and could recommend the Association to the earnest, warm, and energetic support of all. There had been a wonderful diminution in the class of people who once were so frequently to be met with in the principal streets, and who caused a great nuisance by their importunities.

The resolution was then put and carried, and votes of thanks to the officers of the Society, the newspaper proprietors, and the Chairman, moved by Mr. Deverell, Mr. G. Heathcote, and Mr. G. I. Leon, brought the meeting to a close.

MENDICITY SOCIETY FOR HEREFORDSHIRE.

Mr. Meysey Clive writes as follows to the *Hereford Times*:—Sir, from a return made to the last Herefordshire Quarter Sessions, it appeared that the number of vagrants relieved as casuals in the eight unions of the county was 7,500 from June 1874 to June 1875, and that 60 vagrants were committed under the Vagrancy Act in the same period, both numbers being an increase on those of the previous twelve months. These numbers showed clearly the necessity that steps should be taken to deal with the subject of Vagrancy in the county, and with this view a Committee was appointed, at which the Mayors of Hereford and Leominster, the Chairmen of Boards of Guardians and of Petty Sessions were invited to attend.

The resolutions to which this Committee agreed have been sent to you, and, with your permission, I will endeavour to explain the importance of the subject, in the hope that all persons interested in it will attend at a general meeting at the Shirehall, Hereford, on the 4th of December, at 2 P.M., and assist in the formation of a Mendicity Society on a sound and useful basis.

It is clear that a voluntary society of this kind can only be effective if it has the general and hearty support of the public; for the chief principle of the Society, as it exists in other counties, is that the public should, instead of money, give to beggars tickets which can be exchanged for bread at the nearest baker's shop.

By this means the honest wayfarer passing through the country can obtain the relief which he requires; while the professional tramp finds it not worth his while to pursue his avocation when he cannot obtain more than the food necessary for his sustenance.

The mode of working of the Society will be explained fully at the general meeting. I will only say here that Local Committees have to be appointed in each union district, whose duties are to collect subscriptions not over 10s. nor less than 2s. 6d., to distribute the Society's tickets, and to appoint the shops in their districts where those tickets may be exchanged for bread. These places should not be more than five miles apart. A central Committee for the whole county meets as occasion requires. The funds are vested in an honorary treasurer, and the bulk of the business is done by an honorary secretary.

In Dorsetshire, where a similar Society has been eminently successful, the expenses for the first year were £100, and these have been gradually reduced to £50. During the five years in which that Society has been in existence the number of casuals relieved in the unions has been reduced by 76 per cent., and it is not necessary to do more than call attention to the relief which this must have been to the poor-rates, and to society generally. I do not anticipate such favourable results in Herefordshire, and perhaps with us this reduction would not be so strong an evidence of the usefulness of the Society as it is in Dorsetshire, on account of the number of hop-pickers who annually pass through Herefordshire and swell the number of casuals. These would derive direct benefit from the Society's bread ticket. As regards professional tramps, however, there is the same ground as in Dorsetshire for hoping that their number will be diminished if the Society is successfully established.

It is hardly necessary to dwell on the well-known fact that a professional tramp generally spends in drink the money which he gets by begging, that he is a burden and nuisance to society, and by his successful career induces many who would otherwise be numbered among the useful working population of the country to follow his example.

I trust, therefore, that I may enlist your sympathy in this cause, and that by publishing this letter you will let the fact of the general meeting on the 4th of December be widely known, and I hope cause it to be well attended.

A BRIGHTON IMPOSTOR.—We learn from the Brighton Society that a man who gave the name of James Smith, and who had lost his right hand and right leg, has lately resided at Brighton, where he has been collecting money for the alleged purpose of obtaining a wooden leg. He stated that he had been, under the name of Jacob Smith, in the 2nd Bengal Fusiliers now called the 104th Regiment; that he lost his hand in the Indian mutiny; that his leg was amputated at King's College Hospital; and that he was invalided in 1859 with a pension of 6d. a day. It was found on inquiry that he had been in Brighton six weeks instead of one week, as he stated; that at one of his lodgings he persuaded the landlady to board and lodge him and to supply him with pocket money, under the pretence that he had a pension of 2s. 9d. per day from the 9th Lancers, and that on the day on which he said his pension was due he went away; also that he borrowed money from the landlord of a public-house with whom he had deposited two diamonds and a ruby, which he represented to be worth £80, but which proved to be worthless. It was ascertained that he had ordered a wooden leg from a tradesman in the town, but had collected more than double its cost. Information of his proceedings having been given to the Society, the agent called at his lodgings to make inquiries: this so alarmed him that he left the house and has not since been seen at Brighton. The case of a man named Jacob Smith, who had also lost a leg and an arm, and who is probably identical with the above-mentioned impostor, was brought before the notice of the Whitechapel Committee in November 1874. It was discovered that he had been for a long time imposing on the public under various names, that he was known to the Surgical Aid Society, who had once supplied him with a wooden leg, and also to the Jewish Board of Guardians and the Jews' Synagogue.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 157.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 8, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicancy.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; P. Balli, Esq., M.P., Major Prendergast, Major Sanford, *St. George's*; F. C. Mills, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marglebone*; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; H. Matthews, Esq., *Islington*; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, *St. Giles's*; H. H. Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Rev. S. A. Barnett, *Whitechapel*; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End Old Town*; Ralph Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; Allen D. Graham, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Heathcote Long, Esq., Lambeth*; J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; W. Day, Esq., *Sydenham*; A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., T. J. Phillips-Jodrell, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 32. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

THE GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL.

A letter was read from the Hon. R. Capel, Hon. Sec. of the Great Northern Hospital, describing the system adopted at the hospital for checking misuse of out-patient relief:—

'Perhaps it is the only Hospital,' wrote Mr. Capel, 'that has upon its staff an officer whose sole duty it is to register the out-patients, to inquire into their circumstances, and to report monthly to the Executive Committee. This inquiry is made as inoffensively as possible, and I am assured by him that he is almost invariably well received, and is often asked to come in and sit down.'

'Personally I am disposed to think that a Provident Dispensary should be part and parcel of every hospital. I believe that a great number who now come for gratuitous relief would, if they could rely upon having the medical advice of the staff attached to such hospitals, be quite ready to pay the fees which are paid at Provident Dispensaries; but then arises the question, whether any should be attended to without payment? I would not shut the door of gratuitous relief, nor draw too hard-and-fast a line; but I would have a register, to prevent those in really good circumstances from becoming members of such Provident Dispensaries, and, on the other

hand, to admit those a shade above the pauper class to relief without payment. I believe such a system would work well, though, like all changes, it might provoke opposition. It is doubtful, perhaps, whether our hospital has benefited by the system in a pecuniary point of view, but it is satisfactory to myself at least to know that a discriminating element has been introduced in the selection of the out-patients.'

Mr. Bosanquet said that it was satisfactory to find that the Great Northern Hospital had a Registrar. Mr. Fairlie Clarke had pointed out, in an article in *Macmillan* some years ago, that every hospital ought to have such an officer. It was essential that there should be some person at the hospitals competent to judge what inquiries it was necessary to make, and how different applicants should be dealt with.

The Secretary reported that the Hon. H. R. Scott had been elected a representative of the Mile End Committee, vice Mr. A. C. Mitchell.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Bosanquet stated, in reply to a question by Mr. Day, that the Finance Subcommittee had decided that, as there was no money available in the District Committee Aid Fund, the immediate wants of District Committees should be met by loans from the General Fund to that Fund. They anticipated that, taking the probable claims on the General and District Committee Aid Funds together, there would be a deficit of more than £100 at the end of the year, unless the receipts during the current month were larger than they were in the corresponding month last year.

He referred to a question put last week with reference to a man of the name of Bailey, who had represented himself at the Lambeth Police Court as a man of good character, prevented by poverty from sending his child to school. The Clerk to the Divisional Committee of the School Board had since explained that he was thoroughly undeserving, which accounted for his not having sent him to the Organisation Committee. It had been the almost invariable experience of the Society that inquiries into cases of reported hardship disclosed material facts which quite changed their aspect. This was especially true of inquests on deaths reported to be from starvation.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending November 27 the receipts had been £77. 18s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £37 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £53. 4s. 6d. and £49. 18s. 6d. respectively, the latter sum not including an advance of £35 to be made from the General Fund.

ADDITIONAL MEMBER.

Mr. J. R. Hollond having moved, and Lord Lichfield having seconded, the election of Mr. Bosanquet as an additional member of Council, with an expression of regret at the Council having lost his services as Secretary, the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Bosanquet thanked the Council for the compliment paid to him, and hoped that though he would probably only be able to be present at one more meeting, he would be able to render his successor some assistance through the post.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The following recommendations of the Administrative Committee were adopted:—

1. That while District Committees should certainly not refuse to investigate the cases of persons applying to them, whose distress is alleged to have been brought on by their having been defrauded by benefit societies, inquiry into the general bona fides of the societies themselves (unless they have issued charitable appeals) should not be instituted, but the investigation should be limited to the particular transactions of such societies with the individual applicant.

2. When District Committees have come to the conclusion, from their own investigation, that a clear case of fraud on the part of any society has been made out, they are strongly urged not to embark in any legal proceedings in reference to it without laying the case before the Administrative Committee.

Mr. J. R. Hollond said that, except in individual cases, and when actual distress was a consequence of the fraud, it was not advisable that District Committees should undertake investigation. Previous experience showed the expediency of submitting cases of suspected fraud to the Administrative Committee before taking action.

Grants of £30 and £35 were made to the St. Olave's and the Mile End Committees.

REPORT OF VISITS TO OFFICES SUB-COMMITTEE.

Some discussion took place as to the best mode of considering the reports which were brought up last week and sent out to members.

It was ultimately resolved that the discussion should be postponed till Monday, January 17, that District Committees might have time to consider the recommendations made.

GRANTS TO POOR DISTRICTS.

Mr. Day moved—

That the continuous application to the Council of this Society for grants, by some of the District Committees, is opposed to the principles of self-support; that it arises more from want of better organisation than from poverty; that a house-to-house collection and free distribution of Charity Organisation Society's Tickets, properly carried out, should enable each District soon to become self-supporting.

He referred to the reports of the Islington and the East End Committees. One officer, combining the duties of agent and collector, ought to be able, he thought, to do the work of two or more of the East End Districts, as they did not cover a large area. Grants from the Council had a tendency to make economy and a systematic collection secondary considerations.

Mr. Langhorne and other members pointed out that the areas of some of the East London Committees were small, but the populations were large. Several of the Committees, too, had not yet had time to make themselves known in their districts.

Mr. Matthews said that in Islington both area and population were large, and much time was spent in obtaining information for other Committees.

Mr. Loch stated that the Islington Committee had dealt with 879 cases in the year ending September 30, 1875, as compared with 486 cases the year before. There had been delay in the collection, owing to changes of staff; but collectors were now going from house to house in the evening, and he fully expected that in a short time the Committee would be self-supporting.

After some further discussion Mr. Day consented to withdraw his motion, it being probable that an opportunity for considering the question more fully would arise.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending December 4, 1875:—*Donations*: E. L. Ames, Esq., £5; B. Bosanquet, Esq., £15; T. F. Marson, Esq., £10. 10s.; R. W. Melvil, Esq., £10; H. B. Millmay, Esq., £25; Mrs. Reiss, £10; T. Godolphin Rooper, Esq., £5; Rev.

J. P. Tomlinson, £1; Sir W. E. Welby, Bart., M.P., £5. *Annual*: A. C. Barclay, Esq., M.P., £10; B. Bosanquet, Esq., £5; F. A. Bosanquet, Esq., £1. 1s.; H. R. Droop, Esq., £3. 3s.; Lady de Rothschild, £5; Theodore Fry, Esq., £1. 1s.; F. Sherwood, Esq., £1. 1s.; H. B. Slade, Esq., £2. 2s.; Madame Valbry, £1. 1s.; G. Weston, Esq., £2. 2s.; W. Wightman Wood, Esq., £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: Sir W. E. Welby, Bart., M.P., £5; W. Wightman Wood, Esq., £2. 2s.

The following business stands for Monday, December 13:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. That a grant of £35 be made to the Holborn Committee.
2. That a grant of £30 be made to the St. Saviour's Committee.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END-ING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1875	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by		Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians or Local Authorities	Private persons	Grants	Loans				
Kensington	8	4	7	19	..	4	3	6	2	..
Fulham	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paddington	1	1	3	5	..	6	..	6	..	..
Chelsea	1	..	1	..	..	3	..	3	..	..
St. George's:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. George's Division	1	..	2	3	1	2	5	..	..	..
Westminster do.	3	2	2	7	1	..	3	..	..	..
Westminster:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. James' & St. Anne's	..	..	..	5	2	7	..	..	..	..
St. Marylebone	6	3	3	12	2	13	4	19	..	..
Hampstead	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	..
South St. Pancras	3	4	11	18	..	7	4	11	..	..
Islington	3	3	1	7	..	8	..	8	..	..
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Strand	..	..	..	..	7	3	10	..	..	..
Holborn	..	2	..	2	..	7	..	7	..	..
City	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoreditch	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bethnal Green	2	..	4	6	..	1	..	..	..	..
Whitechapel	1	3	5	9	..	3	..	..	..	..
St. George's-in-the-East	2	1	1	4	..	1	..	..	..	..
Stepney	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mile End Old Town	..	4	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Poplar	2	2	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
St. Saviour's	5	1	6	12	..	5	..	..	..	..
Newington	1	..	2	3	..	2	..	..	..	..
St. Olave's	5	1	4	10	..	1	..	..	..	..
Lambeth:—	1	2	1	4	..	2	..	..	..	..
North	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Battersea	1	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Clapham	1	1	2	..	1	2	3	..	..	..
Camberwell:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grove Lane	1	..	1	3	4	..	7	..	..	..
Peckham	2	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Greenwich	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deptford	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lewisham	2	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total	52	30	74	156	8	95	23	126	43	16

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

KENSINGTON.—*Impostor.*—A person calling himself William Mackinlay called recently on Mrs. Mackinlay, 7 Earl's Terrace, representing himself to be a relation of the family, said he had had his pocket picked at Euston Square Station, and asked for some money. Mrs. Mackinlay gave him £5, thinking he might belong to a branch of her family abroad. Said he had lately come from Bombay, and should write for a remittance from Philadelphia, and would return the £5 by P.O. Order in three weeks' time. Said he was staying at the Clarendon Hotel, City Road. Mrs. M. has ascertained that he is not the person he represents himself to be. Is about 60 years old, rather tall and grey, with rather a red face, and red patch on one side of forehead; rather shabby, believed to have a brown coat.

BATTERSEA.—*Inundation Case.*—It was stated in the Police Report of the Times of December 1st, that a working man had applied to the Magistrate at the Wandsworth Police Court for his assistance. He said he had been residing in Ford Place, Wandsworth, and was washed out by the late

floods, his property being destroyed. Mr. Bridge referred him to the Charity Organisation Society, as the money at the disposal of the Court had been sent to it. The applicant said he had applied, but the Society would not assist him because he had removed to High Street, Battersea. We are informed that the man in question had never been refused assistance. Delay was caused by his removal, and by his not having left his address at his last place of abode. He has received assistance from the Battersea Committee.

CONFERENCE AT CROYDON.

After the annual meeting of the Croydon Charitable Society, on Friday, Nov. 26, a Conference was held on the subject of almsgiving. Space only allows us to give extracts from the full report which appears in the *Croydon Advertiser* of last Saturday.

The Rev. Canon Hodgson, who presided, opened the Conference by pointing out that true charity contemplated the best interests of the distressed. You see parents, he continued, with children around them. Some indulge their children, fall in with their every whim—spoil their children. Others restrain them, do not humour them, but teach them to submit to hear 'No' said to their wishes. Both classes of parents, though bringing up their children on different principles, love them: these having regard to their pleasure, those to their profit. There is a deep, wide-spread feeling of charity throughout the country, but it is often misguided, ill-directed, obeys impulse, yields to importunity, and does more harm than good. What is the result of giving alms to beggars? You maintain an army of idle men and women—turn those who should be working bees into drones, and fly in the face of the Scriptural rule, that if a man will not work neither shall he eat. There are many persons who work and receive good wages during the summer months, and when the winter comes are in distress. Improvident and reckless they are, because they learn that they can rely upon alms. Withhold your alms, and you encourage saving habits, and so consult the best interests of your poorer neighbours. But the charitable man says, 'You cut me off from giving to the beggar and the poor around me. I have charitable feeling in me which I will not and cannot repress; what am I to do?' The Charity Organisation Society answers the question. 'Refer every case to me. I will inquire into the merits of it by means mechanically devised for the very purpose, and I will report the result to you.' I trust that this Conference will be successful in impressing upon the public mind that there is a charity which is no charity, that there is all the difference in the world between discriminate and indiscriminate almsgiving, and whilst the one is a blessing the other is the bane of the community.

Dr. Coles said that the resolution he had to propose for their consideration was, although short, yet a somewhat comprehensive one. It was—'That in the opinion of this Conference, alms wrongly bestowed encourage pauperism and fraud.' The principle herein contained must, he thought, commend itself to them all; in fact, some of the audience would wonder why they were taken from their homes that cold night to adopt such a truism by a formal resolution; yet he ventured to say there was scarcely a person in that room who had not many times found it difficult to put that principle into practice. It was no easy matter when, during a pelting-storm or in the cold north-east wind, you saw a haggard-looking woman, with a baby in her arms, and two or three ragged children hanging to her dress, singing some plaintive ditty; or, when you were stopped in the less frequented roads by some wretched-looking beggar, who assured you he had not tasted food for many hours, and that he had a wife and family in the same state—it was no easy task, he said, under such circumstances, to refuse relief. Yet he had no hesitation in stating that they would not be doing their duty to the public if they gave money to such beggars—nay, he would go even farther, and say they were doing a positive unkindness by giving it them: for these poor children must frequently suffer much from being exposed to the inclemency of the weather; and he should be very glad indeed to hear from anyone present that there was some law to prevent their being so exposed. By the laws of this country, everyone could have a home; and if, from misfortune or improvidence, or from preferring a roving life, these people had not provided a home for themselves, the law offered them the union house; and it would be a great blessing to the poor children if they were forced to become inmates; for, although the parents would be compelled to work—and rightly so—yet the children would be well housed, well fed, and educated in such a manner as would place them in a position to become decent members of society. Whereas, if they relieved these people by giving alms, the children are brought up in ignorance, immorality, and sin. Therefore, if it were only for the sake of the children of beggars, the Charitable Society asked for their kind and firm co-operation. It was true there might be now and then a case of real distress—such as labourers travelling in search of work. But give all street beggars one of the Society's relief tickets; they would for certain receive a meal, their case be inquired into, and further assistance given, if necessary; though, in the majority of cases, they would decline the offered ticket, or throw it

away—a pretty certain sign that they were not in so wretched a condition as represented. With regard to the resident poor, he observed the Society did not wish or advise them to adopt a hard and fast line. Though here the principle of the resolution held good, he urged them to visit these people at their homes, to make themselves acquainted with their means, their wants and requirements; but, before giving relief in money, to place themselves in communication with the agent of the Charitable Society. For the last four or five years a book had been kept at the office, in which were entered the names of the resident poor who applied for relief, and it had been found that many of the same families came year after year, not usually amongst those earning the lowest wages, but those earning good wages when at work, yet making no provision for the future, simply because they had been supported by charity in past winters, and expected to be in future, bringing up their children in the same improvident habits.

Mr. J. J. Marshall had much pleasure in seconding the resolution just proposed, viz., 'That all alms wrongly bestowed encourage pauperism and fraud.' Archbishop Whately's observation on this subject was worth recalling. 'Forty thousand pounds,' said he, 'have I spent on charity since I came to this diocese, but I thank God I have never given one penny to a street beggar.' Mr. Marshall feared that very few carried out the maxim so strictly, for those street and house-to-house beggars were so specious, and (disliking inquiry) always pleaded emergency so plausibly, that one was often tempted to give them money, which had far better been thrown into the sea, where it would not encourage drunkenness and idleness.

The Rev. R. R. Suffield moved the second resolution, 'That in the opinion of this Conference it is better, when possible, to help indirectly, by helping the needy to help themselves, than by helping directly, which must tend to pauperise.' Mr. Suffield, in the course of his excellent speech, urged that a branch of the National Penny Bank should be established in Croydon, under the auspices of the Charitable Society. He adverted to some of the advantages it possesses, i.e., interest of 3 per cent., power of purchasing Consols to the amount of 16s. 8d. or more, whereby a young boy or girl at school can hold stock at an interest of the same rate as the largest holder. The capital, £15,000, deposits held by the Bank of England and invested in Government securities. He pointed out that whereas the Post Office Savings Bank does not receive parts of a shilling, the National Penny Bank has no limitations, and pays a larger interest. He hoped that, if the Charitable Society did not take up this public boon, it would attract the favourable notice of gentlemen present.

The Rev. H. Glover, in seconding the resolution, observed that he was to be succeeded by Mr. Alsager Hill, a gentleman whose practical acquaintance with charity organisation was perhaps greater than that of any other gentleman in the room. When appointed the first Secretary of the Society, he remembered having an interview with Mr. Hill, at his office in London, and a very valuable interview it was, as it enabled him to carry on the Society's work with a better knowledge of its difficulties, and the best way of overcoming them.

Mr. Alsager Hay Hill, a Vice-Chairman of the Charity Organisation Society of London, supported the resolution. He said that though he did not attend the meetings as an official representative of the Society in London, he had been connected with it from the first, and as its work went on, was more and more convinced of the principles upon which it was founded. The idea of introducing a spirit of organisation in works of charity had been resented in some quarters, but he could not see why an element which had been admitted in all other departments of human labour should not also be recognised in the highest of all labours—that of love to our fellow-creatures. He was aware that a suburban district like Croydon differed much from the more crowded quarters of the metropolis, but perhaps the problem, though different, was not less difficult than in the town. He hoped the Society, in addition to enlisting the ladies and gentlemen whom he saw before him, would make its influence felt amongst, and secure the co-operation of, the industrial classes, many members of which could give good aid to the Society.

The Rev. W. Wilks then rose to move, 'That in the opinion of this Conference, when so vast a sum is annually paid out in poor rates, it is inexpedient (except in special cases) to supplement parish relief.' I suppose that hardly a day passes but what you are accosted, either in the street or at your own house door, by some poor creature begging your kindly charity, and you don't know how to refuse; indeed some persons consider it a bounden duty to give to everyone that asketh, without any further proof that they deserve it than their own assertion, or that they really need it than their own miserable appearance. I remember once being out walking with a friend who held this view, and being accosted by a woman whose deplorable appearance was well calculated to grieve any Christian heart; well, my friend gave her money, and we passed on. But happening to look round a minute afterwards, I saw her going into a public-house. I told my friend, who was a man of very decided and determined character. He at once ran back, rushed into the public-house, and was just in time to snatch the sixpence out of the trembling shaking hand, which was tendering it in exchange for gin. Now when such people meet you or come to your house, they tell you a pitiful tale, and back it up

with the assertion 'that they must starve if you don't help them,' and your heart melts with pity, and I should be sorry for you if it didn't. But wait a moment. Do not act on impulse without thinking. Wait and consider whether it would not be far wiser, and also—as anyone who knows anything of beggars would tell you—far more economical in the long run, to promise 10s. or £1, if, on inquiry, the case prove good, than to rid yourself of all feeling and responsibility in the matter by putting your hand into your pocket for the conventional 1d., 6d., or 1s., as the case may be. This Society asks you to wait and refer the case for inquiry to be made. A day is generally enough to prove the genuineness or imposition, whichever it may be. But you say: 'Yes, but what are the poor creatures to do that day? A day may be long enough to prove or disprove, and also it is long enough to almost starve.' Now, let me point out that if you give money, little though it may be, you at once destroy all good that comes of inquiry, because the applicant having in all probability deceived you, passes from your knowledge and control, and re-commences taking in others in the same way. But still you say—'But even so the poor creatures must not starve.' Well, now we ask you to put away all fear of starvation. The people who starve—of whom, alas, there are 250 known cases per annum, besides the unknown—are sensitive people who won't beg, but prefer starving to begging. Put aside, then, the idea of starvation, and take up the idea, Poor Law. I am not myself an ardent admirer of the Poor Law, considering it to be based on entirely wrong principles, yet, as long as it exists and we pay £8,000,000 a year to it, it is absurd not to use it. We have a Poor Law, a Union House, a Board of Guardians, and relieving officers, whose sole duty it is to look after the poor; and whether you consider it, as some do, a glory or not, yet a fact it remains that no man, woman, or child need starve in England. All destitute persons—be they good, bad, or indifferent, it makes not the smallest difference—all destitute persons are by law entitled to relief, and in all cases of urgency, the relieving officer is bound by law to administer food without waiting the Guardians' sanction.

The Rev. H. C. Watson seconded the motion, and said, besides those peculiarly special cases which must always from time to time arise, there are certain regular cases which the Society regarded as special in the sense of its being fitting in them to supplement parish relief. The cases of widows and highly respectable persons to whom the Guardians themselves feel they cannot by law allow really sufficient relief afford a grand opportunity for co-operation with the Poor Law. But the greatest care must be taken in using it; for, at the outset, we are met with the fact that nothing short of a pension or weekly allowance will meet the case. It is seldom, if ever, wise for ordinary subscription charities to give pensions; but private persons are sometimes glad to give such assistance to individual cases when brought to their notice. District visiting societies, too, are often willing to make a regular allowance to a small number of cases; and, as they necessarily come in contact with chronic cases, it is well they should assist them in this way rather than by habitual but uncertain doles. There are also several things which the Guardians cannot legally give—such as redeeming pawned goods, purchasing tools, bedding, and clothes, paying the cost of conveyance from one place to another, and paying for rent or for lodging. So that, in all these matters, our Society is most willing to help with the Guardians; but, as Mr. Goschen himself, when President of the Poor Law Board, said, 'We should not give such articles as the Guardians themselves are legally bound to supply.'

Mr. F. M. Coldwells moved—'That the Croydon Charitable Society is worthy of the confidence and support of this Conference.' As to individuals giving time enough to inquire into cases, it was quite out of the question. He gave an amusing account of his attempts in that way by last winter giving two Italian boys into custody; and, although aided by magistrates and police, the lying and shuffling were too much for him. He had to give up in despair, and therefore could cordially move the resolution.

Mr. H. J. Close seconded the motion. He said that what he had heard that evening had given him very great pleasure indeed; for, having been a Guardian of the parish of Croydon for many years, he entirely agreed that the amount of imposture practised by beggars was immense, and it was practically impossible for a private person to discover the true from the false. The Board of Guardians was the rightful protector of the destitute, and until inquiry could be properly made, he thought it was, on all hands, the best to leave things to them. Alms before inquiry were certainly productive of little but harm. He was glad, therefore, as a Guardian of the poor, to record the confidence he had in the principles of this Society.

Mr. Edridge, J.P., moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, and also to Mr. Alsager Hill and others, for the admirable speeches they had made, and

This was carried by acclamation, and the meeting broke up.

MENDICITY SOCIETY FOR HEREFORDSHIRE.—At a meeting of the leading gentlemen of the county, on the 4th inst., under the presidency of Sir Herbert Croft, Bart., it was unanimously resolved to establish a charitable body in Herefordshire for the relief of tramps, on the same principle as the Dorsetshire Mendicity Society.

THE ORGANISATION OF CHARITY AT SOUTHAMPTON.—A very important Conference, says the *Times*, was held at the Audit House, Southampton, on Saturday afternoon, the Mayor (Mr. E. Jones) in the chair, at which were present over sixty of the leading heads of charities in the town, and most of the ministers of all denominations, for the purpose of considering the expediency of forming a Charity Organisation Society in the town. Dr. R. Waudby Griffin described the heavy state of pauperism in Southampton and the causes which had led to it, among which were—first, the ignorance of the majority of the ever-changing Guardians of the commonest principles on which the Poor Law was founded, to relieve only destitution, and the ready way in which they had allowed what was intended by the Poor Law for exceptional cases to become the rule; secondly, the utter impossibility of relieving officers, without extraneous assistance, being able to obtain accurate information of the applicants for poor relief; and, thirdly, the indiscriminate and reckless profusion of Charitable Societies and private individuals. He exemplified the good effects of a combination of Poor Law and charity by the systems pursued at Elberfield, Macclesfield, Atcham, and the Metropolis. Mr. W. E. Darwin next dwelt long and minutely upon the method and work of the Charity Organisation Society, showing that its main object was to obtain a complete interchange of knowledge of the work done by each charity and by the Poor Law, and not in any way to interfere with the funds or with the method of distribution of any charity, but at first simply to obtain perfect information, and freely to give it; and, subsequently, if funds were forthcoming, to supplement its work by loans to set deserving people up, and prevent them becoming paupers, to purchase tools, &c. Mr. E. Bance, Deputy President of the Board of Guardians, considered such a Society would be of immense benefit to the Guardians, and said he thoroughly felt the necessity of such an organisation before it was possible to do away with out-door relief, which, he was of opinion, did an immense deal of harm. He objected strongly to the local Act, which was greatly the cause of the peculiar course taken by the Board of Guardians. Mr. C. C. Smith, the clerk to the Guardians, disputed Dr. Griffin's statistics, and said that the expenditure on relief had not increased, and that the proportion of paupers was really one-half what was stated by Dr. Griffin, but he approved the formation of the Society. Dr. Griffin at once replied that his figures were from the Local Government Board returns, and that in 1854 the cost was £10,933; in 1864, £16,658; and in 1874, £23,598; that Mr. Smith had only reckoned the actual money spent on the poor; that if the numbers of paupers had been reckoned by adding the number of each half-year, it did not follow that there were only half. At any rate, the Local Government Board had so reckoned them, and as all his figures had been obtained in the same way, the ratios remained the same. After some remarks by the Revs. F. Wigram, H. H. Carlisle, and J. A. Whitlock, the Rev. Basil Wilberforce said it was a layman's question, and that clergymen must relieve those they knew were undeserving, and instanced several cases in which he had done so. The Rev. A. Bradley followed on the same ground, and objected strongly to the Society interfering with the action of charity, and being desirous of throwing all the money into one common fund. The Rev. C. E. Steward and others spoke strongly in favour of the Society. Mr. W. C. Westlake said it could not be disputed that we had on the 1st of January 2,505 paupers relieved, or 1 in 20, and that in other places the average cost per head was 6s. 7d., while here it was 9s. 7d. After Mr. Cox and Major-General Tryon had spoken in support of the proposal, Dr. Griffin moved that a Charity Organisation Society be formed for Southampton and its immediate neighbourhood, which was seconded by Mr. Le Feuvre, and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the Mayor, who had been in the chair three hours, closed the proceedings of the Conference.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of November 1875 was 35,483, and 48,973 received outdoor relief, making a total of 84,456. This was an increase of 696 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,336, 18,156, and 24,377 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 502. This was the same as the number returned for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 81 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 158.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 15, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

Any District Committee requiring an In-patient letter for the Brompton or Victoria Park Hospitals is requested to communicate with the Secretary of the Council, letters available for December having been offered.

Copies of a new edition of the Table showing times of meeting of all District Committees have been sent to the District Offices and can be supplied to members on application to the Secretary.

On and after Thursday, December 23rd, the office of the Paddington Committee will be at No. 20 Westbourne Park Terrace, Harrow Road, W. The office will be closed from the evening of Wednesday the 22nd instant until the morning of Tuesday the 28th.

The Newington Committee have resumed their weekly meetings; the next will be held on Friday the 17th instant, and after that date they will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays alternately.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Dr. Anderson, *Kennington Committee*; Major Yard, J. B. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; P. Ralli, Esq., M.P., Major Prendergast, Major Fitz-Roy, *St. George's*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; H. Matthews, Esq., *Islington*; W. F. Lawrence, Esq., *St. Giles's and Bloomsbury*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Sir Richard Wilbraham, *Holborn*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, *Whitechapel*; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., *Stepney*; Hon. H. R. Scott, *Mile End*; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F.

Smith, Esq., *St. Saviour's, Southwark*; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., *St. Olave's*; H. Long, Esq., *Lambeth*; S. Etches, Esq., *Clapham*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; A. Annesley, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., *Lewisham*; Capt. Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; C. A. Barry, Esq., *Sydenham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., G. Blount, Esq., Dr. Hawksley, C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 38. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.

A memorandum from Mr. Bosanquet was read, with reference to an interview with Mr. Peek. Mr. Peek had stated that his object was very generally misunderstood. His wish was not to enable children to attend school, but to make it easier for members of the School Board to obtain effectual assistance for persons whose distress was brought to their notice, if careful inquiry proved them deserving.

QUESTIONS.

A letter was read from the Rev. A. J. Ross, inquiring if application had been made to any of the District Committees by a Mrs. Macglashen. If such was the case, he would be ready to furnish information respecting her.

Mr. Seton-Karr drew the attention of the Council to an article in the *Saturday Review*, in which reference was made to the Charity Organisation Society.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending December 4 the receipts had been £120. 14s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £42. 2s. for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £92. 9s. 6d. and £25. 15s. 6d. respectively—the latter sum not including an advance of £65 to be made from the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Grants of £35 and £30 were made to the Holborn and St. Saviour's Committees respectively.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending December 11, 1875:—*Donations*: Capt. Barker, £10; J. Clutton, Esq., £5; G. Waldie Griffith, Esq., £10; C. A. D. Halford, Esq., £10; Miss E. Holhouse, £1. 1s.; Mrs. Reiss, £50; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., £20; Lady Trevelyan, £5; A. Turnor, Esq., £10. 10s. *Annual*: Rev. G. A. Booth, £1. 1s.; J. A. Caldecott, Esq., £1. 1s.; T. D. Galpin, Esq., £1. 1s.; Rev. T. G. Headley, £1. 1s.; W. Hickman, Esq., M.B., £1. 1s.; Mrs. Lawton, £2. 2s.; George Moore, Esq. (for the City Committee), £21; J. W. R. Thompson, Esq., 10s. 6d. *District Committee Aid Fund*: Clapham Committee, £10. 10s.; Miss Jane Wilson, £10.

The following business stands for Monday, December 20:—

To consider a recommendation of the Administrative Committee:

That a grant of £37, on account, be made to the St. James's Committee, Westminster.

Mr. Alsager Hay Hill to call the attention of the Council to the relations of the Society to the Industrial Classes and their co-operation in its work, with special reference to an article by Mr. C. E. Maurice, in *Macmillan's Magazine* for December 1875, and to move:—

'That a closer bond of union should be created between the representatives of organised charity and leaders of the working-men's organisations.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, DE- CEMBER 11, 1875	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with			
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for Hospitals &c.		
Kensington	3	2	7	12	1	1	2	8	4	1	8	21	9	7	2		
Fulham	2	1	1	4	1	1	2	4	1	1	9	15	3	2	4		
Paddington	1	1	3	4	1	3	4	3	4	1	8	16	17	3	2		
Chelsea	1	1	3	5	2	2	4	1	1	1	2	11	11	4	..		
St. George's:—																	
St. George's Division	4	3	7	14	1	1	2	12	1	1	2	23	9	6	1		
Westminster do.	4	6	10	20	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	23	3	..	..		
Westminster:—																	
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	1	2	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	5	3	3	2	6		
St. Marylebone	4	4	8	16	7	2	9	2	1	1	5	30	10	12	..		
Hampstead	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1		
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	3	3	9	..		
South St. Pancras	2	4	5	11	3	4	7	1	1	1	1	19	5	8	..		
Islington	2	2	1	5	7	7	7	1	1	1	1	13	14	3	..		
Hackney	2	1	3	6	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	6	3	10	..		
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	2	2	2	6	4	2	6	2	2	2	2	10	6	8	..		
Strand	2	2	2	6	9	9	9	2	1	1	3	14	4	17	1		
Holborn	2	2	2	6	4	4	4	7	2	1	9	9	10	28	..		
City	3	3	3	9	1	1	1	4	4	2	6	10	11	11	..		
Shoreditch	2	2	3	7	4	5	5	12	6	2	2	12	6	2	..		
Bethnal Green	2	2	3	7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	..		
Whitechapel	2	2	2	6	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	6	3	4	..		
St. George's-in-the-East	1	2	6	9	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	15	15	5	2		
Stepney	2	4	6	12	3	1	4	2	1	1	1	10	1	7	..		
Mile End Old Town	1	4	5	10	3	1	4	2	2	2	2	11	9	..	..		
Poplar	1	3	8	12	5	2	7	4	1	2	7	26	3	4	2		
St. Saviour's	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	6	1	..	..		
Newington	1	2	4	7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	11	7	2	..		
St. Olave's	2	5	2	9	3	3	6	2	2	2	2	11	7	2	..		
Lambeth:—																	
North	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	..		
South	2	1	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	2	5		
Wandsworth & Putney	2	3	5	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	2	5		
Battersea	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	7	2	6	..		
Clapham	2	2	2	6	1	2	3	3	1	1	5	10	5	1	10		
Camberwell:—																	
Grove Lane	4	4	4	12	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	20	1	..	..		
Peckham	1	2	4	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	..	3	..		
Greenwich	1	2	4	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	10	4	..	15		
Deptford	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	9		
Woolwich	3	2	5	10	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	9	..	1	10		
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	21	..		
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	25	..		
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	..	5		
Total	33	45	98	176	6	77	28	111	71	15	11	13	110	397	175	183	130

GRANTS TO POOR DISTRICTS.—Mr. Day has furnished the following summary of the first part of the remarks made by him last week in support of his motion on the above subject:—Mr. Day referred to the volume of the Reports of Committees for 1874 to prove, by statistics therefrom, that his Committee, with only one officer, had done more work than two officers at Islington, and at less than half the cost, in 1874. That when it was at first proposed for Sydenham and Forest Hill (with a district in some parts over three miles in extent) to have two offices, it was over-ruled, and the large room of a dispensary, at the low cost of £11. 4s. per year (for rent, taxes, gas, fire, &c.), was found, with one person as Charity Officer and Collector, quite sufficient to do the work efficiently and successfully; and that the Committee sent a grant yearly towards the expenses of the Central Office. Whereas Islington had during the past three years received £200 in grants from Council, not because of its poverty, but from want of a better organisation and more thoroughly systematic collection.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

HAMPSTEAD.—*Annual Meeting.*—The Annual Meeting of this Committee was held at the Guardians' Offices, Hampstead, on the 4th inst., J. R. Holland, Esq., presiding. The proceedings opened with prayer by the Rev. S. W. Barnaby, the Vicar.

The Rev. H. F. Mallet, one of the Hon. Secretaries, read the annual report, which stated that the Committee had inquired into 195 cases of residents, of whom 39 were dismissed, 79 were referred to the Poor Law, local agencies, or institutions, 8 had been placed on the labour register, and 69 had been assisted by grants, loans, employment, or letters to hospitals. During the year 22 vagrants had been relieved, as against 42 in 1873-4, 69 in 1872-3, 138 in 1871-2, and 392 in 1870-1. The undeserving poor,

it was urged, ought to be referred to the Poor Law. It was stated that 33 cases had been inquired into for other Committees, and it was most desirable that there should be a more perfect co-operation between the District Visitors and the Committee.

The Chairman, after speaking of the complete character of the report, proceeded to speak of the difficulties which the Society and its principles had had to encounter in the course of its existence. He said it was one of the most misunderstood and best abused Societies of the day. The form of abuse came from a knot of persons who, acting under the guise of charity administration, had come into antagonism with the Society. Some of the misunderstanding was *bond fide*, and this arose in the minds of those who, looking at the Society as a charitable one, had been struck with the fact that more was spent in machinery than in relief; or considered that its system of inquiry was very inquisitorial. Another objection, made in a well-known Review, was a very strange one. It was this: that organised charity was not charity at all. Dealing with these objections, he said in a short time there would be numberless appeals in the papers from charities and from charitable individuals. If to the numbers of those who appealed were added the charities in Fry's Handbook, with the private charities distributed, it would be found that there were sufficient funds to aid all the poor of London, and therefore, if the Charity Organisation Society had come as another charity to add to these, it would have had no *locus standi* at all. If it was said, then, that all these funds were distributed without any co-operation, that each charity made its own laws and dealt with its own cases as each liked, without reference to any other, would it not be said that there was a want of systematising—a want of care that the deserving should get what was needful, and that others should not be relieved by several charities at one time? (Hear.) His contention was that, seeing that there was before the existence of the Charity Organisation Society no such organisation or systematising of relief, if it spent the whole of its receipts in machinery, the money would be well spent and the Society would perform a very useful function. To give charity or relief was no part of its function; but in the course of its work it was found that it could perform its work better by giving a certain amount of relief, but that was not its primary function—it was not its purpose to give doles. What, in fact, the Society said was, that a man who found himself in distress must lay before the Society some plans of life—some scheme—and then the Society would see if it could not assist him in the endeavour to pull through and attain again an independent position. This giving of effectual relief led to the second objection—the investigations into character. It was not possible, he urged, to give effectual relief unless it was known what a man was and in what way he could be assisted. True charity should look at the past, so as to forecast the future, and the Society was no more inquisitorial than was the doctor who made inquiries of his patient; and the better the doctor, the further back would he go into his patient's history, so as to form a correct diagnosis of the present disease. (Hear.) The Society made full inquiry into the past history of each case, that it might do substantial justice in the present. (Hear.) It was a serious matter for a man when he asked for relief, but it was a more serious matter when the relief was given without inquiry.

Mr. Ribton-Turner considered that there were 4,000,000 of our population who were partially dependent, and therefore it was necessary that each person should take care that nothing he did should assist a man to join this enormous dependent class. (Hear.) The speaker then dealt with the objection that organised charity was no charity, and said that the charity of impulse was on the contrary no charity, for the alms thus bestowed were not given from the heart-stirring motive which animated true charity—to help a fellow being—but merely arose from a desire to be free from importunity.

Mr. Basil Woodd Smith, in proposing the adoption of the report, said that all persons interested in the welfare of the poor ought to warmly thank the Executive Committee for their work. They consisted of ladies and gentlemen who were willing to undergo some amount of unpopularity in directing these cases to be investigated for the benefit of the poor and society at large. The work of the Society was doing a great deal of good, and would be more and more appreciated; and if it had done nothing more than clear the streets of beggars, and did nothing more than keep them clear, as it did, it had a sufficient *raison d'être*.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion, and said that those persons who kept aloof from the Society, and distributed relief without inquiry, were the cause of 'hardness to the poor' of which they complained. If these persons gave their aid only after full inquiry, and gave help by personal assistance, it would be found that the poor needed advice more than anything, and he trusted that the day would come when each Committee would be a centre for information to the poor; and then there would be a sympathy between all classes—the poor would be taught to help themselves, and the relief of the poor would be on a more rational footing than at present.

The motion was carried, *nem. con.*

The Rev. Dr. Sadler proposed the re-election of the officers, and said that the meeting must feel under the deepest debt of gratitude for the work which the gentlemen composing the officers had done and were doing. (Hear, hear.) To Mr. Mallet, the speaker said, he felt that all were

under the deepest obligation, and it was indeed a blessing to a neighbourhood to have in it one who was able and willing—for the love of the poor and the work—to undertake the duties which he discharged. The speaker said he was for himself almost ashamed to say a word in commendation of the Society, because he did so little as a worker; but he could bear testimony to its good results, for he was in himself a recipient of its relief—having been relieved of those visitors who formerly came to him with the full knowledge that he had not time to inquire into their statements, and who had now disappeared. He warmly supported the principles of the Society, believing that they led to due relief being given to real poverty, and on that ground could claim universal sympathy.

Mr. Lewis seconded the motion in a thoughtful speech, and Mr. Manley Hopkins supported it.

The motion was carried, and was acknowledged by Mr. Frederick Hill, J.P., and by the Rev. H. F. Mallet, who thought that the Society ought to have taken root earlier.

On the motion of the Rev. S. B. Burnaby, seconded by Mr. Millar, a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, and the proceedings closed with his acknowledgment of the compliment.

LEWISHAM.—Organisation of Parochial Charities.—Many of the Parochial Charities have recently been reorganised, and, under a scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners, are now administered by a new Board, called the 'Trustees of the Lewisham Parochial Charities.' On the formation of this Board, the Lewisham Committee wrote, offering their services and the services of their agents, and expressing the hope that there would be cordial co-operation between the two bodies in their common labour of trying to bring about the improvement of the condition of the local poor.

The Board, in reply, expressed its readiness to avail itself of the Committee's organisation, and at its last meeting on the 8th inst. voted them a grant of £15. A similar grant was also made at the same time to the Sydenham Committee, whose district is included in the Lewisham Union.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Mile End and Camberwell Committees.

Annual Report of the Horsham Association for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity.

Annual Report of the Newcastle Society for the Organisation of Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity.

Macmillan's Magazine for December, containing an article on the 'Organisation of the Un-organised Classes,' by C. E. Maurice, Esq.

CHARITY ORGANISATION ASSOCIATION.—SCARBOROUGH.

The annual meeting of the supporters of the Scarborough Society for the Suppression of Mendicity and Organising Charitable Relief was held at the Royal Hotel on the 8th inst. In the absence of the Mayor (John Hart, Esq.) through domestic affliction, the chair was taken by the ex-Mayor, (Mr. Alderman Porrett.) There were also present—The Ven. Archdeacon Blunt, Rev. R. Bulgarnie, Rev. J. Lewitt, Hon. F. Stuart-Wortley, John Woodall, Esq., J. Phillips, Esq., Col. Harvey, W. H. Smythe, Esq., W. Rowntree, Esq., M. Hick, Esq., S. Bailey, Esq., and Mr. H. M. Cross.

The proceedings were opened by the Chairman calling upon W. H. Smythe, Esq., Hon. Sec., to read the notice convening the meeting, after which that gentleman also read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Committee of the Scarborough Association for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity, in presenting their fifth annual report, have the satisfaction of being able to give a good account of its labours during the past year, especially with regard to the loan system, which has now absorbed £84 of the Society's money, and of which only £5 has as yet been lost, and that chiefly owing to deaths occurring among those who were paying back the money lent them by the Society.

In the following statement the cases are divided under several heads, that all may see at a glance how different are the people that apply to us, and, consequently, how difficult it is to deal with them effectually.

The heads are, first, the deserving cases: these are relieved by gifts of money, or goods, i.e. bread, groceries, coals, &c.; and also by loans of money, on good security, to be repaid without interest, by small instalments; and also by finding employment when possible.

CASES RELIEVED BY MONEY OR GOODS.

'10.—A Scarborough fisherman, married, who was unable to work through injuries received on board of his ship, relieved till club allowance due.'

CASES RELIEVED BY LOANS.

'83.—A widow applied for a loan to enable her to start a small business. A loan of £8 granted.'

'A blind young man, mentioned in last year's report, again assisted by a loan of £12. 7s. 6d. He is doing well, and is regularly repaying.'

Here the Committee wish to state that the sums of money given by private individuals for the relief of special cases are not brought into our report, owing to the fact that such gifts are often accompanied with a request that no mention be made of them; so that the amount put down in our accounts does not represent the whole of the money actually given away through the Society, but only the small sums that it is possible to give out of the subscribers' money, after the necessary expenses of the agent and office are paid, and those which are entailed by the duty of ridding the town of professional beggars. In fact, as the name purports, we wish especially to be the almoners of those who cannot sift for themselves the truth or falsehood of the applicant's story, and who yet will gladly relieve a real case of suffering or hardship. Before we leave this part of the subject the Committee desire to thank the friends of the Society for the gifts of money, coal, soup-tickets, and clothes, which have been carefully distributed.

PETITIONS.

It has been the custom during the last four years for those who have suffered some unexpected loss that would deprive them of the means of gaining their livelihood to bring their petition to the Society before appealing to their friends for help. After due inquiry into the merits of the case, the recommendation of the Committee has been in many cases granted, and the money (more readily obtained in such a case) has been deposited in the hands of our officer for the greater security of its being applied to the purpose stated in the petition, and in some cases an additional gift or loan has been granted. This, we think, is so useful a part of our work as to deserve special mention.

INELIGIBLE CASE.

'23.—A bricklayer, with a wife and four children, applied for assistance; but on inquiry it was found that he had regular employment, at 32s. weekly in winter and 35s. in summer, but on account of the hard weather he had been out of work 9 days.'

UNDESERVING CASES.

'201.—A labouring man, found with a begging petition stating that his horse had fallen dead in the street, proved to be an impostor, as he never had a horse. Sentenced to 3 months' hard labour.'

'50.—A labourer applied for assistance. Relieved till work was found for him at 15s. a week, which he refused, saying he would not work under 21s.'

'215.—J. D., a Scarborough boy, aged 13 years, who had several times been before the borough magistrates for begging and annoying people in the streets. Sent to an industrial school till he attains the age of 16 years.'

'The frequent occurrence in our books of the words drunkard, ineligible, undeserving, impostor, and false address shows the necessity of making inquiries before giving relief of any kind; and district-visitors and other charitable persons are particularly reminded that this Society undertakes, through its agent, to make the necessary inquiries in this way.'

The repression of mendicity, your Committee are happy to state, has been a most successful department, the town having been very materially cleared of professional beggars by the operations of the Society. A large portion of the expenses necessarily belong to the working machinery; this, however, may be considered as belonging expressly to the repression of mendicity, the whole of the remainder being applied to the relief and assistance of the really deserving.

In conclusion, your Committee expresses a desire that the various charities in this town will make as much use as possible of the machinery of the Society.

The office is at 18 Queen Street, where the agent (Mr. Aplin) attends daily from 3 till 5 P.M., and will gladly give all the information in his power.

CASES BROUGHT BEFORE THE COMMITTEES IN 1875.—(a) Relief refused to applicant as:—1. Not requiring relief, 8; 2. Ineligible, 56; 3. Undeserving, 41; 4. False address, 1.—Total 106. (b) Referred for relief to:—1. Union relieving officer, 43; 2. Private persons, 7.—Total 50. (c) Assisted by the Association with:—1. Grants, 82; 2. Loans, 17; 3. Labour, 3; 4. Institutions, 1.—Total 103. Grand total, 259.

The balance-sheet showed that during the year the sum of £15. 1s. 9½d. had been expended in relief—food, money, and labour; that £101. 7s. 8d. had been expended in the management of the Society in connection with the repression of mendicity; and the Society has, in balances and loans, £101. 3s. 4½d. in hand. Its income amounted to £217. 12s. 7½d., of which about £137 was in subscriptions, and the rest consisted of balances in hand at the commencement of the year.

The accounts from which the foregoing statement is taken were audited by Mr. Fisher.

The Chairman said he deeply regretted the circumstances under which the Mayor's absence had rendered it desirable that he should take the chair. (Hear.) He expressed his fullest approval of the Society, regarding it as a great means of assisting the police in suppressing begging,—a pursuit which in many cases led to stealing and other offences. So effectual had

been the working of the Society, that some were inclined to think that begging had been put a stop to. They could not, however, discontinue their action, and he hoped the Society's work would yet go on prosperously.

John Woodall, Esq., in moving the adoption of the report, also bore his testimony to the value of the Society. He said no one could help noticing the different state of things in the town now as compared with a few years ago, when the streets were overrun with beggars. The manifest diminution of mendicity in the town was a great comfort to the inhabitants; and it was also very satisfactory to have an institution that could be referred to with regard to doubtful cases where aid was importuned. He hoped when the Society became better known it would be more largely supported by the public. After alluding to the satisfactory working of the Society's loan department, he said he felt that the institution was doing a good work, and he had much pleasure in moving that the report and statement of accounts be adopted, printed, and circulated.

The Rev. R. Baggiani seconded the motion, and expressed the pleasure he felt in regarding the report now presented as the most satisfactory of any they had had before them.

The motion was then unanimously adopted.

On the motion of M. Hick, Esq., seconded by the Venerable Archdeacon Blunt, a vote of thanks was passed to the Secretaries and those members of the Committee who have attended to the business of the Society.

After some conversation on matters touching the operations of the Society, the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Ex-Mayor for presiding, on the motion of the Rev. J. Lewitt, seconded by the Hon. F. Stuart-Wortley.

The Committee acknowledge, with thanks, the kindness of Mr. Townsend in gratuitously allowing the use of the room for the purposes of the annual meeting.

A SCHOOL BOARD CASE.—At the Lambeth Police Court, on the 2nd inst., Mr. Vockins, the Superintendent of Visitors for the Lambeth District of the School Board, asked permission to refer to the case of a man named William Bailey, who on the previous Friday was fined 2s. and 2s. costs for not sending his boy to school. The case had been reported in the newspapers, and the result had been that indiscriminate charity had been manifested and much sympathy felt for the man. He had caused inquiries to be made by the visitors, and he was now in a position to prove that neither the charity nor the sympathy was deserved by the man Bailey. He could show that the statements made by him were false. [He is reported to have stated that the child was without a mother and that he had been out of work; that he had been in the China war and bore a good character.] There were four children—one was in a reformatory school, and Bailey had been sent to prison for not contributing towards his support. Mr. Vockins wished to state that in cases where the children had no boots to go to school with they were supplied on application to the Committee through the Charity Organisation Fund. The man was a drunken, lazy fellow, and in the habit of neglecting his wife and family. Bailey had obtained 5s. from this Court last year, and he could show that he was in the habit of visiting public-houses with a son playing the concertina. Mr. Vockins made his statement from a written paper which he held in his hand. He referred to an article which he informed the magistrate had appeared in the *Standard* on Tuesday last, and he desired to contradict the statements made therein. Mr. Ellison said he had not seen the article or any other article on the subject. Quite sufficient had been undoubtedly shown to prove that he was correct when he expressed himself as not being satisfied with the statement made by the man when he was before him. From the impression made by the statement a number of persons had sent contributions to the Court, and he should reserve the money until he heard from the donors what they wished him to do with it. Mr. Vockins said he had two witnesses in attendance to confirm the statement he had made as to the drunken habits of the man Bailey, but Mr. Ellison expressed himself satisfied.—*Times*.

EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR.—At a recent meeting of St. Saviour's Guardian Board, the Chairman said that the following matter had come under his notice. Mr. Sherwood had told him that a woman named Ellsworth, who had been in Wandsworth Gaol nearly a hundred times, had recently, after being discharged from that gaol, come to the St. George's Workhouse; and after being there a few days, the governor of the Wandsworth Gaol had sent her, with his compliments, a packet of tea and sugar. He could not understand that kind of thing. Mr. Malthouse: Perhaps he's a relation? (Laughter). Subsequently Mr. Barrett attended before the Guardians, and stated, in answer to various questions, that on Tuesday a man called with a parcel, which he said contained tea and sugar; that it was for Betsy Ellsworth, and had been sent with Mr. So-and-so's compliments. He distinctly intimated that it was the governor of Wandsworth Gaol who had sent it. Mr. Barrett expressed his surprise, and told the man to take the parcel back again. On the motion of Mr. Malthouse, it was decided to address a letter to the magistrate, informing him of the circumstance, and asking for some explanation. It has since transpired that 'the man' was not an officer of the prison, but an agent of the Surrey Society for the Relief of Discharged Prisoners.—*Metropolitan*.

MISTAKEN CHARITY.—*Ferrell v. Stringer*.—The following is the report of a case tried before Mr. Serjeant Wheeler, at the Marylebone County Court, on the 7th instant. This was a claim for 8s. value received. The defendant denied her indebtedness. From the evidence it appeared that the plaintiff lived at 16 Paul Street, Portman Market, and earned his living by sweeping a crossing in Park Road, Regent's Park. Upon his solicitations the ladies of the locality had supplied him with so many tickets for hundred-weights of coals, that his cellar was so full that he could not get any more into it. Having some more tickets for coals, which he could not use, he sold eight of them to the defendant, the value of which he now sued for.

The defendant, who produced the tickets in question, denied that plaintiff ever sold them to her. He gave them to her because he had no room to store the coals.

His Honour gave a verdict for the defendant.—*Clerkenwell News*.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of November 1875 was 35,673, and 49,109 received outdoor relief, making a total of 84,782. This was an increase of 328 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,933, 18,477, and 23,024 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 528. This was an increase of 26 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 62 on the corresponding day of last year.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION

THE SOCIETY desire to invite the attention of those interested in the work they have in hand to their Collection of Reports of Charities and works of reference on Poor Law and Charity, which may at all times be consulted at the Central Office, free of charge, together with the Reports and Suggestions of the Society on various Social Questions.

The Secretaries are authorised to furnish particulars with regard to Charitable Societies to persons desirous of such information.

The Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, &c., for distribution to suitable cases through the District Committees.

Contributions to the funds of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C.

Draft Orders on Bankers for annual payments until further orders can be supplied to any who wish for them.

Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council.

THE LABOUR NEWS and EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISER, Price

One Penny.—A Weekly Organ of information on the condition and requirements of the Labour Market in town and country. Edited by ALSAGER HAY HILL. Correspondence is requested from all parts.—Offices: 1 Long Acre, London, W.

Post-free One quarter, 1s. 9d.; a Year, 6s. 6d.

ANNUAL REPORTS of the DISTRICT COMMITTEES

for 1874, bound up with the SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT of the COUNCIL, price 2s. 6d., post free 3s., can be obtained on application to the SECRETARY, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY: ITS OBJECTS AND MODE OF OPERATION.

Longmans, Green, & Co., Paternoster Row, E.C.; and at the Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C. 3d.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 159.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 22, 1875.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

The Council will not meet on the 27th instant, and no *Reporter* will be issued next week, but it is requested that the weekly Returns of Cases may be sent in as usual.

The Administrative Committee will not meet till Thursday, the 30th instant.

The Central Office will be closed at 2 P.M. on the 24th instant, as well as on the 25th and 27th.

District Committees are requested to send in their quarterly returns of the School Board cases inquired into by them under the arrangement made with Mr. F. Peek, and to let the Administrative Committee know if they require reimbursement.

The Newington Committee will meet in future at 5 P.M. instead of 6.30 P.M. on Wednesdays and Fridays alternately.

District Committees are requested to verify the addresses of references in the Directory, before writing for inquiries to other Committees.

District Committees are informed that the following Hospital and other letters, available only till the 31st instant, may be had on application to the Secretary of the Council, viz.:—1. Walton Convalescent Home; 2. Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital; 12. City of London Truss Society.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; P. Ralli, Esq., M.P., Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Major Fitz-Roy, Hon. R. C. Moreton, *St. George's*; H. Peto, Esq., F. C. Mills, Esq., *Westminster (St. James' and St. Anne's)*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; E. Bond, Esq., O. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; W. F. Lawrence, Esq., Reginald Smith, Esq., *St. Giles's and Bloomsbury*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Rev. H. I. Cummins *City*; Russell Barrington, Esq., *St. George's—The East*; Hon. H. R. Scott, *Mile End Old Town*; R. Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; R. R. Balfour, Esq., *St. Olave's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; A. Annesley, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., *Lewisham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley, *Additional Members*; total, 30. C. S. Loch, Esq., *Secretary*.

A letter was read from the St. George's East Committee, stating that Mr. Russell Barrington would act as a representative of the Committee.

A letter was read from the St. Olave's Committee, stating that Mr. B. R. Balfour had been appointed Representative, vice Mr. Parry Woodcock, and Hon. Secretary in addition to Mr. R. Burnett.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

A letter from the Middlesex Hospital, asking whether the Society would make inquiries into the cases of out-patients on their behalf, having been forwarded by the Marylebone Committee, was read and referred to the Administrative Committee.

QUESTIONS.

General Blunt inquired whether any Member of Council could give information about 'The Charitable and Provident Society for the Aged and Infirm, Deaf and Dumb, Craven Hotel, Craven Street, Strand.'

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending December 11 the receipts had been £156. 9s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £86. 11s. for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £175. 19s. 2d. and £46. 2s. 6d. respectively—the latter sum not including an advance of £65 to be made from the General Fund.

On a reference from the Administrative Committee the double representation of the Sydenham Committee was authorized.

COLLECTION IN THE CITY.

The recommendations of the Administrative Committee respecting collection in the City having been declared urgent, were, after some discussion, approved. Mr. Inkersole was appointed collector on trial for three months.

The question of an Appeal in the daily papers was taken as urgent, and discussed at length. On the motion of Captain Boyce, it was resolved that the usual 'Statement of Claims to Support' be forwarded, and that a letter further explaining the objects of the Society be sent to the journals before the Annual Meeting in March.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Council then considered the recommendation of the Administrative Committee, that a grant of £37 on account be made to the St. James' Committee, Westminster.

Mr. Peto stated that the Committee had issued several series of appeals; the donations made on the establishment of the Committee had been sufficient hitherto to meet the expenditure.

Mr. Russell Barrington said that such a committee should be self-supporting, and he urged the necessity of making a greater, and if necessary personal, effort to obtain support.

Major Fitz-Roy pointed out some of the exceptional difficulties with which the Committee had to contend.

After some further discussion the recommendation was adopted, coupled with an expression of hope, on the part of the Council, that the Committee would hereafter be self-supporting.

Mr. A. H. Hill's motion, notice of which appeared in the last *Reporter*, was postponed.

The Council then adjourned.

The following business stands for Monday, January 3:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson to move—

1. That whereas by the Acts 25 & 26 Vic. cap. 43 ss. 1 and 10, and 31 & 32 Vic. cap. 122, ss. 13-23 and 42, the Guardians of the Poor are empowered to provide for the maintenance, education, and training of all the indigent afflicted classes, both children and adults—namely (1) the blind; (2) deaf; (3) dumb; (4) lame children; (5) deformed children; (6) idiotic; (7) imbecile; (8) insane—by sending them to either public or charitable institutions, and paying their full cost therein; and ever since 1832, by the Act 4 & 5 Wm. IV., cap. 76, sec. 56, in the case of blind and deaf and dumb children, they may be maintained without its being considered in the nature of parochial relief to the parents.

2. And whereas Parliament has also empowered the Metropolitan Asylum Board, by the Act 30 Vic. cap. 6, s. 5, and they may be compelled by the Local Government Board, to provide, at the cost of the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, asylums for both children and adults; (9) the sick; (10) insane; (11) infirm; (12) "and other class or classes of the poor."

3. While under the same powers the Metropolitan Asylum Board may provide (13) dispensaries; (14) proper places for the sick poor to obtain medical advice; (15) medicines and appliances; (16) surgical treatment and appliances.

4. And under the same Act managers of Metropolitan District Board Schools may build, and maintain out of the Metropolitan Common Fund, and in the country (under the Act of 1844), out of the Union Common Fund, District Schools for maintaining all poor children, including the afflicted classes.

5. And since School Boards, wherever established, must provide elementary day schools, and may remit the fees for the poor, and Guardians may pay the fees without its being deemed parochial relief for (18) all poor children, not excluding the afflicted, and may also build and keep up or pay the full cost in existing (19) industrial schools of all poor neglected children, not excluding the afflicted—

6. A committee be appointed by the Council to consider this legislation, which provides charitable assistance out of the public rates, and how far the voluntary charities dealing with the afflicted and neglected classes may avail themselves of it, and assist in carrying out the intentions of the Legislature for the benefit of these classes of the poor.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending December 18, 1875:—*Donations*: Rev. R. W. Bosanquet, £5. 5s.; Messrs. Courage & Co., £50; G. J. Eyre, Esq., £10; H. H. Gibbs, Esq., £50; Hon. H. S. Law, £2; Miss Manson, £5. *Annual*: G. W. M. Henderson, Esq., £1. 1s.; Dr. C. Murchison, £1. 1s.; N. F. Roberts, Esq., £2. 2s.; G. M. Saunders, Esq., £1. 1s.; J. Dunn Smith, Esq., £1. 1s.; Mrs. Thomas, £3. 3s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: St. George's Committee, £100; G. Morris, Esq., £10.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its thirty-seventh meeting on Wednesday, December 15, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Col. Fyers, Col. Mansfield Turner, Dr. Armitage, Dr. Hawksley, Rev. B. G. Johns, Messrs. D. Conolly, J. Campbell, T. Clarke, W. Harris, Alsager Hay Hill, E. C. Johnson, C. A. Miner, J. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson; and Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, Secretary.

The amended draft of List of Employments was brought up and approved, with alterations.

A letter was read from Mr. Harris stating that the publishers of the Rev. W. Taylor's translation of J. G. Knie's 'Management and Education of the Blind' were willing to print a new edition, at 1s. a copy, if they were guaranteed a sale of 400 copies.

It was resolved that the members of the Committee should be invited to subscribe for copies, and to request the Institutions for the Blind with which they were connected to subscribe.

The List of Employments was further considered and approved, with alterations.

The amended draft of the Report was brought up, and partly considered.

The Committee met again on Friday, the 17th inst., and settled the Report, which was ordered to be reprinted and brought up for signature at the next meeting.

The Committee then adjourned to January 26.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of December 1875 was 36,192, and 50,044 received outdoor relief, making a total of 86,236. This was an increase of 1,454 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,763, 17,743, and 22,070 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 547. This was an increase of 19 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 40 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CARRIES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, DE- CEMBER 18, 1875	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with	
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.					Class total
Kensington	2	7	9	1	1	2	4	...	...	...	4	18	14	6	8
Fulham	4	...	4	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	7	4	9	6
Paddington	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	1	6	...	7	10	11	...	...
Chelsea	4	1	5	...	1	1	2	4	1	...	5	15	11	5	...
St. George's:—															
St. George's Division	2	2	4	...	1	1	2	2	...	...	2	14	11	9	...
Westminster do.	1	2	3	...	2	2	1	3	...	...	4	...	1	2	...
Westminster:—															
St. James & St. Anne's	1	1	2	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	1	6	5	17	13
St. Marylebone	4	6	10	1	6	12	3	1	1	6	36	36	12	20	...
Hampstead	1	...	1	...	20	20	...	1	...	1	22	24	3	2	...
North St. Pancras and Highgate	4	1	5	...	4	7	1	...	...	1	13	2	5	...	...
South St. Pancras	1	7	8	...	12	4	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	3	...
Islington	...	...	...	...	4	10	2	...	...	2	12	18	8	...	...
Hackney	...	2	2	...	3	3	...	1	...	2	7	...	10	...	...
St. Giles & Bloomsbury Strand	...	3	3	...	...	...	3	3	...	3	9	2	15	...	...
Holborn	2	3	5	...	6	6	6	...	1	7	18	2	12	...	...
City	1	1	2	...	1	1	1	3	...	4	7	2	22	...	...
Shoreditch	2	4	6	...	3	3	3	1	...	4	13	4	6	...	...
Bethnal Green	1	2	3	...	1	1	3	3	1	7	16	10	2	...	...
Whitechapel	1	3	4	...	1	3	4	...	1	1	9	4	5	...	...
St. George's-in-the-East	...	3	3	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	6	1	2	...	...
Stepney	4	2	6	...	10	2	...	...	1	1	13	17	3	...	...
Mile End Old Town	1	8	9	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	11	1	10	...	...
Poplar	2	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	13	...	...	...
St. Saviour's	2	3	5	...	3	2	5	2	1	4	18	14	3	...	...
Newington	2	3	5	...	...	1	2	...	1	3	9	2	...	...	...
St. Olave's	4	1	5	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	10	4	4	...	...
Lambeth:—															
North	2	4	6	...	1	1	3	...	...	3	13	2	9	...	...
South	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Wandsworth & Putney	...	4	4	...	1	1	1	1	...	2	7	4	4	...	...
Battersea	1	3	4	...	...	...	7	...	1	8	12	1	1	...	...
Clapham	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	4	...	...	...	...
Camberwell:—															
Grove Lane	...	3	3	...	7	7	2	1	...	3	18	1	...	...	...
Peckham	...	1	1	...	2	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Greenwich	2	2	4	...	...	1	1	4	1	2	8	16	3	...	...
Deptford	1	1	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	4	6	1	2	...	...
Woolwich	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lewisham	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	6	6	5	...	...	...
Eltham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sydenham	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	4	...	...	...	...
Total	29	47	98	174	3	84	36	122	67	26	12	117	413	208	206

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

Mr. Ribton-Turner was not present at the annual meeting at Hampstead, an account of which appeared in the last Reporter. The words set down to him were a quotation made from his writings by Mr. J. R. Hollond, in whose speech they should have been included.

HEREFORDSHIRE MENDICITY SOCIETY.

A public meeting was held in the Shirehall, Hereford, on the 4th inst. to consider the desirability of establishing a Mendicity Society for the County of Hereford, on the plan adopted in the counties of Dorset, West Sussex, and Kent.

On the motion of Mr. G. Clive, M.P., Sir Herbert Croft was voted to the chair.

The meeting was numerously attended.

Sir Herbert Croft stated that the object of the meeting was to endeavour to establish a Mendicity Society in the county—in plain English, to try to make professional begging unpopular. They did not wish to make any change with regard to the relief of the local poor. Major Clive had brought this matter in a most practical form before the county. In the first place, he moved for a return, at Quarter Sessions, as to the number of vagrants relieved during one year in the casual wards of the county. He then followed that up by moving for the appointment of a committee, and finally, after the committee met, he wrote a most able and exhaustive letter on the subject to the local papers. (Hear, hear.) He wished to draw attention to the return which was, on the motion of Major Clive, presented at Quarter Sessions. It represented that between Midsummer day, 1874, and Midsummer-day, 1875, during those twelve months, 7,500 tramps were relieved in the county of Hereford. In Shropshire, where the matter had been taken up most strongly, vagrants had been put in gaol.

Major Meysey Clive said he should like to say a few words as to the necessity of a society like this in the county of Hereford, and then to allude to the working and the details of the Society. First, as to the necessity of it. Sir Herbert Croft had mentioned that the number of vagrants returned at Quarter Sessions appeared to be 7,500 relieved in one year in the casual wards of the different unions. It was objected that that number was not a fair test of the extent of vagrancy in the county, and that the same people were included in the return over and over again, because they were relieved in different unions in the county during the twelve months. That was no doubt the case; but, as far as the ratepayers were concerned, it made no sort of difference. They had relieved for one night in the year a small army of 7,500 persons, by giving them a night's lodging and food. (Hear, hear.) Major Meysey Clive expressed a hope that the Society might be beneficial to hop-pickers. The fundamental principle of the Society was to induce the public to give tickets for bread to the applicants instead of money. He asked those present to invite their friends, if possible, to use the Society's tickets. The tickets would have printed on them the name of the village or town at which relief (in bread) might be obtained, and the name of the baker who would supply the bread to the holder of the ticket, and each ticket could be exchanged for one pound of bread. The tickets would be given to any number of subscribers of from 10s. to 2s. 6d.; and persons who did not wish to subscribe 2s. 6d. could purchase sheets of 12 tickets for 1s. or 2s. a sheet; he thought 1s. for 12 tickets would be found to be sufficient. The only objection he had heard to the scheme was that the Society might be the means of encouraging a breach of the Vagrancy Act—that a tramp, if taken up for begging, would say he only wanted a bread-ticket. That objection had struck him forcibly, and he wrote to Captain Brown upon the point. Captain Brown replied that he had not found the system in practice interfering with the Vagrant Act; on the contrary, it had opened the eyes of the public, and, as a rule, when vagrants did not want food they walked off. The great point was to satisfy the public, and to get them to stop money supplies. (Hear, hear.)

The following resolutions were then passed:—

1. That a Mendicity Society be established for the county of Hereford, with a Central Committee for the whole county, and a Local Committee for each union district.
2. That the principles of the Society be the limitation of relief to necessary food only, instead of money or other aids, and that this be effected by means of tickets, which may be given to vagrants on their applying for charity—such tickets to be exchangeable at some shop in towns and villages to be fixed on by the Local Committees. Such relief not to interfere with the relief now given in the workhouses in the way of lodging and food while there.
3. That the Central Committee do consist of the Chairman of Quarter Sessions, the Mayors of Boroughs, the Chairman of Petty Sessions, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Boards of Guardians.
4. That a Local Committee do consist of three County Magistrates, three Magistrates in Boroughs, the Chairman and two Members of Local Boards or Commissioners, where they exist, and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen and three Members of each Board of Guardians, two to form a quorum.
5. That each Local Committee do send the name of their Chairman to the Hon. Secretary.
6. That the Local Committee be requested to meet on such early day as may be convenient for appointing the places where the bread-tickets may be exchanged, such places to be at a distance of five miles or thereabouts, for the distribution of the tickets, and such other business as may be requisite.
7. That the public be earnestly requested to abstain from giving money or direct relief to vagrants, and that circulars and bread-tickets be forwarded to the County and Borough Magistrates, to the Clergy of all parishes, and stated Ministers of all denominations, the Guardians of the Poor, Clerks to Justices, Clerks to Board of Guardians, and Subscribers.
8. That relief be only given by the baker once for any number of tickets presented by the same vagrant, such relief to consist of one pound of bread.
9. It is suggested that in towns where there are union-houses the tickets, before being exchanged, be endorsed by the officer who grants orders for the casual wards, so as to prevent food being obtained at the same time from the Society as well as the union. That any person living in or near the place presenting a ticket is not to be supplied with bread.
10. That the baker do write the name of the vagrant and the date on the back of the ticket. The tickets to be collected weekly by the police-constables of the district, and payment to be made once a month.
11. That sheets of tickets be printed according to form now approved of, and that the Local Committees and Honorary Secretary be requested to dispose of them to such persons as may wish to help the Society by the purchase of the tickets, at the price of 1s. per sheet of twelve tickets.
12. That the Local Committees be requested to appoint collectors to obtain subscriptions in their several districts, such subscriptions not to exceed 10s., nor to be less than 2s. 6d.
13. That the Honorary Secretary do publish a statement from time to time showing the working of the Society and the state of the funds.
14. That Meysey Clive, Esq., be requested to act as Honorary Treasurer, and Captain Telfer as Honorary Secretary.

METHODICAL MENDICANCY.—The *South London Press* says that a woman called a day or two ago at a house in Dante Road, Newington, and solicited relief. The proprietor of the house happened to have some tickets of the Newington Relief Society, and offered her one, telling her that she should go to the office in the Walworth Road. The woman took the ticket, turned it about, and said that it was no use going, because it was too late in the day. 'Well, then, go to-morrow,' said the giver. 'Why, sir, how can I?' returned the beggar piteously. 'I shan't be here to-morrow; I only comes round this way once a week.'

CHARITY ORGANISATION AT GLASGOW.

The following account of the annual general meeting of the Association for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity is taken from the *Glasgow Herald* of the 15th instant. Dr. Cameron, M.P., presided. The Very Rev. Principal Caird, Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, Rev. Dr. Hutton, and others were present:—

The Chairman said there was in Glasgow, as in every large city, a vast amount of misery and suffering; and to relieve it numerous charities had sprung up one by one, without any scheme of intercommunication or co-operation. The consequence was, that not merely was there a great waste of useful energy, but there was an overlapping of relief and a waste of money. This waste of money held out a positive premium to the dishonest impostor, who could make a study of the deficiencies of the system and turn them to his own account, while at the same time it robbed the poor and deserving people for whom the funds had been subscribed. It was to remedy this state of things, and, if possible, to turn every farthing of the money subscribed and of the energy employed in these good works to the best purposes, that this Charity Organisation Society had been instituted. Even greater were the defects of our individual almsgiving. As a general rule, to which there was hardly an exception, it might be said that the really deserving poor never begged from strangers. If they were compelled to seek assistance, they applied to some person whom they knew. When, therefore, people allowed themselves to be moved into almsgiving by the piteous tale of some street-beggar, it was almost certain they were merely encouraging imposture and discouraging honest industry. These evils could be avoided to a great extent if, before giving, people could investigate the cases which might come before them. This they were too busy or too lazy to do, and they wanted such an institution as a Charity Organisation Society to do it for them.

The Secretary then read the report prepared by the Council, which stated the principles of the Association, and showed that during the eleven months that had elapsed since the last meeting, 822 cases of applicants for charity had been investigated, and 378 reports sent out. Of these, 472 were undeserving; many had given false addresses, or were found to be seeking relief only for the purpose of enabling them to carry on their life of dissipation. Eighty-four meetings of the Council had been held. A circular had been issued some months ago to all the ministers in town, asking information regarding the amount of relief distributed to the poor by their several congregations. The Society had been instrumental in stopping the career of a number of persons who professed to be carrying on operations of a benevolent character in some of the lower parts of the town, but were in reality only furthering their own ends, and were collecting annually upwards of £1,200. Their operations had been thoroughly investigated and exposed.

Principal Caird, in moving the adoption of the report, said the objects for which the Society existed were twofold—the organisation of charity and the suppression of mendicity. But, in one point of view, the latter object might be said to be embraced in the former, for wherever charity ceased to be indiscriminate and thoughtless—wherever people, instead of yielding to mere impulsive benevolence, gave only after careful scrutiny, under the guidance of practised wisdom and forethought—there we might be sure that, sooner or later, mendicancy would die a natural death. But though the two objects were implied in each other, he would look at them for a moment separately. As to the suppression of mendicity, they all knew that in our day fraudulent mendicancy, or begging, had assumed the dimensions of a trade or profession, so that individual sagacity had become unable to cope with it. Whether those who betook themselves to this species of knavery were in general self-taught, and took to it from a sort of instinctive genius, or whether, as a well-known novelist led us to suppose, they underwent some sort of education before they graduated as masters in the art of imposture, he did not know. But this he did know from his own sorry experience, that the plausibilities of the fraudulent beggar had become so formidable that it was almost impossible not now and again to be taken in by them. He supposed every one present had made acquaintance with the well-made-up clerical personage, seedy but respectable, generally from the North of Ireland, who had always a church or school building which was to him a more permanent source of income than if he had succeeded in completing it; or the elderly man, with the air of having seen better days, who told his story with such dignity and correctness that one felt afraid almost to insult him by offering him the half-crown which, however, he always condescended to pocket; or, as had been the case in his own experience, the country-girl, with the admirably-got-up look of rustic simplicity, who had come to town in the vain search of employment, and whose little means were now all exhausted. Happy, again, was the man here present whose heart and pocket had never been made to bleed in sympathy at the elaborately-concocted begging-letter, with its pathetic and seemingly circumstantial story of worldly losses and trials. Now what was to be considered was, that this sort of imposture had got to be too elaborate for private and individual effort to cope with it. Organised itself, it could only be met by organisation. Many had not the skill and sagacity, many more could not afford the time that would be needed very frequently to expose and detect it, and the few who had both were apt soon to grow weary and

disgusted with the task. So that one sad result of the existence of this sort of knavery was to arrest the natural action of the benevolent feelings. Now it was here that such a society as this came in to play its most useful part. It did not say to the benevolently-disposed—'Give up all private charity, and leave the needy and distressed to be provided for by the Poor-laws'; for there was a vast amount of distress which the regular State organisation could not overtake or even have any cognisance of. There were many amongst our poorer brethren, though fewer than in former days, who, when overtaken by misfortune, still retained the old and honest pride that shrank from the stigma of pauperism; there were many who, from unavoidable causes, were hovering on the verge of pauperism, and whom a little temporary aid would prevent from sinking finally into it. And in these and many other cases, private charity had a function to perform which State relief could not fulfil. Now, it was to enable them to find out and meet such cases, to discriminate the genuine from the innumerable sham appeals to sympathy, that that Society offers the aid of its well-devised machinery. Besides the repression of fraudulent mendicancy, the Society had another function, that of the organisation of charity. It proposed to help other societies, by selecting from the innumerable cases of distress with which it became conversant those which each of these societies was specially qualified and intended to meet. It proposed to enable other societies to economise their means and their exertions, by preventing them from interfering with each other's proper work, or from being imposed on by persons who contrived to get help from two or more of them at the same time. And, finally, it not only proposed to act, but it had already with signal success acted, as a check on useless or fraudulent societies—for perhaps of all kinds of imposture the pious or benevolent society imposture was the worst. The individual mendicant or begging-letter-writer was bad enough, but a deeper injury was done to the community, a deeper depth of infamy was reached, by the contrivers of such societies as were referred to at the close of the report—societies ostensibly for religious and benevolent objects, calling themselves by imposing names, and sending forth annual reports full of sanctimonious phrases and reflections, yet created and maintained simply and solely to provide an ignoble livelihood for the wretched creatures who got them up. If the Society had done nothing else than unmask and hunt down the perpetrators of this pious dodge, it would not have lived in vain. (Applause.)

Dr. Jeffrey seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

One or two other gentlemen spoke; and a vote of thanks having been passed to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

The following letter from Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet appeared in the *Times* of the 16th instant:—

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—I venture to ask you to allow me to offer an explanation about a personal matter, as others are concerned as well as myself.

A letter has been shown to me in which the writer, who gives an indefinite address, and apparently writes under a feigned name, states that I am resigning the Secretaryship of the Charity Organisation Society on account of dissatisfaction with the working of the Society. This is wholly false. I resign from family reasons only; and my regret at having to do so would be very great did I not know that my successor, Mr. C. S. Loch, takes to his work in the same spirit in which I have endeavoured to carry it on, and has special qualifications for the post.

I should not trouble you with this letter had it not come to my knowledge that a small number of persons, who are unfavourably known to this Society, and have good reason to dislike it, have associated themselves together to endeavour to discredit it by means of circulars and private letters.

I need hardly add that I do not refer in what I have said to persons who oppose the Society because they take a different view as to the best means of benefiting the poor, or because they misconceive its objects; the differences between the Society and the conspirators I speak of are of a much more deep-seated kind.

I am, your obedient servant,

CHARLES B. P. BOSANQUET.

15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

CASE OF MANSELL.

Edward William Newman Mansell, 27, described as a clerk, of 90 Fetter Lane, City, was yesterday (December 21) charged on a warrant before Mr. Woolrych, at the Westminster Police Court, with unlawfully endeavouring to obtain from the Rev. D. A. Beaufort, M.A., of Eliot Park, Blackheath, a charitable contribution under false and fraudulent pretences; there was also a charge against him for forging a certificate of character, purporting to be given by the Rev. Chas. Lee, Vicar of Bilston, Staffordshire.

Mr. Geo. Lewis, jun., instructed by Mr. Ribton-Turner, of the Charity Organisation Society, prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended.

Upon the prisoner being searched at the station a most incongruous collection of miscellaneous articles was found; numerous answers to begging-letters, pens, pencils, tracts, a Bible and Hymn Book, several pawnbrokers' duplicates, tickets for the Royal Middlesex Music Hall, 2 checks for Vance's Varieties, and a host of little things too numerous to mention. He was wretchedly clad, and altogether a most pitiable object.

The statement on behalf of the prosecution and the letters written to and by the prisoner may be thus summarised at this late hour, as we are about to go to press. On the 27th of September last, the Rev. D. A. Beaufort, M.A., of Eliot Park, Blackheath, received by post the following letter:—

21 Great Chapel Street, Westminster, S.W., Sept. 27, 1875.
Rev. and Dear Sir,—I sincerely hope and trust you will forgive the liberty which I now take in thus addressing you; but I do so as a brother member of the English Church Union, although personally I am quite unknown to you. I was for ten years a railway clerk, but through a very severe attack of congestion of the lungs I lost my situation. I have been in the St. George's Hospital, from which I have recently been discharged, entirely without any means. I am glad to say that I am promised another situation, but the salary is only paid once a month. I am therefore anxious to gain a little help to enable me to go on for one month, and I therefore thought perhaps you would aid me, as I am entirely without friends; and being both an associate of the E.C.U., and also of the C. P. Association, I can assure that if you aided me it should be used judiciously, and with great care. Also permit me to say that it is with very great reluctance I trouble you at all. Hoping to hear from you, and to get some assistance, for which I should ever be most grateful, I am, Rev. and Dear Sir, your humble servant,
EDWARD W. N. MANSELL, E.C.U., A.I.P., C.P.A., B. of H.C.

I have neither stamps nor money; pray forgive unstamped letter.
Rev. D. A. Beaufort, M.A.

In reply to this the rev. gentleman sent a post-card as follows:—

September 30, 1875.
In reply to your note of the 27th inst., as a first step towards compliance with your petition, I must be furnished with a recommendation from the clergyman to whom you have been known.
D. A. BEAUFORT.
P.S.—I really don't understand all those capital letters which make such an imposing array after your name.

On the 5th October following this letter was received from the prisoner, enclosing recommendations from Mr. Lee:—

21 Great Chapel Street, Westminster, S.W., October 5, 1875.
Rev. and Dear Sir,—I enclose you the recommendation of my late parish priest, the Rev. Chas. Lee, of Bilston, as desired. Will you now, therefore, give me assistance; the sum of £2 would quite set me straight again.
The letters of which you spoke were English Church Union; Association for Intercessory Prayer; Railway Guild of the Holy Cross.
Trusting to hear from you, and thanking you for your kindness, I am, Rev. Sir, your obedient servant,
EDWARD W. N. MANSELL, Associate English Church Union.

P.S.—The recommendation was only received this morning from Bilston.

The Vicarage, St. Leonard's Church, Bilston, Staffordshire:

October 4, 1875.
For eleven years, whilst vicar of Holy Trinity, Havestock Hill, I knew Mr. E. W. N. Mansell as a young man in my parish of unblemished character and most sincere piety; he was always very diligent in everything he undertook, very courteous and very obliging, and in every way deserved and certainly had my highest esteem and good-will. I am given to understand that he is asking for assistance, and he most certainly deserves it, and I have done all in my power at present for him, and I sincerely wish I could do more.

With these few words I beg to give him every recommendation in my power.

CHAS. LEE, M.A.

Vicar of Bilston, Staffordshire.

To the Rev. D. A. Beaufort, M.A.
This letter was a forgery. Mr. Lee had known the prisoner at Havestock Hill, but had not given this recommendation, and knew nothing of it till he was communicated with on the subject by the Society.

A remand was asked for, to enable the prosecution to prefer other charges against the prisoner, and he was accordingly remanded till the 29th inst. at 11 o'clock, without bail.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 160.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 5, 1876.

WITH EXTRA HALF-SHEET. PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

Mr. G. Barrington Baker has been elected an Honorary Secretary of the Holborn Union Committee.

Mr. J. A. Roby has been elected an Honorary Secretary of the Islington Committee.

Mr. Barry will act as Representative of the Sydenham Committee, in addition to Mr. W. Day.

Mr. H. Brand has been elected an Honorary Secretary of the Newington Committee, jointly with Mr. Stuart-Barker.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Major Prendergast, Major Fitz-Roy, Hon. C. R. Moreton, *St. George's*; Major-General Blunt, C.B., Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; H. Hay Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End*; Ralph Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; W. F. Smith, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; B. R. Balfour, Esq., *St. Olave's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., Q.C., *Lambeth*; Geo. Parker, Esq., *Lewisham*; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairmen*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 26. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

BELIEF COMMITTEES OF BOARDS OF GUARDIANS.

The following letter from Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, Honorary Secretary of the Kensington Committee, was read:—

It may be interesting to the Council to know that two of the Relief Committees of the Kensington Board have invited members of our Committee to attend their meetings, for the purpose of offering such information or assistance as they may think the Committee can give.

The practice has been going on for several months in one Relief Committee, and is found very serviceable to both parties.

Applicant is at once questioned, and the case taken down without any interruption to proceedings.

It is of course necessary that the member attending should have considerable familiarity with the working of the Charity Organisation Society, and have some little practical experience in investigation.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the two weeks ending December 25, the receipts had been £365. 3s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £190. 10s. for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £273. 6s. 9d. and £99. 2s. respectively.

GREAT ORMOND-STREET CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

A paper of questions for the use of agents of the District Committees in making inquiries on behalf of the Children's Hospital was approved, and referred back to the Administrative Committee for final revision.

THE EFFECT OF EXISTING LEGISLATION UPON THE CHARITIES FOR THE BLIND, IDIOTIC, AND OTHER AFFLICTED AND NEGLECTED CLASSES OF THE POOR.

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson then brought forward the following motion, of which he had given notice on Monday the 20th ultimo:—

1. That whereas by the Acts 25 & 26 Vic. cap. 43, ss. 1 and 10, and 31 & 32 Vic. cap. 122, ss. 13-23 and 42, the Guardians of the Poor are empowered to provide for the maintenance, education, and training of all the indigent afflicted classes, both children and adults—namely (1) the blind; (2) deaf; (3) dumb; (4) lame children; (5) deformed children; (6) idiotic; (7) imbecile; (8) insane—by sending them to either public or charitable institutions, and paying their full cost therein; and ever since 1832, by the Act 4 & 5 Wm. IV., cap. 76, sec. 56, in the case of blind and deaf and dumb children, they may be maintained without its being considered in the nature of parochial relief to the parents:

2. And whereas Parliament has also empowered the Metropolitan Asylums Board, by the Act 30 Vic. cap. 6, s. 5, and they may be compelled by the Local Government Board, to provide, at the cost of the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, asylums for both children and adults; (9) the sick; (10) insane; (11) infirm; (12) 'and other class or classes of the poor';

3. While under the same powers the Metropolitan Asylums Board may provide (13) dispensaries; (14) proper places for the sick poor to obtain medical advice; (15) medicines and appliances; (16) surgical treatment and appliances;

4. And under the same Act managers of Metropolitan District Board Schools may build, and maintain out of the Metropolitan Common Fund, and in the country (under the Act of 1844) out of the Union Common Fund, District Schools for maintaining all poor children, including the afflicted classes:

5. And since School Boards, wherever established, must provide elementary day schools, and may remit the fees for the poor, and Guardians may pay the fees without its being deemed parochial relief for (18) all poor children, not excluding the afflicted, and may also build and keep up or pay the full cost in existing (19) industrial schools of all poor neglected children, not excluding the afflicted—

6. A committee be appointed by the Council to consider this legislation, which provides charitable assistance out of the public rates, and how far the voluntary charities dealing with the afflicted and neglected classes may avail themselves of it, and assist in carrying out the intentions of the Legislature for the benefit of these classes of the poor.

After mentioning that he had sent to many members of the

Council a paper he had written, dealing with the several points raised in his motion, he read passages from the 'Manual' to show that a most important part of the work of the Society was to bring about a division of cases between the Poor Law and the Charities. Poor Law cases he defined as 'chronic cases of destitution or physical inability among the poorer classes.' Fit objects for charity were the 'totally unprovided for' who belonged to a higher grade. The division of cases between the Poor Law and Charity was at present almost entirely overlooked. Dr. Hawksley calculated that the London public charities amounted to £4,970,000, and including the charities dispensed by the clergy (£100,000), and the sums expended by the Poor Law and the Common Fund (£1,500,000), they reached the enormous total of £7,368,000, exclusive of the City and other charities. Distributed among the poor of London, this would amount to £17 a head for 400,000 persons; or each family of 5 persons would be in receipt of £85 a year. Charity with this income was trying to do the work of the Poor Law, and for the last forty-two years both had taken no account of the legislation which gave Guardians power to relieve and maintain out of the rates the Blind, Deaf, Dumb, and (subsequently) other afflicted classes, without the relief being considered parochial relief given to the parents.

Then analysing lists of cases published by various institutions, he pointed out that 197 of 231 idiots, candidates for election into the Earlswood Asylum, would be entitled to relief and maintenance by the Poor Law, and that the remaining 44 only were proper objects of charity. The Royal Albert Hospital and several charities for the Blind and others received Poor-Law cases only; while at one asylum 3 out of 34, and at another a fourth only of the number of applicants for admission, were really suitable for charitable relief. The machinery of the charities was expensive; and with so large an income, numerous claimants for admission were rejected every year, while only a small number of the afflicted were effectually assisted. Out of 900 able-bodied blind in London, not so many as 150 had been trained to work for their livelihood. The arrangements for the education of idiots were still less complete. The Earlswood Asylum had shown what might be done; but till lately idiots had been often left quite neglected, and guardians were ignorant of their responsibilities regarding them.

If Charity and the Poor Law co-operated, the Poor Law would pay annual sums to efficient charitable institutions for the maintenance of the afflicted. There would be room for all; no voting would be necessary, nor would there be the continual complaint of insufficient funds. Boards of Guardians and the Metropolitan Asylums Board would take care that the work was done economically. Charity in the last resort might combine with the rates; for now, without her knowledge, her subscriptions were in a great measure spent in reducing them.

Lieut.-General Cavenagh seconded the motion.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that, since the discussions on the resolutions moved by him on the 21st June last, he had come to the conclusion that private charity was quite unable to form such a basis as would afford suitable provision to the 30,000 idiots or imbeciles in England and Wales. Not more than 5 per cent. were at present properly provided for by private charities. The attempts lately made in the Midland and Western Counties had not been successful. The class existing in the same proportion in every part of England, the responsibility of providing for it fell on the entire community. The Earlswood Asylum was a good model of what an institution for idiots should be; and the Metropolitan Asylums Board had initiated a plan, founded on sound principles, which should be extended throughout England.

The Organising Secretary said, that the maintenance and education of the afflicted classes out of the rates would even-

tually so increase the labour-power of the nation, that it ought not to be regarded as necessarily expensive. Of those at present relieved by the Poor-Law, a fourth only were suitable objects for such relief.

The Chairman, while thanking Mr. Wilkinson for having called the attention of Council to responsibilities of the Poor Law of which most members of Council must have been entirely ignorant, laid stress on the difficulties of dealing with so large and important a question at the present time, and after some discussion it was agreed that the consideration of the motion should be adjourned to Monday the 7th of February.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the two weeks ending January 1, 1876:—*Donations*: Mrs. Abraham, £1; Col. H. F. Ainslie, £1; W. Bracken, Esq., £10; F. A. Burrows, Esq., £2. 2s.; F. Calvert, Esq., £10; Mrs. Chuter, £5; Admiral Sir H. Codrington, £5; Right Hon. Sir J. W. Colville, £5; J. Curtis, Esq., £5; E. E. Everett, Esq., £1. 6s.; C. J. Freake, Esq., £100; H. A. Freeman, Esq., £2; Lieut.-Col. Green, £5; T. Gripper, Esq., £3; The Gunmakers' Company, £10; Claud H. Hamilton, Esq., £10; 'H.I.F.', 5s.; H. Kimber, Esq., 15s. 6d.; The Misses Emma and Laura Marjoribanks, £10; Lady Harriet Melville, £2; Mrs. Palmer, sen., £5; General Lord Rokeby, G.C.B., £5; J. A. Rucker, Esq., £2. 2s.; Hon. F. A. R. Russell, £2; C. H. Seager, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. Smith, Esq., £5; Société Belge de Bienfaisance, £5. 5s.; The Sydenham Committee, £10. 10s.; Miss Trevelyan, of Nettlecombe Court, £1. 1s.; Messrs. Truman, Hanbury & Co., £10. 10s.; P. F. Walker, Esq., £5; H. A. Wedgwood, Esq., £40; Hensleigh Wedgwood, Esq., £10; G. F. Wilson, Esq., £5; J. Wilson, Esq., £5. *Annual*: Rev. J. Antrobus, £1. 1s.; Rev. E. Auriol, £1. 1s.; T. B. L. Baker, Esq., £2; E. Bayley, Esq., £1; Major-Gen. Blunt, C.B., £1. 1s.; G. C. Bompas, Esq., £2. 2s.; H. Brand, Esq., £2; R. Broughton, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss Courtenay, £2; The Earl of Darnley, £3; Miss Sophia Deacon, £2; Miss D'Oyly, £5; J. Drew, Esq., £2. 2s.; Messrs. Drummonds, £10; G. T. Duncombe, Esq., £3. 3s.; H. M. Farquhar, Esq., £5; C. Gatliff, Esq., £1. 1s.; C. G. M. Gaskell, Esq., £3. 3s.; Mrs. W. Grey, £1. 1s.; Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., £5; Right Hon. Sir W. Heathcote, £2. 2s.; J. D. Hill, Esq., £3. 3s.; W. H. James, Esq., M.P., £1. 1s.; Henry Longley, Esq., £2; J. Mann, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. Morrison, Esq., £1; J. Noble, Esq., £5; Lady H. J. Pelham, £1; E. Sedgwick, Esq., £5. 5s.; Mrs. C. Skirrow, £1. 1s.; J. Banks Stanhope, Esq., £10; Rev. Sir Tilson M. Lushington Tilson, Bart., £1. 1s. *Quarterly*: Hon. W. Warren-Vernon, £5. *District Committee Aid Fund*: W. H. Domville, Esq., £1; W. A. Pope, Esq., £10. 10s.; C. H. Seager, Esq., £1. 1s.; R. D. Wilson, Esq., £5.

The following business stands for Monday, January 10:—

To consider recommendations from the Administrative Committee:—

'That £12 be paid to the Shoreditch Committee, as the balance of the £32 for which application had been made in October last, £20 having been then granted on account.'

'That £20 be paid to the Stepney Committee, as the balance of the £50 for which application had been made in October last, £30 having been then granted on account.'

'That the set of County Directories in the Organising Secretary's Department be completed, at a cost not exceeding £10.'

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Hampstead, Bethnal Green, Stepney, Lambeth, and Greenwich Committees.

Annual Reports of the Brighton, Oxford, and Winchester Charity Organisation Associations.

Annual Report of the Aberdeen Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

Report of the Fourth Annual Poor-Law Conference for the South-Western District (Knight & Co., 6d.)

Report of the First Annual Poor-Law Conference for the North Midland District (Knight & Co., 6d.)

Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland for December.

Letters and other Writings of the late Edward Denison, M.P. for Newark. Edited by Sir Baldwyn Leighton, Bart. (Bentley & Co., 3s. 6d.)

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of December 1875 was 36,778, and 51,391 received outdoor relief, making a total of 88,169. This was an increase of 425 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872, this was a decrease of 8,388, 17,772, and 21,323 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 441. This was a decrease of 10 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 121 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE TWO WEEKS ENDING SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospital, &c.	Class total
Kensington	7	3	7	17	..	3	5	8	3	1	2	6	28
Fulham	1	2	..	3	..	1	1	2	5	..	1	6	10
Paddington	..	..	10	10	..	12	5	17	1	..	1	9	24
Chelsea	5	4	2	11	1	2	8	11	5	1	..	6	20
St. George's :-													
St. George's Division.	2	..	4	6	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	1	4
Westminster do.	1	4	7	12	1	..	3	4	7	..	1	11	37
Westminster :-													
St. James & St. Anne's	..	3	3	6	..	6	1	7	1	..	..	1	14
St. Marylebone	7	7	6	20	..	23	19	42	4	2	..	8	70
Hampstead	1	..	..	1	..	2	1	3	1	1	2	..	4
North St. Pancras and Highgate	3	1	3	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
South St. Pancras	2	7	10	19	1	14	10	25	1	..	1	2	46
Islington	1	..	..	1	..	10	3	13	3	..	..	3	17
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles & Bloomsbury Strand	..	2	6	8	..	4	1	5	2	..	..	2	15
Holborn	1	..	9	10	..	9	1	10	2	1	..	3	23
City	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	4
Shoreditch	2	2	11	15	..	..	..	..	10	1	1	12	27
Bethnal Green	2	1	8	11	..	1	1	2	5	3	1	9	21
Whitechapel	1	2	3	6	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	1	9
St. George's-in-the-East	2	..	3	5	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	1	8
Stepney	2	5	5	12	3	1	..	4	..	1	..	1	17
Mill End Old Town	..	1	5	6	..	1	1	2	2	..	1	3	9
Poplar	2	1	1	4	..	1	3	4	1	..	..	2	9
St. Saviour's	1	3	2	6	..	8	1	9	..	2	..	2	17
Newington	3	3	5	11	3	1	3	7	1	1	..	2	20
St. Olave's	8	2	..	10	..	3	1	4	..	2	1	3	17
Lambeth :-													
North	2	1	7	10	..	..	..	..	7	..	1	8	23
South	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	3	..	..	3	6
Wandsworth & Putney	..	3	3	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3
Battersea	1	3	4	8	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	5
Clapham	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	7
Camberwell :-													
Grove Lane	..	6	6	12	..	6	8	14	9	..	..	9	27
Peckham	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	7
Greenwich	2	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3
Deptford	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	8	12
Woolwich	2	..	2	4	..	2	..	2	12	2	..	14	20
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	2	5
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	4
Total	60	55	144	259	17	103	56	176	115	19	14	20	603

'THE LONDON AND SUBURBAN FIRE BRIGADE' AND 'DISABLED FIREMEN'S RELIEF AND PENSION FUNDS.'

FRAUDS ON THE BENEVOLENT.

At the Southwark Police Court, on Wednesday the 29th December, Gregory Seccombe, 40, described as a traveller, residing at 23, Park Road, Peckham, was placed at the bar before Mr. Partridge, for further examination, charged with obtaining money from various individuals under false pretences.

Mr. George Lewis, jun., prosecuted on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society, instructed by Mr. Ribton-Turner, Organising Secretary. Captain Shaw, the chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, was present during the examination.

Mr. Lewis, in opening the proceedings, said he had the honour of appearing for the Charity Organisation Society, to prosecute the prisoner for committing gross and impudent frauds on the public. The prisoner had been in the habit of going round dressed as a fireman with a book to enter names, and another for receipts, collecting subscriptions for a so-called 'London and Suburban Fire Brigade' and 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Society,' which he was instructed to say had no existence. He was not connected with the Fire Brigade, but he assumed the dress of a fireman to carry on the deception. The attention of the Charity Organisation Society had some time ago been called to the establishment of these Societies by the prisoner's brother, and many benevolent persons gave money believing that such Societies were *bona fide*, and did exist. Captain Shaw was now in attendance to deny that the prisoner had any connection with the Fire Brigade, and he should call other witnesses to substantiate the charges of fraud committed by the prisoner, who collected the money and put it into his own pocket. One of the books found on the prisoner related to a 'Special Appeal for the Orphanage,' and he had received money in the belief that such did exist, but he should be able to show that

it was a 'myth,' and a portion of the system to defraud the public. He then called

Benjamin Browne, who said he was a Wesleyan minister, and resided at 35, Trinity Square, Borough. On the 11th of March last a man dressed as a fireman called on him, and he gave him 1s. 6d. The prisoner was very much like the man, but he could not swear that he was. He showed witness a book containing a number of names of parties who had subscribed to the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.' He paid him 1s. 6d., believing that it was correct, and thought it was entered in the book produced. He gave witness the receipt produced, which he tore from the counter-foil in the book. It had the signature of 'S. S. Seccombe' attached to it, and the prisoner signed his own name to it in his presence. After receiving the 1s. 6d. he went away. On the 16th of December last a man dressed as a fireman came to him again, and he gave him also 1s. 6d., and the receipt produced was handed to witness. It was exactly like the first, and 'Special Appeal for the Orphanage' was printed across it. He believed the prisoner was the man who received the money.

William Arthur Browne, son of last witness, said that on Monday evening, the 20th, the prisoner came during his father's absence from home, and asked for a subscription for the Fire Brigade. He showed witness a book in which a number of names were entered, with small subscriptions from the neighbours. Witness gave him 2s., and entered his father's name in the book, and the prisoner went away. He did not give witness a receipt.

The Rev. Hibbert Newton, Vicar of Saint Michael's, Southwark, said that he lived at 41, Trinity Square. On the evening of the 20th, the prisoner called on him for a subscription for the 'Fire Brigade,' and produced the same book. Witness looked over the names and said, 'I suppose this is by way of a Christmas-box?' The prisoner nodded his assent, and he handed him a shilling, at the same time entering his name in the book. Witness firmly believed it was a kind of Christmas-box for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, as the prisoner was dressed as a fireman.

Robert Bell, a detective sergeant of the L Division, said he resided at 2 Church Street, Trinity Square. On Tuesday evening the prisoner called on him, dressed as a fireman, and asked for a subscription for the 'Fire Brigade' and 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund,' and handed him the book produced, in which were the names of several gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood. Witness, after looking at the book, said, 'I don't feel inclined to give you anything now, as the Fire Brigade is under the control of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and we pay taxes to support that. What station do you belong to?' He said there was a station at Peckham. Witness asked him if he was collector for that. The prisoner then handed him a printed prospectus, headed 'The London and Suburban Fire Engine and Escape Brigade, 7 Everett Street, Russell Square.' After looking at the prospectus, he asked him what he was collecting in that neighbourhood for, as he believed such a society not to be in existence. He replied that it was, and pointed to a page in the book containing an authorisation to collect signed by Mr. S. S. Seccombe, Secretary. There was also the name of W. Doveton Smyth, solicitor, attached to it. Witness told him he should not give him anything, and he left the house. Witness followed him, and saw him enter several houses, and as he came out of the last house in Trinity Square he stopped him, and asked him what authority he had to call at those houses and collect money, telling him at the same time he was an officer of police and should take him into custody. He said that he was a collector for the London and Suburban Fire Brigade, of which his brother, Captain Seccombe, was the Secretary and Captain. Witness took him to the police-station, and on searching him found 3s. 4d. and the two books produced on him.

The prisoner said he should not ask the sergeant any questions, as he had not spoken a word of truth.

Captain Eyre Massey Shaw was next called, and in answer to Mr. Lewis said that he was Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. The prisoner had no connection with that, neither had he or anyone else any authority to collect money on its behalf. The 'London and Suburban Fire Brigade' and the 'Firemen's Relief and Pension Society' were not connected with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Reports had frequently reached him respecting them, and he had attended at Bow Street Police Court to caution the public.

In answer to Mr. Partridge, he said he did not know that such societies were in existence. The prisoner was not a fireman, and had never been in his brigade.

William Garley, a lad 16 years of age, said he lived at 30 Maida Vale, and was under-clerk to the London and Suburban Fire Brigade, at their office, 19 Buckingham Street, Strand, of which Mr. Samuel Simpson Seccombe was the Secretary. He was also President, and wore a fireman's uniform. He was also Treasurer.

Mr. Partridge asked if they had any bankers? Witness replied that the West London Commercial Bank, Sloane Square, were the bankers. He had taken money there.

Mr. Lewis asked how many times he had paid money into that bank?

He replied, 'Twice—altogether about £20.'

Mr. Lewis asked who were the Committee? Witness said Mr. Court, the

printer, was one; Mr. Treleving, of Poland Street, was another; and Mr. Cusack, a publican, was the third. There was a minute-book kept by Mr. Bailey, the clerk, but that was at the office.

Mr. Lewis asked if he knew where the Fire Brigade stations were?

He said there was one at 1, Bernard Street, Russell Square, and another in Union Street, Pimlico Road, where engines were kept. They were the property of the committee.

Mr. Partridge asked how many men there were at each station?

He replied that there were two paid men at each station, and the remainder were volunteers. Mr. Hamblin and Mr. William Seccombe were two of the paid men at one station, and Mr. Tapster and Mr. Wright were at the other station. He did not know whether the engine in Queen Street was chained up or not for rent. The collector for the brigade was Mr. Phillips, who was engaged by the Secretary. The prisoner was not the collector.

Mr. Lewis asked how often the committee met?

Witness replied once a month, when all business was transacted. The receipt-book found on the prisoner bore Mr. Seccombe's signature; but it was an old book, and had not been used more than twelve months. New books had since been issued. The prisoner had been a collector about fourteen days, but was discharged in October. It was supposed that he retained all his books. The collectors were paid 25 per cent. for all moneys received by him. Witness did not know what the Secretary got.

In answer to Mr. Partridge, witness said that the station in Bernard Street was a stable and coachhouse. Two horses and an engine were kept there, and two men were on duty night and day. They attended a fire the other night in Cowcross Street.

Mr. Lewis asked him how much money had been received from the public during the last year?

Witness could not say. He knew it was more than £20, because he had taken that to the bank. The collector paid all moneys he received to the clerk. He thought last week it was upwards of £5.

Mr. Lewis asked if they had issued a balance-sheet?

Witness did not remember having seen one. Mr. Harrison was the auditor, but he did not know where he resided. He thought he was a city clerk, and lived somewhere in Peckham.

Mr. Lewis asked who was President of 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Association'?

Witness said Mr. Samuel Simpson Seccombe was President as well as Treasurer and Secretary. The same committee managed that, at the office, 19 Buckingham Street, Strand. It was only one room on the third-floor. Mr. Kinsman was the collector, and had the same poundage. He did not know what the Secretary got. In May last no one was receiving relief, neither was there anyone in receipt of relief in June or July. There were four pensioners on the fund at the present time: John Vincent received 10s., James Bradley 10s., George Ray 10s., and Mrs. Atkins, a widow, 5s. They have received those sums for about six weeks.

In answer to Mr. Partridge, witness said the men had been injured at fires, and the Charity Organisation Society inquired into their cases at their request. Ray lost his left leg at a fire. Bradley was laid up with rheumatism. He knew nothing about the others. The committee decided on these cases. The prisoner was not connected with either of the associations. Witness received 8s. a week. He did not know who got up the Societies, neither did he know what amount was collected.

Mr. Lewis reminded him that on the receipts was printed 'Special Appeal for Orphans;' where was the orphanage?

Witness said it had not been started yet. Mr. S. S. Seccombe was Secretary to that.

Mr. Lewis here asked for a remand, and after some conversation,

Mr. Partridge remanded the prisoner for another week.

CASE OF JOHN AARONS.

At the Bow-street Police Court, on Friday the 31st December, John Aarons, alias John Thompson, aged 16, of no occupation, living at 109 Leman Street, Whitechapel, was brought before Mr. Flowers, charged with endeavouring to procure a charitable contribution by false and fraudulent pretences.

Mr. George Lewis appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society, and, having opened the case, called

Mr. Charles J. Ribton-Turner, Organising Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, 15 Buckingham Street, who said that prisoner called on him on 30th December at half-past 12, and gave him the following letter from Mr. Sandeman, of the Accident Relief Society:—

ACCIDENT RELIEF SOCIETY (Instituted 1838),
Office, 23 Great Winchester Street, London,
29th December, 1875.

Mr. David Sandeman, the Secretary of the above-named Society, finding that he cannot properly aid John Thompson, the bearer hereof, recommends him to state his case to the Charity Organisation Society, in the hope of their being able to do some good. The case is a strange one, and, if true (which appears to be the case), calls for much sympathy.

He took prisoner's statement down in writing, and a description of the missing father, which was as follows:—

John Thompson, aged 15, states that he lived with his father, who kept a grocery store, at 15 Wells Street, off Maine Street, Springfield, Massachusetts. The family consisted of himself and two brothers and two sisters; he has a sister and a brother younger than himself; his mother is alive, and living in Wells Street, and was keeping the store when he left. He left Springfield about two months ago with his father, who said he would take him for a trip to England. They went to New York, where they stayed for a night at French's Hotel, Chatham Street, New York; and left New York about two months ago, on a Saturday, in the steamer *Italy*, belonging to the National Line. They were coming in the *Denmark*, but she did not sail. They came over as steerage passengers, and landed at Liverpool about six weeks ago, and stayed at a boarding-house in Duke Street for two nights; and then came up to London, where they went to 32 British Street, Bow Road, where he remained a fortnight with his father. His father went out one morning, saying he would come back in the afternoon, and he has never seen him since. He (the son) stayed at the lodgings for a week after his father left, and made inquiries at the Bow Police Station about three days after his father left, but without effect. He had £2 when his father left. His father paid the bill up to the time he disappeared. The son remained at the lodgings for another week, for which he was charged 15s. He had spent money in the meantime, thinking his father would return, and had to sell all his clothes, except those he wore, to pay the bill and his subsequent expenses. When he (the son) left 32 British Street he went to a lodging-house in a street leading out of Commercial Street, where he saw a notice of lodgings at 4d. a night, where he stayed two nights. He left there because the place was nasty and dirty. He then went to a lodging-house at Poplar, close to the Docks. (There is a large clothing-store at the corner of the street.) He had been to the Docks to see if his father had left; he went on board three ships to make inquiries. He stayed at the Poplar lodging-house a couple of nights; thought it was too far from the city, where he was looking out for a situation. From the Poplar lodging-house he went to a lodging-house in Shoreditch, where the beds were 1s. a night, or 1s. 6d. for 2 nights. There he stayed 4 nights, and then went back to the lodging-house near Commercial Street because it was cheaper; remained there a night, but found it was tenanted by the lowest of the low, and then went to a lodging-house not far from Commercial Street, where he remained 4 nights—a small house where there was an announcement of 'good beds.' He paid for the 4 nights 3s. He then went to another lodging-house in Thames Street, where he stayed 2 nights; he paid 6d. a night, that finished his money; and the next night he walked about all night, that is the night before last. Last night he slept at another house in Commercial Street, near the Shoreditch end, where he paid 1s. He was eating a piece of bread in Finsbury Square yesterday, when a gentleman came up to him and spoke to him, and having heard his story advised him to go to the Accident Relief Society; he went there about half-past three yesterday, and the Secretary gave him 2s. 6d., and a note of recommendation to the Charity Organisation Society. It was late, and he could not find the address. He came on to Buckingham Street at half-past twelve to-day. He wrote to his mother about a fortnight ago, but gave her no address to write to. He went to the American Vice-Consul, Mr. Nunn, in Broad Street, who said that he could not assist him, as the Government did not give them enough money to send them away, but said if the young man could get a portion of the passage-money he would see what he could do. His father left his box at Duke Street, Liverpool, and brought up a little valise containing two suits of his own clothes and one of his son's with him. The son sold the valise and clothes to pay his expenses at different times and different places, they fetched altogether about 30s. When at Poplar the son tried to get a passage on board a ship by telling the captain that the money would be paid on his arrival. The captain said he could not do it without security.

Description of the Father:

Name—James Thompson.
Address—Late of 32, British Street, Bow Road.
Apparent age—About 39.
Height—Short; about 5ft. 4½ or 5ft. 5.
Complexion—Very light and clear.
Visage—Medium.
Hair—Light and straight, not long, brushed back.
Whiskers, beard, &c.—Whiskers and moustache, but no beard.
Eyes—Light.
General appearance—Large hands, broad shoulders, stiff build.
Dress—Light pair of trousers, blue vest, dark frock-coat, stove pipe-hat.

He told prisoner to call again at five o'clock, and then telegraphed to Liverpool and made inquiries at Bow; and being satisfied from the result that the statement was false, placed himself in communication with the police. On prisoner's return, he said to him, 'You require money to go to America, I believe?' to which prisoner assented. He then told prisoner that he had telegraphed to Liverpool, and made inquiries at British Street, Bow Road, and at the Bow Police Station, and that he had found prisoner's statements were entirely false; and he therefore considered it his duty to give him into custody for attempting a gross fraud. The prisoner replied, 'I did not ask you for money, but for assistance to go to America. I will confess everything, and tell you all about it. I know what I have said is untrue.' Witness stopped him there, and told him he had better not say anything, as it might be given in evidence against him; and he then gave him into the custody of Sergeant Lansdowne.

Sergeant Andrew Lansdowne, a detective police-officer at Scotland Yard, said that he was present at the office of the Charity Organisation Society, at Buckingham Street, at five o'clock on 30th December. He heard last witness ask the prisoner if he wanted assistance to go to America. Prisoner assented; and Mr. Ribton-Turner then said it was a gross imposition, and gave prisoner into custody. When he took prisoner, the latter said, 'Let me go away, or say you lost me. It's all lies I have been saying. My name is not Thompson, but Aarons, and my father is a large shirtmaker in Leman Street; but he won't have anything to do with me.'

The prisoner was remanded until Friday the 7th of January at twelve o'clock.

CASE OF MANSELL.

At the Westminster Police Court, on Wednesday, 29th ult., Edward William Newman Mansell, 27, alias Martha Barker, a clerk, giving an address at 90 Fetter Lane, Fleet Street, City, was re-examined, charged with unlawfully endeavouring to procure from the Rev. D. A. Beauport, M.A., of Eliot Park, Blackheath, a charitable contribution under false and fraudulent pretences; there were several other charges of a similar nature

aim, and also a charge of forging a certificate of character, purported given by the Rev. Chas. Lee, M.A., Vicar of Bilston, Staffordshire. eo. Lewis, jun., of Ely Place, instructed by Mr. Ribton-Turner, of the Charity Organisation Society, prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended. Evidence, so far as the letters were concerned, was reported in our issue; and it will be remembered that the prisoner had applied to the skine Knollys, and met by appointment Mr. Joachim Valentin one of the officers of the Society, at his residence, 21 St. Stephen's nepherd's Bush, where he was detained and charged. reference to the first of the three charges, that of endeavouring to 2 from the Rev. Daniel Augustus Beaufort, the evidence showed he 28th of September last Mr. Beaufort received at his house, Park, Blackheath, a letter addressed from 21 Great Chapel Street, ister, appealing for assistance, as the prisoner had been in the and suffered from congestion of the lungs. In answer to this, Mr. sent and asked for a recommendation, and prisoner sent a letter, a testimonial purporting to come from the Rev. Mr. Lee, of the St. Leonard's, Bilston, Staffordshire. In reply to this Mr. Lee letter, and Mr. Beaufort declined to assist the prisoner.

Rev. Chas. Lee, of the Vicarage, St. Leonard's, Bilston, said the reporting to be signed by him was a forgery; he had known the while rector of Holy Trinity, Haverstock Hill, for 11 years; he nday-school teacher, and of unblemished character at that time. left five years ago.

verard Arthur Connor, in the employ of Dunn & Co., 79 Queen heapside, said the prisoner was in the service of his employers aks, and left a fortnight ago; the letters produced were in his hand- awan Kirkham, of 15 Beresford Road, Highbury, the Secretary to may Conference Hall, Islington, said on the 15th of December he a letter from the prisoner, and in consequence of the statements in im a cheque for £1 on the Birkbeck Bank; the next day he a letter asking for the loan of £2, and stating that he had been down in Southampton Buildings by three men, and robbed of the the cheque; he concluded the letter with Scriptural allusions and on the time of the year, and the charity that should actuate those 7 observed it as Christians. Witness sent nothing, but forwarded rs to the Charity Organisation Society.

ewis said this letter must have been written while he was in the of Dunn & Co.

r. Woolrych: Witness had formerly known the prisoner for three x years ago.

Rev. Thos. Rooke, Chaplain of St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park said the piece of paper produced (found on the prisoner at the time prehension), purporting to be a testimonial given by the witness to oner, was a forgery, and was not written by him or with his y. He did not recollect the prisoner, and did not know that he had the Hospital; he had searched the register for the name of Mausell nuary 1874 to the present date, and could not find that name.

Henry Wm. Stuart, Hon. Sec. to the Church of England Young ociety, said on the 23rd of November last he received a letter from rley, M.P., one of the committee, to inquire into the case of the , who had solicited help from him. In consequence of that he called risoner at an address in Stamford Street, Blackfriars. Prisoner at home, and called at the offices of the Society and received 5s. , the 5s. in consequence of the statements in that letter, and a letter oner showed him, purporting to come from the Rev. Charles

er said the letter from Mr. Lee was given him by that gentlemanroduction to the Civil Service Commission.

as. Stuart McBean, Assistant-Secretary to the English Church 35 Wellington Street, Strand, said he knew the prisoner. He r belonged to the Union, but his name was removed from the books nd of June last.

laves, 40 T Reserve, said he apprehended the prisoner at the house Curtha. On the way to the station he asked to be forgiven, but ths told him he was in the hands of the police. He searched the and found the forged testimonial from Mr. Rooke on him, and answers to begging-letters from ladies and gentlemen, besides an ous list of miscellaneous articles.

Woolrych cautioned the prisoner, who said nothing in his defence, committed for trial on the three charges. He is in a most deplor- d wretched condition, although well educated and formerly highly d.

OPOLITAN CHARITY IN 1875.—The number of charities formed 875 is far smaller than in past years; but, on the other hand, the unds raised to meet exceptional cases of distress have been more is. The chief centre of these funds has been the Mansion House ity of London, where the Lord Mayor has, as a rule, presided over mitees. The subscriptions received in this way during the year

have reached £50,000, including the following separate items: For the French Inundation Fund, £26,497; for the Thames Inundation Fund, £17,500; for the Cospatrick Relief Fund, £3,473; for the Iceland Relief Fund, £2,575; for the Hungarian Inundation Fund, £1,124; for the South American Earthquake Fund, £185; and for the sufferers by the floods in the West of England, £71. All these funds were administered at the Mansion House up to November last by the ex-Lord Mayor's private secretary, Mr. J. S. R. Vine, as the chief of the executive, and that gentleman's duties have now been taken up by Mr. Soulsby, the private secretary of Lord Mayor Cotton. The Hospital Sunday collections produced this year a sum below that of previous years, the amount distributed by the committee being about £25,000, of which £22,945 was granted to seventy general and special hospitals and £2,531 to forty-seven dispensaries. The rules on which the distribution was made were based upon a consideration of the last three years' expenditure of each institution, after deducting from that amount a sum equal to the income derived from endowment, realised property, and legacies exceeding £100. A *sine quid non* for participation in the fund was that the working expenses of the institution should not exceed a reasonable proportion of the whole current expenditure. The Hospital Saturday Fund for the year amounted to £5,343, of which £371 was expended on the collection of the fund, and an additional amount of £388 still remaining to be paid for the expenses of the previous year further reduced the balance available for distribution. An attempt has been made during the year to establish a general fund for the blind and for deaf mutes on the same principle as these hospital funds, and the committee base their appeal on the fact that the charities for these two large classes of afflicted persons do not participate either in the Hospital Sunday or Hospital Saturday Funds. The number of blind persons is estimated at 2,500, and the number of deaf mutes at 1,800, and it is proposed to divide any money which may be received among the institutions already existing for their benefit. Among other schemes which have been recently placed before the public is a proposal to establish a convalescent home at Mitcham, for invalid female assistants in houses of business, 'under a Christian matron.' Miss Dudin Brown has made herself responsible for the rent of the house, which is £100 a year, and subscriptions are invited to assist in furnishing it. The institution, like the Home for Young Men from the City, Hazelwood, Ryde, Isle of Wight, which has been eminently successful, is to be made as far as possible self-supporting, and the scheme has the approval of Lord Shaftesbury, the Bishop of Norwich, Lady H. Pelham, and the Rev. Marcus Rainsford. Another institution designed to meet the needs of ladies who desire to obtain employment at their own homes—the Ladies' Work Society—has been brought prominently before the public in its new premises at Sloane Street by the countenance and assistance given to it by the Princess Louise, who has contributed many valuable articles of her own work to its stalls. Unlike the South Kensington School of Art, ladies are not compelled at this institution to give their names, and can send their work for sale without incurring any publicity, provided they are known to some members of the committee. Several homes and orphanages have been established during the year, and one institution of this character, which had since 1873 done good service under private management, the Girls' Industrial Home and Orphanage, at 3 Lewis Place, Hammersmith, is now being worked on a more extensive scale for the training of neglected and motherless girls for respectable situations. Fourteen girls were thus benefited during the year, at a cost of £262, chiefly from voluntary contributions. The cabmen's shelters, of which the first were established at the close of 1874, have been placed in many quarters of the metropolis, with great benefit to the men. Upwards of £1,500 have been received by their promoters. The attendant at each shelter receives 17s. a week, and to meet this and other expenses the cabmen pay 1d. a day, or 4d. per week. The committee, however, report that they are working at a considerable weekly loss, and subscriptions are needed. The Provident Knowledge Society—which has for its central committee the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Derby, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, Mr. W. E. Harcourt, and Mr. G. C. T. Bartley (the honorary secretary)—is making an effort to establish a national penny bank, to encourage thrift by affording facilities for the saving of smaller sums than are received at the Post-office savings-banks. The proposal is to establish a permanent penny bank in every district, in every school, and in every workshop, on a self-supporting and commercial basis. The committee of the society now employs a paid agent to promote its schemes for the benefit of the people, to whom lectures are delivered all over the country. For the Moody and Sankey movement, which can, perhaps, hardly be called a charitable work, the large sum of £28,396 was subscribed.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

WELLS' CHARITY, HAMPTSTEAD.—This Charity, which takes its name from a chalybeate spring on the charity estate, to which in the last century fashionable people much resorted, was founded in the year 1698 by Baptist Earl of Gainsborough, who in December of that year granted six acres of Hampstead Heath to certain trustees who were to hold the

same 'for the sole use, benefit, and advantage of the poor of the parish of Hampstead successively for ever.'

From time to time additions have been made to the estate, which now comprises rather more than seven acres, and houses have been built upon it which bring in a gross rental of about £1,050 a year. The value of land at Hampstead has grown largely of late, and it is hoped that the estate may ultimately yield an income of some £2,000 a year. In 1857 a scheme for the management of the Charity was approved by the Court of Chancery, which provided among other things for the formation of a fund for enfranchising the land which was then copyhold of the Manor of Hampstead, and also for the annual expenditure of a sum not exceeding in any one year £250 in apprenticing poor boys and girls to some honest trade or calling, or in putting out to service poor girls with an outfit not exceeding in value for each £8. This scheme was expressly declared to be temporary only, and was to be superseded by a fresh scheme when the property had been enfranchised; and, accordingly, on the 17th of February 1876, the regulations under which the Charity is at present managed were approved by the Court of Chancery. The most important of these provisions are substantially as follows:—

The trustees (who are twenty in number with a provision for filling up vacancies when the number has fallen to thirteen) may, if they shall think fit, expend a sum not exceeding £150 in any one year in paying the expenses wholly or in part of the further education at a middle-class training industrial or technical school or college of deserving boys or girls, who shall have passed a good examination, and attended for at least two years at any elementary school in the parish of Hampstead. The trustees further may, if they shall think fit, expend a sum not exceeding £150 in any one year in apprenticing, putting out to service, or advancing in the world deserving boys or girls between the ages of thirteen and sixteen, provided they have attended some elementary school or schools approved of by the trustees for at least two years continuously, and can satisfy the trustees that they are reasonably proficient in reading, writing, and arithmetic; and that their parents or guardians, or themselves if orphans, have resided in the parish of Hampstead for at least two years immediately preceding, and all such apprenticing fees, exhibitions, or other such payments shall be subject to such conditions as the trustees may from time to time think fit to impose with a view of making the same as far as possible rewards of good conduct and merit and incentives to exertion. But the trustees are not bound to apply any money to these purposes, and the funds of the Charity are to be mainly devoted to improving the dwellings of the poor or labouring classes within the parish of Hampstead, and otherwise ameliorating their condition.

For these purposes the trustees may purchase, hire, build, adapt, or otherwise procure, and fit up houses in the parish of Hampstead, whether freehold, copyhold, or leasehold (with or without gardens or land attached thereto), and may improve or enlarge or demolish and reconstruct such houses, and may let the same at appropriate rents (but without power of underletting) to persons of the labouring classes either as separate tenements or otherwise. They may also purchase or rent any existing house property, or purchase any site in the parish and erect thereon or on any land for the time being the property of the Charity dwellings for the labouring classes, and may erect or hire, provide, and fit up buildings or spaces to serve as club-rooms, play-grounds, lecture-rooms, reading-rooms, day-nurseries, night-schools, institutes, baths or laundries, whether connected with or independent of the dwellings, with such restrictions and conditions as to the use of the same, and payment for such use, as the trustees shall from time to time determine, and may set apart rooms or offices for any of these purposes in any buildings for the time being belonging to the Trust; but such club-rooms, schools, or institutes are to be supported or maintained by the persons using or interested in them, and not out of the funds of the Charity.

These powers, it will be noticed, are very extensive, and enable the trustees to apply the funds of the Charity in providing for the poor any kind of building which, directly or indirectly, may conduce to their health, convenience, and amusement, without at the same time sapping their independence. Already the trustees have purchased a considerable cottage property long notorious for its dilapidated condition and defective sanitary arrangements. These cottages they propose to pull down and erect in their stead a block of buildings better adapted to secure health and decency in the occupiers.

JEWISH BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—The following is an extract from the *Jewish World*, 10th Dec., 1875:—'The letter which last week appeared in our columns from Mr. Lionel L. Cohen, President of the Jewish Board of Guardians, and the proposition of the Rev. Morris Joseph to establish a similar institution in Liverpool, combine to prove that, in the opinion of men most competent to judge of the wants of our poor, organisation is the only method of effecting permanent benefit. Mr. Lionel Cohen's letter is deserving of the most unstinted praise, for the plain and simple way in which it points out the good effected by the Board of which he is President, and for the earnest way in which it indicates the necessity for further aid. Our poor may be divided into two classes—the chronic poor, and the self-helping poor. The abject con-

dition of the former is induced by circumstances over which they have no control, and out of which they do not exert themselves to rise. It is this class of poor that individual almsgiving has fostered in our midst, and thus raised a very serious obstacle to the diminution of pauperism. Further, the chronic poor absorb the money that might have been applied to the relief of the truly deserving poor, many of whom fail to obtain the share of attention and care that is rightly theirs, because they possess self-respect, and do not rejoice in the effrontery of the habitual pauper. We can all admire the spirit that prompts many people to assist those who solicit their assistance. But while we have no wish to discourage individual charity, we feel certain that if it were less resorted to than it is at present, and the Board of Guardians almost universally adopted as the medium for the bestowal of relief, we should soon witness a wholesale decrease of pauperism in the metropolis. The Board has taken the self-helping poor under its special protection. It not only gives a poor man bread, fuel, and clothing, to satisfy the pressing needs of the present, but also a knowledge of some occupation, by which he may gain an honest livelihood, and thus improve his position. Many are they who have been already aided in this wise and practical manner, and who have been enabled to prove their gratitude by subscribing to the very Board which raised them from the distress in which they were plunged. We trust that those who carp at practical and methodical alms-giving will be convinced by our few remarks upon this subject. Let them carefully direct their attention to the subject and they will see that no number of little rivulets of charity, however great, can do one half the good that these same rivulets do when combined to form one broad majestic river; that no amount of liberality and kindness, acting through distinct channels, can so effectually guard against imposture, or so efficiently help the truly deserving poor, as does the Board of Guardians.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.—The Manchester Board of Guardians have resolved that out-door relief shall not be granted, except in urgent or special cases, to persons whose destitution has been caused by intemperance or their own improvidence; and they also adopted a recommendation to the relieving officers with the object of shortening the periods for which out-relief orders are given.

PROGRESS OF PROVIDENCE.—In the year 1869 a Provident Fund was established in St. Augustine's Mission, Stepney, containing a population of 6,000 of the poorer classes exclusively. Next year the Fund will be handed over to the National Penny Bank Association, Limited, who have engaged to send a collector to the Mission once a week. The operations of the Fund have been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	
1869	251	78	5	Depositors
1870	419	180	1	in Deposits
1871	542	266	15	"
1872	718	346	9	"
1873	459	301	2	"
1874	404	264	5	"
1875	503	352	1	"
Total	3,296	£1,789	1	"

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

61. WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 12, 1876. WITH EXTRA HALF-SHEET. PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

in Fortescue has been elected Representative of the Committee, in the place of Mr. A. Rivington.

Iolborn Committee will meet at 4 P.M. on Fridays, or at 4 P.M. on Wednesdays as heretofore.

Office of the Battersea Committee is open from 9 to and from 5 to 6 P.M., instead of from 10 to 12 A.M.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: J. R. Holland, Esq., in the chair; Dr. Anderson, *Kensington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; J. Mox Prendergast, Hon. R. C. Moreton, *St. George's*; Major-Munt, Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., *F. Mallet, Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; Rev. R. n. H. Hay Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. Thornhill Webber, Sir Richard m, Capt. Fortescue, *Holborn*; Russell Barrington, Esq., *St. n-the East*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; R. Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; B. r, Esq., *St. Olave's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; T. Galabin, *Abchurch*; A. Annesley, Esq., *Lewisham*; C. S. Barry, Esq., ; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, *Miller, Esq., Additional Members*. Total, 27. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. rner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that the week ending January 1, the receipts had been 2s. 5d. for the General Fund, and £2. 1s. for the Dis-mittee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of funds on that day had been £460. 18s. 8d. and £101. 3s. vely.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

of £12 and £20 were made to the Shoreditch and Committees respectively.

ter from Mr. W. Day was read in connection with lication for a grant from the latter Committee, and rred to the District Work Sub-committee.

cordance with the recommendation of the Adminis-Committee, it was resolved to complete the set of Directories in the Organising Secretary's Depart-; a cost not exceeding £10.

Council then adjourned.

ollowing contributions have been received during the week turday, January 8, 1876:—*Donations*: A. P. O., £2; T. Davis, 1s.; F. G. Debenham, Esq., £5; T. Greg, Esq., £10; The Coun-, £5; Admiral Hon. Sir F. W. Grey, £5; T. Rowley Hill, Esq., ; H. Jenkyns, Esq., £5; London Knot of Friendly Brothers of St. 10s.; C. Mitchell, Esq., £2. 2s.; J. M. Needham, £5; Mrs.

C. Rollings, £5; G. T. Ruck, Esq., £20; N. H. Vertue, Esq., £5. Annual: F. M. Ball, Esq., £2. 2s.; Ball, Norris, & Hadley, £5; A. C Barclay, Esq., M.P., £10; M. Blakiston, Esq., £5; Mrs. Blunt, £1. 1s. Bernard Bosanquet, £5; Rev. G. H. Bosanquet, £10; D. Brown, Esq. Q.C., £1. 1s.; Rev. Dixon Brown, £1. 1s.; Sir T. G. Browne, £5; Mrs. C. Buxton, £1; L. F. Cave, Esq., £1. 1s.; Lord H. Cavendish, £2; A. H. Croft, £1; Frederick Crowder, Esq., £10. 10s.; A. E. T. Dangerfield, Esq., £10; G. D. W. Digby, Esq., £5; S. Edwards, Esq., £1. 1s.; Lord Egerton of Tatton, £10; Lord Egmont, £3. 3s.; Elizabeth, Countess of Har-rington, £2; Rt. Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., £5; Hon. G. M. Fortescue, £10; Capt. Gardner, R.N., £1. 1s.; W. H. Gladstone, Esq., M.P., £1; Sir R. G. Glyn, Bart., £1. 1s.; J. A. Gould, Esq., £5; W. H. Hall, £1; G. W. M. Henderson, Esq., £1. 1s.; G. M. Hicks, Esq., £5. 5s.; Hamilton N. Hoare, Esq., £5; T. Hughes, Esq., Q.C., £1. 1s.; Mrs. Jardine, £1; Lady Jenner, £1. 1s.; Hon. and Rev. W. T. Kenyon, £1. 1s.; Rev. Henry E. Knatchbull, £1. 1s.; H. J. Knyvett, Esq., £1. 1s.; Lieut.-Col. Knyvett, £2. 2s.; Lady Lawley, £2; Mrs. Lumley, £1; Rev. W. H. Lyall, £1. 1s.; Rear-Admiral F. A. Maxse, £1. 1s.; Miss McClean, £5. 5s.; Mrs. Frank McClean, £2. 2s.; H. H. Murdoch, £2. 2s.; A. Oakes, Esq., £1. 1s.; Dr. and Mrs. Petavel, £1. 1s.; Capt. R. H. Porter, £1. 1s.; H. Rogers, Esq., £5. 5s.; Miss Alice de Rothschild, £5. 5s.; A. Sargood, Esq., £1. 1s.; P. L. Selater, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss E. A. E. Shirreff, £1. 1s.; Dudley R. Smith, Esq., £2. 2s.; W. J. Smith, Esq., £1. 1s.; T. H. Sooby, Esq., £10. 10s.; General Spencer R. Stanhope, Esq., £5; W. Spencer Stanhope, Esq., M.P., £1. 1s.; Mrs. W. Spencer Stanhope, £1. 1s.; J. Tarratt, Esq., £2. 2s.; F. Du Pre Thornton, Esq., £5. 5s.; Richard Valpy, Esq., £2. 2s.; H. Vaughan, Esq., £10; Sir W. E. Welby, Bart., M.P., £2; J. H. Wright, £1. 1s.; C. W. W. Wynn, Esq., M.P., £1. 1s.; G. V. Yool, Esq., £5. District Committee Aid Fund: Major-General Angus, £5; D. Brown, Esq., Q.C., £1. 1s.; H. Franklyn, Esq., £3; Col. Fyers, £3.

The following business stands for Monday, January 17:—

To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

(1) That in considering the Report of the Visits to Offices Sub-committee received by Council on the 29th of November last, and the Report of the Joint Finance and Inquiry Supervision Sub-committee of the 17th, together with the resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th of the same month, and the further resolution and recommendation of the Administrative Committee of the 6th instant on a second Report of the Joint Sub-committee, the following be the order of business:—

1. Paragraph I. of the Recommendations of the Visits to Offices Sub-committee.

2. Paragraph II. of the Recommendations of the Visits to Offices Sub-committee, together with Paragraph V. of the Recommendations of the Joint Sub-committee.

3. The first of the three resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th of November last.

4. Paragraph II. of the Recommendations of the Joint Sub-committee.

5. Paragraphs III. and IV. of the Recommendations of the Joint Sub-committee.

6. The second of the three resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th of November last.

7. The resolution of the Administrative Committee of the 6th instant, together with paragraph VI. of the Recommendations of the Joint Sub-committee.

(2) 'That a grant of £25 be made to the Bethnal Green Committee.'

Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., to move:—

'That Mr. Francis Peek be elected a Vice-President of the Society.'

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson to move:—

'That the Council should adopt means of warning the public as to those charities which it has ascertained to be unworthy of public support, either on account of fraudulent dealing with the funds or of their professed objects being unnecessary or hurtful.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JAN. 8, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
Kensington	4	3	8	15	1	3	1	5	3	1	4	24	9
Fulham	1	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	3
Paddington	4	1	5	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	15
Chelsea	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	4	4
St. George's—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. George's Division	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	6
Westminster do.	1	2	4	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Westminster—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	1	1	3	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	6	3
St. Marylebone	10	2	11	23	..	11	2	13	..	..	..	41	7
Hampstead	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	4	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	..	1	..	6	7
South St. Pancras	1	1	5	7	..	8	4	12	..	..	..	20	4
Islington	3	..	3	6	1	9	1	11	3	..	..	20	26
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	1	1	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	7	..
Strand	2	..	2	..	..	4	..	4	..	1	..	7	14
Holborn	1	..	3	4	..	13	..	13	..	..	..	18	3
City	1	..	2	1	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	6	28
Shoreditch	1	..	3	4	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	6	2
Bethnal Green	3	3	3	9	..	3	2	5	3	1	3	22	7
Whitechapel	4	2	1	7	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	10	1
St. George's-in-the-East	1	4	4	9	..	1	..	1	2	..	2	14	4
Stepney	2	4	6	..	..	2	..	2	..	1	3	11	9
Mill End Old Town	2	4	6	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	8	4
Poplar	..	2	2	..	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	6	7
St. Saviour's	..	7	7	..	..	1	..	1	4	..	..	12	1
Newington	1	2	..	3	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	4	2
St. Olave's	3	2	4	9	..	5	..	5	..	1	1	15	7
Lambeth—	..	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	3
North	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Wandsworth & Putney	..	2	..	2	..	2	3	5	..	..	..	8	4
Battersea	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	6	2
Clapham	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Camberwell—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grove Lane	..	2	2	..	..	2	..	2	6	..	1	7	14
Peckham	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..
Greenwich	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	7	..	11	13
Deptford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	1	1
Woolwich	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	..
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
Ritham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	4	..
Total	43	34	87	164	5	93	16	114	64	18	5	103	381

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of December 1875 was 36,618, and 51,389 received outdoor relief, making a total of 88,007. This was a decrease of 162 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1874, 1873, and 1872 this was a decrease of 9,350, 18,782, and 22,728 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 327. This was a decrease of 114 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 102 on the corresponding day of last year.

'THE LONDON AND SUBURBAN FIRE BRIGADE AND DISABLED FIREMEN'S RELIEF AND PENSION ASSOCIATION AND ORPHANAGE.'

At the Southwark Police Court, on Wednesday, January 5, Gregory Secombe, attired in an old fireman's uniform, was placed at the bar before Mr. Benson for final examination, charged with obtaining money from various persons in the district of this Court under fraudulent and false pretences.

Mr. George Lewis, jun., instructed by Mr. Ribton-Turner, Organising Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, prosecuted; and Mr. Blanchard Wontner watched the case on behalf of Samuel Simpson Secombe, the President and Secretary of the so-called 'London and Suburban Fire Brigade' and 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief, Pension, and Orphan Fund.' The prisoner was undefended.

As soon as the prisoner was placed in the dock Mr. Benson said—I think this case is one similar to another that I dealt with about a year ago, when a man who styled himself the Rev. Mr. Bore was convicted by me of obtaining money for the same societies.

Mr. Lewis: That is so. Only the prisoner in the dock is the brother to the President and Secretary, who, I believe, ignores him altogether.

Mr. Wontner: I beg leave to say that I am instructed by that person to watch the proceedings on behalf of these societies, and I think Mr. Lewis is acting very vindictively in this matter. He has served my client with a notice to produce his books, well knowing that he has brought an action against the Charity Organisation Society for libel. I, therefore, have advised him not to produce his books, as they might be impounded by his Worship, and damage him in his proceedings at law.

Mr. Lewis: There certainly is an action threatened, but if Mr. Secombe's affairs are honourable he need not fear producing his books.

Mr. Benson: What relation is the prisoner to the person about bringing this action?

Mr. Wontner: He is his brother. My client complains bitterly of what appeared in the papers last week. He is charged with fraud and other words bitterly expressed by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Benson: The tone of the evidence went to show that it was all a fraud.

Mr. Wontner: It is nothing of the kind, and I am surprised at the Charity Organisation Society taking up such a case, when there are so many flagrant cases elsewhere. It is done to damage my client in his action, which will be tried in a few days.

Mr. Benson: I think it is a very proper case for the Charity Organisation Society to take up. They prosecuted a man under similar circumstances some time ago, when I convicted him, and then I could get nothing out of Mr. Secombe.

Mr. Lewis: Since the last few days Mr. Secombe has filed a petition in Bankruptcy, therefore I consider it important that the books should be produced.

Mr. Wontner: We refuse to produce them, as I shall show that the prisoner has no connection with our societies.

Mr. Benson: Then the case had better go on.

Charles Thomas Bradlock said: I live at 39 Trinity Square. On the evening of the 20th ultimo the prisoner called at my house and said he was collecting subscriptions for 'The Disabled Firemen's Association,' and 'The Volunteer Fire Brigade.' He produced a book in which were the names of several persons residing in the neighbourhood. I looked over them and said, 'I always understood the Fire Brigade was supported from the rates and the Metropolitan Board of Works.' He said, 'This is a separate thing altogether, and is supported by voluntary subscriptions.' I gave him a shilling, and entered my name in the book. The prisoner did not give me a receipt, neither did I ask for one.

Elizabeth Tuffield, servant to William Bowen, 33 Trinity Square, said: The prisoner came to our house the same evening, and said, 'I come for a subscription for "The Fire Engine Office,"' and handed me the book produced. I took it to my mistress, and she gave me a shilling, and entered her name in the book. I handed the shilling to the prisoner.

Rebecca Hyam, of 39 Trinity Square, said: The prisoner called on me the same day. He was dressed as he is now, like a fireman, and I gave him sixpence, and entered my name in the book produced.

Elizabeth Rouslan, servant to Mr. Anthony, 12 Trinity Square, said: On the evening of the 21st the prisoner called and asked for a subscription for the Fire Brigade. I took the book to my mistress, and she gave me a shilling to give to him. My mistress entered her name in the book.

Mr. Benson: It strikes me that the case is complete. The case is on all fours with the one I dealt with some time ago.

Mr. Lewis: I have some further evidence to call, and then I shall complete my case. He called

Walter William Court, who said: I am a printer, and carry on business at 15 Greville Street, Hatton Garden, and I have done some printing for these societies.

Mr. Lewis: Did you print this report of 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund'?

Witness: Yes, somewhere in 1872. The prisoner's brother, who was attired in a somewhat theatrical uniform, here came forward and took his seat at the solicitors' table.

Mr. Lewis objected to his sitting there, as he was not a solicitor, and it annoyed him to see a man connected with such doubtful concerns coming forward in a court of justice dressed in such a style.

Mr. Benson censured Mr. Secombe for displaying himself in such a mountebank costume, and directed him to leave the table. He considered it an insult to the Court.

Secombe said he did not consider it so. It was his uniform as captain of the London and Suburban Fire Brigade, and he had as much right to dress so as Captain Shaw.

Mr. Court continued his evidence, and said, in answer to Mr. Lewis, that he was a member of the committee.

Mr. Lewis: Who asked you to become a member of the committee?

Witness: I forget now, but I think it was in 1871. I know the prisoner. He is a brother to the secretary to the society, and I know he has been a collector.

Mr. Benson: Are you now a member of the committee?

Witness: Yes, but only of 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.'

Mr. Benson: I have a prospectus before me where your name is printed as a member of the committee of 'The London and Suburban Fire Brigade.' How is that?

Witness: I have nothing to do with that at present. I never was a committeeman.

Mr. Lewis: Look at this prospectus, printed by yourself. You have placed yourself there as a committeeman. What do you say to that?

Witness: I am not a member, and never attended any meeting.

Mr. Lewis: Who prepared the manuscript of that prospectus?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Benson: But you printed your own name in the prospectus?

Witness: Yes; I must have overlooked it, or done it without a thought.

I know that the prisoner has collected for the offices in Everett Street, Russell Square, where both societies held their meetings. He was not appointed by the committee, as Mr. Seccombe, secretary, appoints the collectors and discharges them.

Mr. Lewis: What did you have to do when the committee met?

Witness: We had to consider the cases brought forward for relief. Four of the committee formed a quorum. We met at the offices in Everett Street at first, and afterwards in Buckingham Street, Strand. I never saw the prisoner there.

Mr. Lewis: Where is the orphanage mentioned in the receipts?

Witness: A place was taken at Bromley, in Middlesex.

Mr. Benson: Are there any premises?

Witness: A contract was entered into to carry it out.

Mr. Lewis: Have the committee entered into any contract?

Witness: I believe not, but the premises were taken for an orphanage twelve months ago by Mr. Seccombe.

Mr. Lewis: Was he to pay for them?

Witness: I don't know; I have never sanctioned any payment.

Mr. Benson: Then what's the necessity of printing across the receipts, 'Special Appeal for the Orphanage'?

Witness: I suppose to collect money for the orphanage.

Mr. Benson: Have you anything to do with the money matters?

Witness: No; the secretary keeps all the accounts, which are audited by Mr. Harrison, who lives in Hill Street, Peckham; but I don't know the number of his house. I believe he is a clerk in the City.

Mr. Lewis: What salary does the secretary get for each society?

Witness: I think he gets £2 a week for 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief Fund'; and uniform, I believe.

Mr. Lewis: When did you last pass the accounts?

Witness: I think at the end of 1874.

Mr. Lewis: What do the collectors get?

Witness: Twenty-five per cent. and a uniform.

Mr. Lewis here said that at the last examination Mr. Smyth's name was mentioned as the solicitor to these societies; he directs me to say that he never had any connection with them.

Mr. Benson observed that Mr. Seccombe's uniform was quite different to the men's he saw in court.

Mr. Court: I suppose the difference is that he is a superior officer. I know Mr. Cusack, Mr. Treleving, and Mr. Kinsman. The latter is a collector. Gosling has been a collector, but I don't know why he left. He was at one time a committeeman. The committee did not receive any remuneration.

Mr. Lewis: How much money have you in the bank?

Mr. Wontner: I object to that question. It has nothing to do with the case before his Worship.

Mr. Benson: I think it has. The prisoner says he is employed by the societies. It is a proper question.

Mr. Court: Well, I can't say what money is in the bank.

By Mr. Benson: I never received any remuneration. We removed to Buckingham Street in November last. I believe the Everett Street offices were then given up. There is a fire-station in Union Street, Pimlico Road, with a fire-engine and firemen; but I have no connection with that society.

Mr. Benson: I don't think Mr. Court carries the case any further, Mr. Lewis. Have you any other evidence?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, I have. He called

Mr. William Bailey, an elderly man, who said: I am clerk at the office, No. 19 Buckingham Street, Strand. The societies are called 'The London and Suburban Fire Brigade' and 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Association.'

Mr. Lewis: What is Mr. Harrison's address?

Witness: 95 Hill Street, Peckham. Mr. Treleving lives somewhere in Poland Street, and is a jeweller.

Mr. Lewis: Who appointed you a clerk?

Witness: Mr. Seccombe. I answered an advertisement in the newspaper, and my name went before the committee.

Mr. Lewis: When were you appointed?

Witness: In July 1873.

Mr. Lewis: Do you know the prisoner?

Witness: Yes; he is not connected with either of the societies. In the middle of last October the inhabitants of Union Street, Eaton Square, wanted to support the brigade, and as he knew the ground he was ap-

pointed a collector, and he was supplied with books, which he returned at the end of nine days.

Mr. Lewis: How much did he collect?

Witness: About £3, I think. He discharged himself, and brought his books back, saying, 'I can't go on with it.'

Mr. Benson: Did he mean he had some difficulty in collecting the money?

Witness: Yes, sir.

Mr. Lewis: How did he get that uniform?

Witness: It was lent to him when he was appointed collector, and he ought to have returned it when he ceased to be employed.

Mr. Benson: Were all the collectors supplied with firemen's uniforms?

Witness: Yes, sir.

Mr. Lewis: Does the secretary sign the receipts before they are given to the collectors?

Witness: Yes, they have books with twenty-five in each; and, if the secretary is not in when the collector wants them, I sign his name.

By Mr. Benson: I have been in the employ of the society two or three years. I recollect a similar charge to this being dealt with at this Court.

Witness: I was then employed in Everett Street.

Mr. Benson: Why did not the society appear then?

Witness: I believe Mr. St. John Wontner appeared. We were here, but not called.

Mr. Wontner: We had no case then. Captain Shaw made some statement then, and at Bow Street, and my brother attended before Mr. Flowers and contradicted it.

Mr. Lewis: Is Mr. Davies your collector now?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: Look at that letter (produced). You say he was discharged for disreputable conduct in collecting money from individuals four or five times during the year, especially from Baron de Worms?

Witness: He was dismissed, but he is collecting now.

Mr. Benson: Which was the earliest established society?

Witness: I can't tell, as they were both in existence when I was employed.

Mr. Benson: On the occasion when the other charge was before me don't you recollect the landlady attending and giving evidence about Everett Street?

Mr. Lewis: That was a house in Whitefriars Street. The party took a room there and set up in opposition to Seccombe.

Mr. Benson: Have you two sets of books?

Witness: Yes; 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Association' is in debt. Mr. Kinsman is the only collector now. I received £1. 6s. 2d. from him this morning. All money is paid to me or Mr. Seccombe, and entered in the books. Four or five months ago we had a fund, but the money was expended on the pensioners, some of whom are in Court.

Mr. Lewis: Have you had £60 to your credit at one time for the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Association'?

Witness: I can't say; Mr. Seccombe controls that unaudited. He draws cheques, but I see that all that is received is expended, as the books pass through my hands.

Mr. Lewis: Have you seen how the money is disbursed?

Witness: Yes; I know £20 was paid twelve months ago in one week as pensions.

Mr. Benson: What bank do you place your money in?

Witness: The West London, in Sloane Square. There is only one banking account for the two societies, and that is in the name of Mr. Seccombe.

Mr. Benson: Have you got the pass-book?

Witness: No; it is at the bank.

Mr. Lewis: When did you last pay a pension?

Witness: Last Saturday. I paid four persons 5s. each. The money was brought in by Mr. Kinsman.

Mr. Lewis: Have you taken money from the London and Suburban Fire Brigade funds for that purpose?

Witness: For the last five or six weeks we have been obliged to pay the pensions short. Owing to the proceedings of the Charity Organisation Society against us, the collectors could not get money for either.

Mr. Lewis: Have you any money in the bank now?

Mr. Benson: Then the London and Suburban Fire Brigade is bankrupt also.

Mr. Lewis: What is Mr. Seccombe, the secretary's, salary?

Witness: Two pounds a week.

Mr. Benson: What is your salary?

Witness: One pound a week.

Mr. Benson: Is there anything in the bank?

Witness: Yes, a little; maybe about 5s. I can't say how much without the pass-book.

Mr. Benson: How was the prisoner dismissed?

Witness: He discharged himself. He said he could not earn enough.

Mr. Benson: Has he been connected with the brigade as a fireman?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Benson: What were you before?

Witness: I was twelve years a clerk at Hungerford Market.

Mr. Benson: What rent do you pay for your offices in Buckingham Street?

Witness: £23 a year for two rooms, which are as good as any of those occupied by the Charity Organisation Society. (Laughter.)

Mr. Benson, observing several young men clustered near the fireplace dressed in shabby firemen's uniform, remarked, 'I see you have a good outward show. Your captain's uniform, however, is of a different colour to the others.'

Captain Seccombe, impudently: Captain Shaw dresses better than his men; I am as good as he.

Mr. Benson: You have no right to interfere while a witness is under examination. To Prisoner: Do you wish to ask this witness any questions?

Prisoner: No, I don't.

Mr. Benson (to the Witness): Do you know anything about the Orphanage? Is there one?

Witness: No, sir. It was decided to have one in connection with 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.' Mr. Seccombe was directed to look out for premises, and about a year-and-a-half ago he hired a large house at Bow for that purpose.

Mr. Benson: Did he pay any rent for them?

Witness: Yes. I think one quarter was paid.

Mr. Wontner here explained to his Worship that Mr. Seccombe took a house on lease and paid a quarter's rent, but as the owners did not carry out what was arranged the house was given up.

Mr. Benson (to the Witness): Was there any money collected for the Orphanage?

Witness: Yes. Between £40 and £50, I think.

Mr. Benson: Is there any balance left in favour of it?

Witness: I don't think there is. The landlord was paid £25, and there were other expenses to be paid. Mr. Seccombe disbursed them by cheques, and they were entered in the books.

Mr. Benson: When did you last pay anything for the Orphanage?

Witness: About the beginning of last year. I don't think there have been any collections since that time for the Orphanage. The collector was met by so many cautions from the Charity Organisation Society that he had to give it up.

Mr. Lewis: That is my case, sir.

Mr. Benson, to the Prisoner: Your brother is in Court. Do you wish to call him?

Prisoner: Yes. I should like him to be examined, as he would show what has been done.

Samuel Simpson Seccombe then hurried into the witness-box, and said: I am captain of 'The London and Suburban Fire Brigade,' and secretary to 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Association.' I am paid £100 a year for the latter, but have no salary for the former. In addition to the £100 a year I get £10 per cent. for collections I make.

Mr. Benson: What else do you get?

Witness: Nothing. I have now to complain of the cowardly attacks made on me by your Worship and Mr. Lewis. I think I have been grossly insulted in this Court.

Mr. Benson: You are put in the witness box to answer questions, not to be abusive.

To the Prisoner: Do you wish to ask him any further questions?

Prisoner: Yes, sir. (To Witness): Have you discharged me?

Witness: No. You discharged yourself.

Mr. Benson: Have you received the sums entered in the book produced from the prisoner?

Witness: No. In fact, I have not seen this book since 1873, when it was served out to him, and he ought to have returned it into the office.

Mr. Benson: Look at that receipt-book; your name is signed to each.

Witness: Yes. They are all signed by me before they are given out to the collectors. This book was reported to be lost. I should like to make a statement.

Mr. Benson: You can make a statement if you like.

Witness: If Mr. Lewis had called me last week I could have explained matters satisfactorily, without all this in the papers. Lord Rosehill, who I see on the Bench beside you, has been out with me and my engine, and has seen the working of the brigade; and had it not been for that red-headed Judas (pointing to Mr. Ribton-Turner) we should have been as prosperous as the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. (Laughter.)

Mr. Benson: Here you are dressed in an expensive theatrical uniform; I should like to know where you get the funds from.

Witness, impudently: I don't get them out of a halfpenny rate, like Captain Shaw.

Mr. Benson: You would be a much more respectable man if you did. Do you think you would get any subscription if the public knew you have no money in the bank, and the way in which your accounts are kept? How much have you received for 'The London and Suburban Fire Brigade'?

Witness: I refuse to say.

Mr. Lewis: Were you not collector for the Dressmakers' Society?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: And after that collector to the Fitzroy Market Ragged School?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: Were you not given into custody for embezzlement?

Witness: Yes; by Mr. Ellis, in 1869. I was taken before Mr. D'Eyncourt and discharged. I have collected for other institutions, but I shan't tell you any more.

Mr. Lewis: Then you may stand down.

Mr. Benson (to the Prisoner): It has been proved that you are not employed by these societies; consequently you have been committing frauds on the public. What have you to say?

Prisoner: I have nothing to say.

Mr. Benson: Your case has occupied the attention of the Magistrates at this Court several hours, and after a careful investigation I can come to no other conclusion than that you have been carrying on disgraceful frauds. I thought in the first instance that you were a servant of these so-called societies; but the evidence of the witnesses who have been called has shown you were not; therefore I feel it my duty to deal with you with some severity. I had some idea of sending you to another tribunal for trial, but as I had before me some time ago a similar case, which I dealt with in a summary way, I shall do the same in this. The other case was one of the same kind. A man going about in a fireman's dress, and having a good address, obtained money from many people, believing they were subscribing to a 'genuine concern.' If anything attracted the benevolence of the public next to the army and navy, it was the firemen of this large metropolis—men who perform arduous labour and risk their lives for the public safety. Evidence has shown that both these societies are bankrupt, but I shall not express my opinion. My duty is to deal with you; therefore I sentence you to three months' hard labour in Wandsworth House of Correction.

The prisoner was then removed by the gaoler.

THE CASE OF MANSELL.

At the Middlesex Sessions, on the 3rd of January, before Mr. P. H. Edlin, Q.C., Assistant-Judge, Edward William Newman Mansell, 27, clerk, described in the calendar as well educated, was charged upon several indictments with obtaining various sums of money from Mr. Gawin Kirkham, Secretary of the Mildmay Conference Hall, Islington; the Rev. D. A. Beaufort, of Eliot Park, Blackheath; and Mr. Henry William Hart, Secretary of the Young Men's Church of England Society, by false pretences, with intent to defraud.

Mr. F. H. Lewis prosecuted on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society, and the prisoner, who pleaded 'Guilty' to all the indictments, was not represented by counsel.

The Rev. Charles Lee, formerly rector of Holy Trinity Church, Haverstock Hill, was called, and he stated that the prisoner had for about ten years been engaged in several good works in that parish, and had been of great assistance both to him and his then curate, Mr. Bass, now Rector of Wapping. When he knew him he was a clerk in the service of the London and North-Western Railway Company, and his leisure hours were spent in the good works to which he had referred.

At the conclusion of Mr. Lee's evidence the Assistant-Judge intimated that he would postpone passing sentence for two days, in order to obtain the attendance of Mr. Ribton-Turner, of the Charity Organisation Society, who was acquainted with the prisoner's antecedents.

On Wednesday, the 5th, the prisoner was placed at the bar to receive judgment.

Mr. Ribton-Turner said that the first note he had of the prisoner's was on the 26th November, 1874, when he was found to be writing for collecting cards on behalf of the Mackenzie Memorial Mission. The cards were forwarded to him, but, although he succeeded in obtaining several subscriptions, he failed to forward the money to the treasurer of the fund. In the following year he wrote in the name but without the sanction of Martha Barker, a most respectable young woman, for more cards, but they were not sent. Shortly afterwards, under the pretence that he was acting as secretary to some imaginary guilds about to form libraries, he wrote to Mr. T. Hughes, Miss Yonge, and other authors, asking them for copies of their works gratis. He had obtained money by means of begging letters from Lord Hatherley, Mr. Charley, M.P. for Salford; the Rev. F. H. Fisher, vicar of Fulham; the Rev. T. A. Nash, vicar of St. Philip's, Norwich; and the Rev. Mr. Smith, of Stoke Newington. He (Mr. Ribton-Turner) had ascertained that up to within a fortnight of his arrest, and during the period he had been writing several of these begging letters, the prisoner had been in the employ of a respectable firm in the City, but had been discharged in consequence of his dissipated habits.

Mr. Lewis said that the prisoner had represented himself to a very respectable servant-girl in Gordon Square as a curate at the East End of London, and under the promise of marriage had succeeded in obtaining several small sums of money from her.

The Assistant-Judge, in passing sentence, said that the frauds of which the prisoner had confessed himself guilty were of the most mischievous character. For some considerable time he had been industriously engaged in imposing on benevolent persons by means of forged certificates and fictitious letters replete with false pretences, and fully designed for the purpose of obtaining relief. In short, he had been practising these frauds with a great deal of cunning and address and upon a regular system. It was manifest from his letters that he was a person of superior education, and of abilities which, if honestly applied, would have placed him far above want, but that could only be regarded as an aggravation of his offence. Notwithstanding the manner in which Mr. Lee had spoken of him, he felt bound to pass a heavy sentence of imprisonment; and he warned him that in the event of his returning to practices of a similar nature at the expiration of his imprisonment, if committed for trial, he would be sentenced to a long term of penal servitude.

His Lordship then passed sentence of eighteen months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

CASE OF JOHN AARONS.—At the Bow Street Police Court, on Friday, January 7, John Aarons, *alias* Thompson, aged 16, described as of no occupation, 109 Leman Street, Whitechapel, was charged on remand before Mr. Flowers with endeavouring to obtain a charitable contribution by false and fraudulent pretences.

Mr. George Lewis, jun., instructed by Mr. Ribton-Turner, appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society.

The evidence put before the Court on the first occasion went to show that the prisoner had called upon Mr. Ribton-Turner, Organising Secretary to the Charity Organisation Society, and had told him a pitiful story of how he had been deserted by his father, who had brought him from America on a holiday excursion. He had spent all his money, and had wandered about the streets until advised to come to the Society. This story was found to be false, and he was given into custody.

Mr. Lewis said that since the first occasion Mr. Ribton-Turner had kindly undertaken the direction of several inquiries into the matter, and it had been discovered that prisoner's father was a man named Aarons, a shirtmaker, at the East End. That father, it would appear, had not exactly fulfilled his duty towards the prisoner. The boy's uncle was, however, now present, and willing to send him to America, where it seemed he had been before, and where he has relations. Under these circumstances the Society felt that, if the boy was really to be sent away, it would be greatly to his future welfare if he were not convicted on this charge of fraud, and they therefore wished to be allowed to withdraw from the prosecution. Of course whether that course were adopted or not would rest entirely with the magistrate. Mr. Lewis then called a Mr. Lyons, who said he was uncle to the prisoner.

Mr. Lewis asked him whether, in case the magistrate allowed the prisoner to be discharged, he intended sending him out to America.

He said that was his intention. The prisoner had a brother out there.

Mr. Lewis asked him if he was aware that the prisoner would be liable to be re-arrested if he did not leave the country.

Witness said he was quite aware of that. He fully meant to send the prisoner away. It was not merely promised so as to obtain his release.

Mr. Flowers said that in that case he had no hesitation in allowing the charge to be withdrawn, and he thought it greatly to the credit of the Society that they had taken the course they had. The prisoner might have been sent to prison for some months for the offence he had committed; and even if he had only been imprisoned for fourteen days he would still have had the fact of having been convicted of fraud hanging over him. And if he really was going out to America, to begin life afresh, it was far better to go without that stain upon his character. It might be that he had had some trouble at home, but still what he had done was very wrong indeed. He had not only attempted to defraud, but he had tried to impose upon those whose whole time was engaged in endeavouring to relieve people who really were in distress. Hoping this would be a caution to him in future, Mr. Flowers said the prisoner might be given over to his uncle. Prisoner, who had been crying bitterly nearly all the time, thanked his Worship as he left the Court.

LEGISLATION FOR THE AFFLICTED.

The following extracts are taken from a paper written by Mr. W. M. Wilkinson on 'The Effect of Existing Legislation upon the Charities for the Blind, Idiotic, and other Afflicted and Neglected Classes.'

(1) 4 & 5 Wm. IV., cap. 76, sec. 56.

The effect of this clause is to enable blind and deaf and dumb children, up to 16, to be maintained and educated out of the rates without it being considered as parochial relief given to the parent, and it is, therefore, a great ratepaying charity for the poor children of the State.

(2) 25 & 26 Vict., c. 43 (1862).

The purport of this Act may be shortly stated as permitting the Guardians to send any of these poor children, blind, deaf, dumb, lame, deformed, or idiotic, to a certified charitable school, or institution, at a cost not greater than the maintenance of the child if relieved in the workhouse, but with the consent of parents, unless the child is an orphan or deserted, and with the consent of the child, if above 14.

The words of the limitation in Section 1, 'not exceeding the total sum which would have been charged for the maintenance of such child if relieved in the workhouse,' are modified by the subsequent legislation, and a more favourable interpretation is put upon them by the Local Government Board; for afflicted children cannot be said to be *maintained* if they are left without the necessities of education and suitable training. Guardians may now, therefore, with the assent of the Local Government Board, pay the full cost in institutions, although more than 7s. per week, which is the assumed cost in the workhouse of maintaining and educating healthy children.

(3) 31 & 32 Vict., c. 122 (1868).

'Sec. 13.—The Guardians of any union or parish may, with the consent of the Poor Law Board, send an idiotic pauper to an asylum or establishment for the reception and relief of idiots maintained at the charge of the county rate or by private subscription, and they may with the like consent send any idiotic, imbecile, or insane pauper who may lawfully be detained in a workhouse to the workhouse of any other union or parish, with the consent of the Guardians of such last-mentioned union or parish, and pay the cost of the maintenance, clothing, and lodging of such pauper in the asylum, establishment, or workhouse, as well as the cost of his conveyance thereto or his removal therefrom, and the expenses of his burial, when necessary.'

By this Act illegitimate children are included, and these may, with the approval of the Poor Law Board, be sent to any charitable school or institution fitted for their reception, though not certified; but this Act also has almost entirely remained a dead letter, and either because Guardians neglected the subject and left the care of the afflicted to the institutions, or because they were dissatisfied with the results of the education of the children therein, as not ultimately enabling the children to earn a livelihood, they have not availed themselves of the powers of the Act of Parliament.

(4) 30 Vict., c. 6 (1867). 'The Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867.'

By the Act 30 Vict., cap. 6, called 'The Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867, entitled an Act for the establishment in the Metropolis of Asylums for the Sick, Insane, and other classes of poor, and of Dispensaries,' it may be assumed that asylums 'for the reception and relief of other class or classes of the poor' includes certainly the blind and other afflicted adults, and also the children of those classes who may not be proper objects for district and other schools; and it is clear that the provisions for maintaining District Metropolitan Schools includes all children, not excepting any class of the afflicted, and that but for the accident of their being charitable institutions which deal with some of these children, all the indigent afflicted classes would have to be dealt with by the managers of the District Metropolitan Boards, who would have to supply schools, with proper teachers and all necessary appliances of every kind.

(5) 33 & 34 Vict., cap. 75. 'Elementary Education Act, 1870.'

It could not be contended that blind and other afflicted children, not actually in district schools; are not included under this Act; and that being so, the power to provide for their education, either together or separately, in ordinary schools, with all necessary teachers and appliances, or in special and suitable schools to be provided for the purpose, is with the School Board, and Guardians have power to pay the fees, whilst the School Board has power to remit them altogether. It would be no answer on the part of a parent, when before a magistrate for not sending his child to school, that it is blind, or deaf and dumb, or lame.

This Act, however, only applies to day schools and to the age of 13. There is a strong opinion that, as much as possible, the blind and deaf and dumb children should mix with the sighted and hearing in their schools, and perhaps four Board schools, selected for the use of the blind and deaf and dumb, and conveniently situated in the metropolis, might be attended daily by many, whilst for those at a distance the powers of the Guardians to board-out poor children might be resorted to in the neighbourhood of these schools. The Poor Law Board might perhaps also enlarge the usual boarding-out payments, and in the country the boarding-out powers would have to be more largely resorted to.

And by the 'Elementary Education Act, 1873,' it is a condition of out-door relief to parents that all children between five and thirteen shall have education provided for them in day schools, and Guardians may give further relief, expressly for this purpose, and charge it on the common fund of the union; and in London, on the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, but not to a greater amount than a farthing for each attendance at the day school.

'The Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867,' covers so large an area of population and rating power as to make it unnecessary, in carrying out any of its powers, to ask for State or county funds, and of course no aid is required from charity. Between this Act and the power of Guardians to pay for poor children in charitable institutions, certified or not, to the full extent of their cost in the institutions, and of the School Board to educate blind and other afflicted children generally, either in separate or ordinary day schools, with the powers for boarding-out possessed by Guardians, there is certainly a choice of means, perhaps only too large and complicated, but in which if, in attempting to use them, it should be found that amendments are required, and not until then, such amendments will be made by the Poor Law Board or by Parliament.

(6) 30 & 31 Vict., cap. 106.

Sec. 21.—The Guardians may provide for the reception, maintenance, and instruction of any adult pauper, being blind or deaf and dumb, in any hospital or institution established for the reception of persons suffering under such infirmities, and may pay the charges incurred in the conveyance of such pauper to and from the same, as well as those incurred on his maintenance, support, and instruction therein.

With the exception of the 'Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867' (passed five months before this Act), this is the only legislation affecting blind and deaf and dumb adults, and it seems to be quite effectual, inasmuch as it gives the Guardians full powers to deal with all poor blind and deaf and dumb adults by sending them, without restriction as to cost, to any hospital or institution established for their reception. Taken in connection with the 'Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867,' it leaves the Guardians of parishes or unions either to deal with any of the charitable institutions which board these adults, and instruct them, both educationally and industrially, or to send them to asylums to be provided under the 'Metropolitan Poor Act,' where they would be admitted under such conditions as the Poor Law Board from time to time direct; besides which, if the Guardians will not send them, the managers themselves of the asylums may, under the conditions to be prescribed by the Poor Law Board, themselves become active under Sec. 22 of the 'Metropolitan Poor Act,' and 'exercise the like powers as Guardians in the relief, maintenance, and management of the inmates.' Charitable institutions for all these afflicted classes, to the extent they are doing the work of the Poor Law and aiding the Poor Rates, could, if they would insist on such payments being made by Guardians, materially relieve their charitable funds from this unnecessary outlay, and enable them to be applied upon cases not coming under the Poor Law.

Under Sec. 15 of the same Act the Poor Law Board might order the managers to purchase, hire, or build asylums for the blind and other afflicted classes; and if Guardians would not fill them, the Poor Law Board might make rules under which the managers might fill them.

It is true, as to adults, that the 'Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867,' contemplates asylums and their residence therein; and here, perhaps, further legislation might be necessary to enable the erection and maintenance of workshops for the blind, and sufficient out-door relief to enable the adults to live outside, and attend for their daily instruction and earning of a livelihood. Or, if the blind charities could see their way to a sufficient union and consolidation amongst themselves, they might erect the workshops and pay the expenses, taking care that the fullest out door relief was granted to the indigent blind attending them.

It is clear, however, that with all this body of legislation and new powers, commencing in 1832, it is high time to consider the effect which it should have, both on the general question of the blind and other afflicted classes, and on the numerous existing institutions which were created at a time when there was no legislation for these special classes, and when everything was left to private benevolence. In other words, if these institutions were to be founded now, could subscriptions be asked for to support cases already fully provided for out of public funds?

CAUSES.

Some of the causes which have produced the dead lock between legislation and the charities for these afflicted classes are the following:—

1.—The attention of the Poor Law Board, of Guardians, of the Metropolitan Asylum Board and Managers of District Schools, of the School Board, and of the several charitable institutions and their subscribers has never been sufficiently drawn to the subject as a whole, nor to the relative powers of the public authorities and of the charities, and to the new powers gradually given by legislation, nor to any difficulties that may be found in working. A mixed conference of these bodies would speedily settle the question of whether or not or to what extent the powers are workable.

2.—The institutions being systematically isolated from one another,

and weak for want of union, have been hitherto unable to cope with the Guardians, whose object is to save the rates, and therefore they either give nothing or much less than the cost of the children in the institutions, and even much less than they would cost in the workhouse if properly educated and trained.

3.—The London institutions are nearly half-filled by country cases, whilst the metropolis has twice as many as would fill them.

4.—The institutions in the metropolis to a great extent treat the afflicted as if they were all paupers, providing for them entirely, and without aid from any other source, and without the means which Guardians have of insisting on contributions from parents or other relatives.

5.—The voting system prevents the Guardians from availing themselves of their powers of placing Poor Law cases in the institutions, and paying fully for them, while it is especially inapplicable to institutions for the afflicted.

6.—In the case of the blind, the nature and amount of education given in many of the institutions is not sufficient to enable those taught at them to be independent of parish help after they leave.

7.—Owing to the little attention which till the last few years has been paid to the subject of the blind and other afflicted classes, few people have been aware that the present institutions in the metropolis are insufficient, both in number and quality, and therefore Guardians have not seen the necessity of making use of their powers. The Guardians have been disinclined to undertake new and expensive responsibilities with respect to the afflicted, at least two-thirds of whom are indigent.

MEANS TO BE ADOPTED.

The mode of bringing these Acts of Parliament for the benefit of the blind and other afflicted classes into use, and for the education and care of poor children in general and industrial schools, and to prevent the needless use of charitable funds, would be by such a conference as has been suggested, and if difficulties should appear, by calling public attention to them, and by bringing them prominently before Parliament. They should also be brought before the Local Government Board, the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the Managers of District Schools, the School Board, the Guardians, and the several institutions, by influential deputations, by circulars, and the press. And if these means should fail, application should be made to Parliament to give increased powers for working the Acts so as to cover the whole of the indigent afflicted classes, and to do the best for them that is possible.

'The Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867,' which gives power to erect asylums at the cost of the common fund, only applies to the metropolis; but if it were found to work well its provisions could be extended to counties, or to unions of counties, or dioceses, as might be found convenient. District Union Schools, however, may be provided throughout the country, under the Poor Law Act of 1844.

THE GROUPING OF CHARITIES.

The charitable institutions for the afflicted classes might greatly assist in all this by grouping themselves together in classes, or by even some moderate form of union or central body which should adequately represent them, and which would consider the great questions affecting the blind and other afflicted classes, and how best the large charitable funds could be applied to those cases only properly belonging to charity, in giving the highest education to those adapted for it, and in grants of scholarships and other benefits to the most deserving.

If the institutions were of a high character and efficiency, the blind and other afflicted belonging to the upper and middle classes might be sent to the same schools, and an arrangement of classes made between the schools. What is required is that the afflicted of each class should be dealt with as a whole and as parts of one system.

In particular the institutions might refuse, in the interests of all the afflicted classes, to overlap the Poor Law provisions, and to allow the Guardians to rid themselves of their duties by making inadequate payments, when they themselves should take the whole charge of the indigent afflicted classes upon the rates.

It is also most important to observe that all this action by the institutions for the afflicted being voluntary, and performed by each acting for itself, without united method, and on no fixed principle, is not capable of being properly adjusted to the entire wants of the afflicted as a class. For instance, in the case of the blind, one society takes the children at ten for mental and industrial training; another teaches them at their own homes, and afterwards in classes; another teaches them to read, and admits at eight years; another supplies books of a particular type; others found workshops; and one gives a high general education, including the science and practice of music. The result of all this is found to be that there are according to the last census 292 blind children in the metropolis, and that a considerable number of them cannot be traced in any of the charitable institutions, whilst the London institutions are nearly half filled by country cases; and that although there are about 900 blind adults in the metropolis capable of employment, industrial training is only provided for about 50, and the number of the actually trained adults for whom employment can be provided by the institutions does not exceed 150.

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NOTICES.

The Titlepage and Index to the *Reporter* for 1875 will be issued with the next number.

Mr. J. Stevens has been elected Representative of the Fulham Committee, in the place of the Rev. Henry Hayman.

The Rev. H. T. H. Burchell-Herne has been elected Representative of the Poplar Committee, *vice* the Rev. R. J. Elliott. The Committee will meet on Fridays at 3 instead of on Wednesdays at 3 as heretofore, and the Office will be open from 11 to 12, and from 5 to 6 daily.

A Decision Committee of the St. Olave's District Committee will meet at the Office at 4 P.M. on Tuesdays. The General Committee will meet in the St. Olave's Vestry at 4 P.M. on Fridays, and not Thursdays, as hitherto.

The Address of the Battersea Committee will in future be 175 Battersea High Street.

The weekly meetings of the Newington Committee are held alternately on Wednesdays at 5 P.M., and on Fridays at 6 P.M.

Mr. E. Villiers has been elected an Honorary Secretary of the St. Saviour's Committee, *vice* Mr. A. D. Graham.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield, in the chair; Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Holland, Esq., *Paddington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Major Prendergast, P. Ralli, Esq., M.P., Hon. R. C. Moreton, Major Fitz-Roy, *St. George's*; H. Peto, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's Soko)*; Major-General Blunt, Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; W. F. Lawrence, Esq., Reginald Smith, Esq., *St. Giles's*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Capt. Fortescue, *Holborn*; Hamilton N. Hoare, Esq., Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran, Esq., Rev. S. A. Barnett, *Whitechapel*; Russell Barrington, Esq., *St. George's-in-the-East*; A. G. Crowder, Esq., E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., Mrs. Barnett, *Stepney*; Hon. H. R. Scott, Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mill End*; Rev. H. F. H. Burchell-Herne, Ralph Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; W. F. Smith, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; R. M. Hensley, Esq., *Wandsworth*; J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camden*; H. Joubert, Esq., W. G. Holliday, Esq., *Deptford*; A. Annesley, Esq., *Lewisham*; W. Day, Esq., *Sydenham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-Presidents*; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairmen*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., T. J. P. Jodrell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., *Additional Members*. Total, 60. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*. J. W. Probyn, Esq., W. Glennie, Esq., Hon. W. Warren-Vernon, Allen D. Graham, Esq., *Visitors*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from Dr. Hawksley, regretting that a sudden and painful bereavement prevented his being present, and stating his views on the recommendations and resolutions set down for discussion by the Council on that day.

QUESTIONS.

Captain Boyce, the Representative of the Chelsea Committee, asked 'Whether any Committees are in the habit of supplementing parish relief either by loans or grants?'

The consideration of the question was postponed to Monday, the 24th instant.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending January 8 the receipts had been £290. 16s. for the General Fund, and £12. 1s. for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £737. 17s. 3d. and £81. 4s. respectively.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, with the consent of the Council, modified his motion of the 10th instant, and moved

'That Mr. Francis Peek and Colonel Sackville West be elected Vice-Presidents of the Society.'

He pointed out how much Mr. Peek had done in furthering the cause of true charity in the metropolis. He was a vice-president of the Sydenham Committee, and 'Our Laws and our Poor,' a book recently published by him, showed what large views he held on social questions. Colonel Sackville West was well known to the Council, and any advice and help that he could give them would be of the greatest value.

The motion having been seconded, the Rev. J. D. McGachen said that the good which Mr. Peek had done in Bethnal Green by means of his grant was inestimable. It had established the fact that rich and charitable people were ready to give large sums of money subject to investigation; it had been the means of exposing much pretended pauperism, and of giving assistance to many deserving poor.

The motion was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson's motion:

'That the Council should adopt means of warning the public as to those charities which it has ascertained to be unworthy of public support, either on account of fraudulent dealing with the funds or of their professed objects being unnecessary or hurtful,' was postponed.

RECOMMENDATION.

A grant of £25 was made to the Bethnal Green Committee.

REPORT OF VISITS TO OFFICES SUB-COMMITTEE.

After a few words from the Chairman the order of business recommended by the Administrative Committee in the adjourned discussion on the Reports of Visits to Offices and Joint Inquiry and Supervision Sub-committees was adopted.

On the motion of the Rev. J. D. McGachen, seconded by Mr. Stephen Fuller, the first paragraph of the recommendations of the Visits to Offices Sub-committee, 'That endeavours should gradually be made to place in the District Offices agents possessing higher qualifications,' was approved.

The adoption of paragraph 2 of the Recommendations of the Visits to Offices Sub-committee, together with paragraph 5 of the Recommendations of the Joint Sub-committee, was next moved by Mr. Russell Barrington, seconded by the Rev. W. H. Langhorne.

Mr. Barrington pointed out that the Marylebone Committee had already given some Committees great assistance by detailing several of their most experienced members to aid them as Hon. Secretaries or Members of Committee. It was most important to secure such voluntary assistance.

The recommendations were adopted *nem. con.*

On the motion of the Rev. H. I. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Stephen Fuller, the first of the three resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th November last, recommending the formation of a Sub-committee for District Committee work, was also adopted *nem. con.*

The second paragraph of the Recommendations of the Joint Sub-committee was next considered. After some words of explanation from the Organising Secretary, the discussion was carried on by Mr. Jodrell, General Cavenagh, Sir Charles Trevelyan, and Miss Octavia Hill; and subsequently it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. J. R. Hollond, seconded by Mr. Stephen Fuller, that the paragraph be referred back to the Administrative Committee for further consideration.

With regard to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Recommendations of the Joint Sub-committee, it was moved by the Rev. H. I. Cummins, seconded by General Cavenagh, that it be referred back to the Administrative Committee.

Mr. Stephen Fuller dwelt on the necessity of delay and deliberation before coming to a decision. In the course of two or three months the Sub-committee on District Work would be able to state definitely what combination of voluntary and paid labour was absolutely necessary for carrying on the work of the District Committees; and it was moved as an amendment by Mr. J. R. Hollond, and resolved:—

‘That paragraphs 3 and 4 of the recommendation of the joint Sub-committee be referred back to the Administrative Committee, in order that they may confer with the Sub-committee on District Work, and report again within three months.’

The second of the three resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th of November last was then read by the Chairman.

Mr. J. R. Hollond, seconded by Sir Charles Trevelyan, moved that the discussion of the resolution be adjourned to Monday the 31st instant. He said that it would be advisable, before entering on the question, to know what proposals District Committees might have to suggest as alternatives.

Mr. Willis-Bund moved as an amendment that the principle of the recommendation be adopted without further delay. District Committees had already had sufficient time for stating their opinions; and the Council, as a representative body, should not hesitate to express what it considered to be the wisest policy. Mr. R. Barrington seconded the amendment, which was lost.

Mr. Hollond's motion was then adopted *nem. con.*

It being past six o'clock, the Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, January 15, 1876:—*Donations:* W. S. Gibson Esq., £1; Miss Flora Goldsmid, £5. 5s.; Mrs. Makdougall Gregory, £1; Cecil Monro, Esq., £5; C. C. Pitcairn, Esq., £5; Mrs. Scott of Rodono, £10; Mrs. Tomkinson, £10; E. Wilson, Esq., £10. *Annual:* C. J. Angus, Esq., 10s.; Sir George Balfour, £1. 1s.; W. B. Gurdon, Esq., £1; G. Hardy, Esq., £1. 1s.; R. M. Hensley, Esq., £2. 2s.; Lewin Hill, Esq., 10s.; G. B. Kent & Co., £5; Mrs. McGrouther, £2. 2s.; C. R. Moorsom, Esq., £5; F. Montgomerie, Esq., £5; E. Ollier, Esq., £1. 11s. 6d.; H. Rogers, Esq. (2nd subscription) £5. 5s.; R. G. Tatton, Esq., £10; A. D. Thomson, Esq., £2. 2s.; H. R. Tomkinson, Esq., £5; Rev. W. P. Trevelyan, £1. 1s.; The Misses Wakefield, £2. 2s.; Lieut.-Colonel W. L. Walker, £2. 2s. *District Committee Aid Fund:* The Misses Wakefield, £40.

The following business stands for Monday, January 24:—

To consider the following question, asked by Captain Boyce:—

‘Whether any Committees are in the habit of supplementing parish relief either by loans or grants?’

To consider the resolution of the Administrative Committee of the 6th instant.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JAN. 15, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by		Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Unfavourable	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans				
Kensington	4	2	11	1	2	3	1	6	8	22
Fulham	1	2	1	4	3	3	1	4	8	2
Paddington	6	6	12	18	3	16	5	3	8	36
Chelsea	1	3	4	6	6	5	1	1	7	17
St. George's:—										
St. George's Division	2	1	4	8	8	3	3	3	3	30
Westminster do.	7	7	3	1	4	3	1	4	4	2
Westminster:—										
St. James & St. Anne's	1	2	3	4	2	6	3	1	1	9
St. Marylebone	1	7	9	1	9	5	1	1	6	30
Hampstead	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
North St. Pancras and Highgate	4	2	1	7	6	6	1	1	2	10
South St. Pancras	5	5	7	17	10	3	13	2	4	34
Islington	1	1	6	8	8	8	2	2	2	18
Hackney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
* St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Strand	1	1	1	5	5	5	1	1	1	6
Holborn	7	7	17	1	18	1	1	1	2	27
City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Shoreditch	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	5	10
Bethnal Green	3	4	7	1	1	1	1	1	3	10
Whitechapel	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
St. George's-in-the-East	1	3	4	3	1	4	1	1	1	8
Stepney	2	3	2	7	2	1	3	1	1	10
Mile End Old Town	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Poplar	1	1	1	4	4	4	1	1	1	5
St. Saviour's	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Newington	1	1	11	18	2	2	2	2	2	17
St. Olave's	6	1	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	11
Lambeth:—										
North	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
South	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	3	2	1	3	1	1	7
Battersea	2	5	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	13
Clapham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Camberwell:—										
Grove Lane	1	4	5	6	6	6	2	7	7	25
Peckham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greenwich	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	11
Deptford	3	1	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Woolwich	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lewisham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Kilham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	48	26	105	179	3	106	31	140	55	22
							9	22	108	427
										171
										178
										197

* No Return received from this Committee at the time of going to press.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Chelsea and South St. Pancras Committees.
Eighth Annual Report of the Edinburgh Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of January 1876 was 36,561, and 50,150 received outdoor relief, making a total of 86,711. This was a decrease of 1,296 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873 this was a decrease of 11,369, 19,084, and 23,140 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 562. This was an increase of 235 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 328 on the corresponding day of last year.

APPEALS.—Shortly after the late Inundations the following advertisement was inserted in a daily paper by a ‘City Envelope and Circular Addressing Company’:—‘Secretaries to Inundations Fund Committees, Hospitals, Asylums, and Mission Societies, &c.—Christmas and Charitable Appeals.—We beg to inform the above that we can supply wrappers and envelopes ready addressed to 35,000 subscribers to such funds and appeals.—Also in stock, wrappers and envelopes ready addressed to all classes of the public in the United Kingdom, from latest lists and directories.’

THE HORSHAM ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the above Association was held on the 12th instant, at the Literary Institution, when R. H. Hurst, Esq., M.P., took the chair. The meeting was not very numerously attended, but amongst those present were the Rev. J. F. Hodgson, Rev. — Masters, W. E. Hubbard, jun., Esq., J. C. Brown, Esq., T. W. Cowan, Esq., H. J. Ashburner, Esq., and several ladies.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, expressed his fear that the inclemency of the weather had kept many persons, and particularly the ladies, who were always zealous in matters connected with charity, away from the meeting. The annual report, however, which had been distributed among the subscribers, gave a full and elaborate account of the transactions of the Association during the past year, which left him but little to say respecting it. It was the opinion of some well-meaning persons who were charitably disposed that the Association had a tendency to check and interfere with private charity, but nothing could be further from the truth than that. One great object of the Association was to render all the assistance in their power to all charitable persons who had anything to give, and to make the most of their charity for the general good. It must, he thought, be manifest to everyone that under a system of indiscriminate charity, a vagrant who has determined to live a vagrant life may go with a well-told tale of distress to several, and receive assistance from every one. Now it was not at all likely that a private individual could discriminate between the deserving and undeserving with the accuracy which an Association of this kind could do, and if all the applications of this character were referred to the Association for investigation, they might depend upon it a more just distribution of charity would be effected. Gifts of money from private persons seldom did any good, as they generally had a demoralising effect; but to advance money to a deserving man, with the understanding that it should be paid back by degrees, was another matter; assistance in this way still left a man with a certain amount of independence, and the feeling that he was relying on his own exertions, and not on charity, for the support of himself and his family. The really necessitous and best disposed persons would always wait the longest before appealing to charity or the charitably disposed, and the main use of the Association was to investigate every application that came before them, and to take care that all charities, from whatever source, were fairly and evenly distributed. Some objected to the Association because so large a proportion of subscriptions was required for working expenses, and only a comparatively small amount found its way into the hands of the poor. This objection was not altogether so unreasonable as it might at first appear to those who had the management of the work. Without a certain amount of machinery to work effectually, it would be impossible for these investigations to take place, and the Society would become useless. The speaker then pointed out the difference between the West Sussex Mendicity Society and their own Association. In the former, mendicity tickets were given out to those who were subscribers, whilst their own plan was to distribute them throughout the town to anybody who requested them, whether subscribers or not, and this was undoubtedly the most effectual method of getting rid of indiscriminate almsgiving; until this was thoroughly rooted out of society it was scarcely possible to abate the evils of vagrancy. This, however, he was happy to say, had to a very great extent been accomplished in this neighbourhood. Mr. Cowan, on whose indefatigable energy and attention much of the success of the Society depended, would now read an abstract of the second annual report.

Mr. Cowan then read the abstract referred to, together with the balance-sheet, which proved to the satisfaction of the meeting the unqualified success of the Association during the past year, financially and otherwise.

The Chairman moved that the second annual report, as read by Mr. Cowan, be received and adopted, which, on being seconded and put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. E. Hubbard moved, and it was carried unanimously, that the thanks of the meeting be accorded to the Chairman and Treasurer of the Society, and that they be re-elected for the ensuing year. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Hubbard said he had understood that more vagrants had been relieved during the past year in Cuckfield Union alone than there had been in the whole county of Dorset, where these Societies had been in operation. The effect of these Societies, wherever established, was to drive the vagrants to other towns where no such society existed. Private almsgiving was, as the Chairman had remarked, a most unwise and ineffectual method of relieving the poor. A man who gave away £10, and gave it wisely and well, was a greater benefactor than he who gave £50 and did not care how it was distributed. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. J. F. Hodgson, in submitting the next resolution, remarked that, holding his position as a minister of Christ, he was not likely to take part in anything that would militate against the diffusion of love and charity among the poor; but he felt quite satisfied that although clergymen generally had many opportunities of knowing a great deal about the wants and necessities of the poor, they could not hope to so thoroughly investigate any case that came before them so successfully as it could be done by any organised association. They had a very large charity at this time in

the town, viz. the Winter Fund, to which about 500 persons subscribed small sums of money during the summer months, and in the winter these sums were returned to them with some addition in kind. The committee of the Winter Fund were so satisfied of the great assistance which could be rendered to this charity by the Association that they had this year submitted to it a list of all the subscribers, in order that after a thorough investigation had been made, the Association might eliminate from the list all those who really needed no assistance, in order that the charity might be more properly and beneficially extended. (Hear, hear.) The rev. gentleman concluded by moving that the thanks of the Society be accorded to the committee for the past year, and that the committee for the ensuing year consist of the following names. The names were read over and the resolution adopted.

Mr. J. C. Brown, J.P., moved that the thanks of the Society be given to the hon. secretaries, Mr. Cowan and Mr. Ashburner, which was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Cowan, in moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said that in Great Britain and on the Continent there were now 165 known societies similar to the one they had been discussing, and produced a list of the various countries in which these societies had been established and carried into operation.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment paid him, and the meeting was concluded.

METROPOLITAN CHARITIES.—The following statement of the income of various kinds of charities and institutions is taken from the first annual edition of the 'Classified Directory to the Metropolitan Charities for 1876' (published by Longmans & Co., Paternoster Row, E.C., price 1s., or by post 1s. 1½d.).

INCOME FOR 1874:		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
4 Bible societies	.	228,413	0	0			
10 Book societies	.	59,857	0	0			
4 Tract societies	.	27,384	0	0			
					315,659	0	0
62 Home missions	.	414,010	0	0			
10 Home and foreign missions	.	126,765	0	0			
21 Foreign missions	.	761,000	0	0			
					1,301,775	0	0
7 Church and chapel building societies	.				71,730	0	0
26 Blind charities	.	46,982	0	0			
7 Deaf and dumb charities	.	17,057	0	0			
8 Charities for incurables	.	38,992	0	0			
6 Charities for idiots	.	67,963	0	0			
					170,994	0	0
18 General hospitals	.	243,791	0	0			
10 Consumption hospitals	.	48,972	0	0			
5 Ophthalmic hospitals	.	11,762	0	0			
3 Orthopedic hospitals	.	8,560	0	0			
4 Skin hospitals	.	3,550	0	0			
15 Hospitals for women and children	.	52,660	0	0			
5 Lying-in hospitals	.	9,814	0	0			
24 Miscellaneous hospitals	.	80,990	0	0			
					460,099	0	0
32 General dispensaries	.	24,850	0	0			
14 Provident dispensaries	.	8,384	0	0			
2 Dispensaries for vaccination	.	2,800	0	0			
5 " for surgical appliances	.	10,732	0	0			
26 Convalescent institutions	.	28,554	0	0			
14 Nursing institutions	.	3,489	0	0			
					78,809	0	0
173 Institutions for pensions, almshouses, &c.	.				374,660	0	0
95 " for general relief	.	270,569	0	0			
21 " for food, &c.	.	8,629	0	0			
					279,198	0	0
104 Voluntary homes	.				110,409	0	0
54 Orphanages, &c.	.				169,506	0	0
67 " for reformation, &c.	.				78,050	0	0
107 " " education	.				447,265	0	0
50 " " social improvement	.				57,650	0	0
16 " " protection	.				27,077	0	0
Grand total	.	3,942,881	0	0			

POOR RELIEF.—The Local Government Board have recently issued an abstract of the statistics of poor relief and expenditure during the year ended September 1875, compared with the same particulars for the preceding year. The total 'poor relief' for the past year was £771,117, being a decrease of £46,164 on that of 1874. This decrease was occasioned by the diminution in the number of persons who received poor relief, the

number for last year being 290,630, against 320,160 in 1874, or a decrease of 29,530. The expenses under the Medical Charities Acts amounted to £141,406; for registration of births and deaths, £12,476; and under the Sanitary Acts, £33,151—or an increase of £25,233 over the expenditure in 1874.

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, December 25, 1875:—

CLAS I. Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Elton	Glasgow	Horsham	Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbleton	Winchester
1. Not requiring relief	3	2	..	25	2	2	3	3	5	2	..	..
2. Undeserving	28	25	14	1	109	..	..	6	3	7	2	2
3. Cases for Poor-law, or otherwise ineligible	15	46	5	1	7	..	..	3	16	6	18	1
	46	73	19	2	141	2	5	25	12	30	5	7
CLASS II. Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	8	..	7	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	1
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	11	1	1	6	17	..	..	9	..	..	..	..
3. Private Persons	12	20	3	4	63	..	..	3	1	..	..	..
	31	21	11	10	80	..	..	16	1	2	..	2
CLASS III. Assisted by—												
1. Grants	60	37	27	4	1	4	1	13	2	22	2	3
2. Loans	..	..	..	4	..	1	2	35	1	2	2	..
3. Employment	14	..	1	..	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
4. Letters for Hospitals, &c.	1	24	..	8	6	..	3	2	1	..	..	..
	75	61	28	16	12	5	6	51	4	24	4	3
	152	155	58	28	233	7	11	92	17	56	9	12
Reports sent out	16	88	40	..	104	..	..	37	2	..	11	3
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	6	7	..	..	3	..	3	1	4	..	..	1
Vagrants dealt with	17	854	32	364	..	36	287	218	22	27	273	..

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.—The Poplar Committee has recently received a grant of £20 from the Thames Police Magistrates.

OUT-RELIEF.—An important conference of Poor Law Guardians was held at Sheffield on the 13th inst., under the presidency of Mr. W. S. Stanhope, M.P. Upwards of 100 persons were present, representing about 50 Boards of Guardians. The Hon. F. S. Wortley and three Poor Law Inspectors (Mr. Basil Cane, Mr. J. Davy, and Mr. Baldwin Flemming), were also present. Mr. Turnell (Sheffield) read the first paper on 'Out-relief,' in which the question was asked, whether the enormous expenditure given in relief to the poor could not be materially reduced without inflicting hardship and suffering on the deserving poor? He replied in the affirmative. It was impossible, he said, to conceive a greater mistake than the appointment of Poor-law Guardians to dispense relief. They were elected one day and expended the funds of the Union the next, and did more harm in creating pauperism in one year than a well-qualified staff of officers would do in seven years. The Guardians sometimes gave relief contrary to their own convictions because they were entreated to do so by friends of the applicants, and that would continue until the law was altered, and the power taken away from an irresponsible Board. The suggestions he had to offer were that they should entreat the Local Government Board to dispense with the present administrators of relief, and to appoint a paid Relief Board, composed of men who had had fifteen or twenty years' experience in the administration of the Poor Laws, and that this Relief Board should go from Union to Union, spending the whole of their time in administering relief. A warm discussion followed, in which Mr. Turnell's suggestions were generally condemned. Mr. Hutchinson (Ecclesall) moved:—'That, in the opinion of this meeting, the present system of giving out-door relief, carefully administered, has given satisfaction, and ought not to be abolished.' Mr. Binns (Skipton) seconded the motion, which, after much discussion was carried.—*Times*.

AN IMPOSTOR.—An old man named Peter Ellis, who said he belonged to Wales, but travelled from place to place, and had recently resided for a short time at Flint and Bagillt, was brought up in custody at Liverpool, on Monday, charged with begging. Police-constable 46, said that on Saturday afternoon he saw the prisoner begging from house to house in Park-road West, Cloughton. He had a quantity of bread in his possession, and two bags of coin, containing altogether £61. 13s. In answer to the officer's inquiries, he said he had been a teetotaler for forty years, and had saved the money. The magistrate said that a man who had so much in his posses-

sion ought not to be begging for relief; there could be no excuse for such conduct. The prisoner must go to Chester Castle for a month, with hard labour, and pay for his conveyance to Chester and for his maintenance in gaol out of the sum found in his possession. The prisoner left the dock with a most rueful expression of countenance.—*Daily Telegraph*.

RETURNS FOR 1875.

The following table shows the number of cases decided by the District Committees in the year 1875:—

DIVISIONS	Class I. Dismissed as*			Class II. Referred to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise liable	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for hospitals	Class total		
Kensington	173	210	250	602	29	68	63	160	6	186	22	89	303	1095	403	180	285
Fulham	24	34	17	75	1	3	9	13	21	19	1	21	55	183	128	136	209
Paddington	73	34	127	234	6	99	48	153	192	47	168	65	472	859	290	192	8
Chelsea	69	40	33	141	12	82	52	146	77	39	31	44	191	478	315	158	30
St. George's :																	
St. George's Division	45	22	110	177	2	46	31	79	116	17	2	22	157	1184	470	236	25
Westminster do.	54	77	185	316	30	85	85	190	192	41	31	363	110	30	..	..	..
Westminster — St. James's and St. Anne's	18	21	45	84	3	112	26	141	7	1	..	9	17	249	113	322	267
St. Marylebone	140	82	180	417	15	449	172	636	129	68	4	72	277	1330	322	371	..
Hampstead	23	7	15	45	2	49	11	62	21	19	13	6	59	166	48	60	27
North St. Pancras	65	27	36	128	..	165	21	189	6	17	17	21	61	378	110	163	18
South St. Pancras	114	104	257	475	7	378	102	487	8	18	5	48	79	1041	168	232	36
Islington	96	41	58	195	10	364	37	416	58	16	4	13	91	702	316	194	40
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	2	22	71	95	..	181	11	192	70	24	..	2	100	387	40	224	..
Strand	8	16	80	104	11	97	10	118	37	27	20	16	100	322	257	255	21
Holborn	54	5	158	217	9	605	15	519	64	18	2	1	85	821	290	289	37
City	13	13	31	57	14	19	9	42	48	29	1	..	78	177	335	649	11
Shoreditch	32	34	194	160	1	49	29	70	86	34	3	37	100	300	30	323	18
Bethnal Green	38	33	89	160	15	21	32	6	40	24	2	47	153	341	85	106	2
Whitechapel	74	58	90	222	13	85	53	151	13	23	12	44	92	465	180	110	6
St. George's-in-the-East	53	9	93	155	11	31	30	72	1	6	17	30	237	81	61	6	..
St. Marylebone	16	25	87	129	6	42	19	67	10	14	7	23	54	290	296	146	18
St. Marylebone	31	10	75	116	3	33	7	43	13	24	3	10	50	209	33	53	5
St. Marylebone	27	23	60	110	3	29	19	51	21	14	2	7	44	295	53	108	10
St. Saviour's	44	42	110	196	4	82	22	108	46	14	..	63	123	427	129	109	21
St. Marylebone	37	25	76	138	21	70	48	89	114	4	15	17	150	377	73	74	2
St. George's	36	16	51	105	2	35	5	42	22	6	7	9	44	191	52	129	15
Lambeth	37	40	94	171	22	23	11	56	92	12	3	40	146	502	61	189	..
South	5	11	15	35	6	16	9	31	26	24	3	10	63	104	56	45	..
Wandsworth and Putney	..	9	59	59	2	13	6	21	29	17	4	6	68	139	78	46	251
Battersea	2	22	75	99	..	1	5	6	95	19	2	17	133	228	41	46	69
Clapham	6	8	29	43	3	9	7	19	49	9	1	8	67	129	69	34	125
Camberwell :																	
Grove Lane	11	9	97	117	24	125	1	150	130	11	..	4	132	524	21	40	17
Peckham	2	7	53	169	3	12	3	18	35	13	..	2	42	211	52	19	..
Greenwich	28	10	72	110	3	30	5	28	29	100	9	22	169	307	93	21	479
Deptford	7	9	14	30	4	15	..	19	95	9	9	1	107	136	50	32	256
Woolwich	20	11	23	54	6	1	9	9	29	39	..	5	73	136	20	19	250
Lewisham	7	12	11	30	..	6	8	14	36	11	11	37	116	160	173	27	601
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	1025	1186	3047	5758	300	3369	1017	4677	2178	1010	388	911	4511	14946	5605	5718	4857

* Or unfavourably reported on as.

A STRONG CASE for HALF-BINDING the NUMBERS of the *Reporter* for 1874 has been prepared by Messrs. Spottiswoods & Co., New-street Square, Farringdon Street, E.C.; and can be obtained from them through all newsagents, price 1s. 4d. If the numbers for the year be sent to Messrs. Spottiswoods & Co., they will be bound for 2s. 10d.

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 163.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 26, 1876.

{WITH INDEX AND
TITLE-PAGE}

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

Much needless labour having been caused by requests to District Committees to inquire regarding addresses in their districts, which have proved to be either nonexistent or incorrect, the attention of Hon. Secretaries and Agents is drawn to the importance of verifying and testing, by means of the 'London Post Office Directory,' the statements of applicants respecting their previous addresses, or the addresses of their employers, references, &c., before writing to other Hon. Secretaries to make the necessary inquiries.

At this time of year secondhand copies of last year's Directory, price 12s., can be obtained of Messrs. Walford Brothers, 320 Strand, W.C. The same firm will supply new copies of the Directory for 1876.

Sets of County Directories, Clergy Lists, and other books of reference are kept at the Central Office.

Lord Claud Hamilton has been elected a representative of the St. George's Union Committee during the absence of Lord William Cavendish.

The office of the St. Saviour's Committee is now open from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. daily.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield, in the chair; Sir A. Gordon, M.P., Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; C. J. Stevens, Esq., Fulham; Sir R. M. Stephenson, R. J. Hollond, Esq., Major Yard, Paddington; A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Lord Claud Hamilton, Colonel Sanford, Major Prendergast, Major Fitz-Roy, St. George's; F. C. Mills, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Ann's); Miss Octavia Hill, Major-General Blunt, St. Marylebone; C. E.

Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; W. F. Lawrence, Esq., Reginald Smith, Esq., St. Giles's; H. H. Hill, Esq., Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Rev. W. Thornhill Webber, Holborn; Rev. H. I. Cummins, City; R. H. Barrington, Esq., St. George's-in-the-East; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Ernest Villiers, Esq., F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's, Southwark; B. R. Balfour, Esq., St. Olave's; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; R. M. Hensley, Esq., Wandsworth; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; H. Joula, Esq., Deptford; A. Annesley, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., Lewisham; C. A. Barry, Esq., Sydenham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-President; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, A. H. Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; H. B. Praed, Esq., M.P., Treasurer; Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., T. J. Phillips-Jodrell, Esq., Additional Members. Total, 47. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letter of 14th inst., from the Admiralty, was read by the Secretary:—

With reference to my letter of the 10th December, 1874, proposing to grant a donation of £10 to the funds of the Charity Organisation Society, in consideration of their undertaking to inquire into the cases of applicants for relief from the Charitable Fund of the Admiralty; and with reference to your reply of the 8th of January last, declining to accept the donation until a trial had been made of the course proposed to be adopted, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that the assistance which the Society has been able to render in the investigation of the cases referred to them in the past year has been very useful, and perfectly satisfactory; and my Lords have great pleasure in giving directions for the payment of the donation in question, which will be made by the Accountant-General of the Navy.

2. My Lords have approved of certain alterations being made in the Form of Application for Relief as suggested by you, and they trust that the additional particulars which will henceforth be furnished in the first instance will tend to considerably shorten the time required to make the necessary investigations.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) ROBT. HALL.

QUESTIONS—POOR-LAW RELIEF.

Captain Boyce, in asking 'Whether any Committees are in the habit of supplementing parish relief either by loans or grants?' stated that the Chelsea Committee had hitherto refused to supplement parish relief from their own funds, but had now determined to relax the rule in special cases; and he cited an instance in which such relief appeared to be justifiable.

Miss O. Hill asked whether a Committee was considered to be 'supplementing' parish relief, if it sought to establish the independence of one member of a family, others of which were in receipt of parish relief? It was explained that the question referred only to grants or loans made to those who were themselves in receipt of Poor-law relief.

Lord Claud Hamilton and Major Fitzroy said that at the St. George's Committee such relief was the exception. It was always given from private charity, and not out of the funds of the Committee; and it was given for such things as the Guardians could not legally supply.

Mr. Willis-Bund having referred to a passage in the 'Manual,' in which cases of destitution 'requiring a kind or amount of relief which the Guardians are forbidden to give,' are especially excepted from the category of Poor Law cases,

the Rev. H. I. Cummins remarked that this was the principle which District Committees had to put in force, varying their action according to the circumstances of the case, and the ability and inclination of the Guardians to give relief.

Mr. Edgcombe stated that the Kensington Committee gave grants to those in receipt of parish relief only when the grant would take the applicant off the rates; and the Rev. H. F. Mallet added, that the Hampstead Committee made arrangements for doing the same through private agencies.

LOANS.

Mr. Edgcombe, Hon. Secretary of the Kensington Committee, asked 'What was the practice of Committees in pressing solvent sureties for payment in cases in which the principal debtor is unavoidably compelled to make default?'

It appeared that it was not the custom of any Committee to press for payment when the principal debtor was unable to pay by reason of sickness, or any unavoidable or unforeseen calamity. In cases of death it was usual to let the debt lapse.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending January 15 the receipts had been £99. 14s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £40 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £812. 7s. 3d. and £96. 4s. respectively.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Letters were reported from Mr. Francis Peek and Colonel Sackville-West, accepting the office of Vice-President of the Society.

THE COUNCIL AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

It was resolved, on the motion of the Rev. H. I. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Hollond, that the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee of the 6th instant be discussed, viz.:

That, having considered the report of the Joint Sub-Committee, the Administrative Committee are of opinion that, both for the sake of economy, and also on the more general ground of increasing the efficiency of the Society, the meetings of the Council should be less frequent, and the Administrative Committee should be held, in a greater degree than heretofore, responsible for the general business of the Society.

General Cavenagh, in moving the adoption of the recommendation, said that the business of the Society, and with it the routine-work of the Executive, was greatly on the increase; while at the same time the Council, instead of dealing with large questions of more general interest, was too much occupied in the reconsideration of matters already fully discussed by the Administrative Committee. If papers on important subjects were read and discussed at Council, and published in the *Reporter*, the *Reporter* would become more interesting, and the Council more useful. The Council would continue to be the legislative body, the court of appeal, and would establish the principles of the work of the Society: the Administrative Committee ought to be a really executive body, acting with undivided responsibility.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins seconded the motion. It was absolutely necessary to simplify the machinery of the Council and Administrative Committee. If larger powers were given to the Administrative Committee, it would soon become apparent whether it was desirable that the Council should meet less frequently. It was obvious that the assistance of men of more than ordinary ability was required; and as these were the men who were most occupied, it was impolitic to lay too great a tax on their time.

Mr. S. Fuller, seconded by the Rev. H. T. Mallet, moved as an amendment—

That the words 'the meetings of the Council be less frequent, and' should be omitted.

No attempt had yet been made, he said, to make the proceedings of Council sufficiently interesting to District Committees; it would therefore be better to deal with the second suggestion contained in the recommendation by itself.

Mr. A. H. Hill thought it would be unwise to reduce the number of the meetings of Council. Two interesting questions had that day been insufficiently discussed, and there were numerous other questions which required the attention of Council. He doubted whether the change would increase the efficiency of the Society or prove to be economical. Frequent meetings kept alive the interest of members.

Mr. Willis-Bund, in supporting the motion, pointed out that numerous public bodies found a monthly meeting sufficient for the despatch of business. Small matters, too much debated at more frequent meetings, died out from want of interest, and more important subjects were discussed only after so long a notice had been given, that members were able to consider the bearings of the question fully before the meeting took place.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson moved, as an amendment, that the words 'held fortnightly' be substituted for 'less frequent.'

After a few words from Mr. Russell Barrington in support of Mr. Fuller's amendment, Mr. Hollond objected to the amendment proposed by Mr. Simpson, on the ground that it would leave the Council no option to meet more or less frequently according to the importance and pressure of business, and moved as an amendment—

That the word 'ordinary' be inserted before 'meetings of Council.'

There were several questions of detail connected with the recommendation which it would be well to refer to a Select Committee.

Mr. Miner said that numerous practical discussions could not be dispensed with. If Council met less often, the mass of business would entail an amount of labour which would preclude the fair discussion of those new questions with which the Society had continually to deal. The work of the Society was of a novel character, and it was necessary to discuss and explain it. If there was no work, the Council had the remedy of adjournment in its own hands. He would support Mr. Fuller's amendment.

Mr. Wilkinson sketched the origin of the Administrative Committee, and moved the following amendment—

That the Council be left to decide, by the state of business before it from time to time, how often it shall meet to transact it.

And the Chairman having explained the connection of the recommendation with the Report of the Joint Sub-Committee, General Cavenagh said a few words in reply.

The Council then divided on Mr. Fuller's amendment, which was carried by a majority of one—18 voting for it, and 17 against it.

The other amendments were consequently not put, and Mr. Fuller's amendment was carried as a substantive motion.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, January 22, 1876:—*Donations*: Miss M. R. Hope, £5; Lieut.-Colonel Hunter, £2; Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, £10; A. Martin, Esq., £3; H. B. Mildmay, Esq., £25; F. Pennington, Esq., M.P., £10; Miss H. Ballard Stevenson, £5. 5s.; Miss Anne Lee Warner (for the expenses of the Committee on Idiots' Institutions), 10s. *Annual*: Sir R. Alcock, K.C.B., £2. 2s.; A. G. Crowder, Esq., £5; O. Field, Esq., £2. 2s.; E. Hill, Esq., £1. 1s.; A. Holmes, Esq., £1. 1s.; Capt. J. W. James, £1; U. J. Kay-Shuttleworth, Esq., M.P., £5. 5s.; J. Lamont, Esq., £1. 1s.; R.

B. Litchfield, Esq., £3; Mrs. Moody, £1. 1s.; Rev. R. H. Quick, £2. 2s.; Sir C. C. Smith, £2. 2s.; Major Yard, £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: A. G. Crowder, Esq., £50; Mrs. Crowder, £1. 1s.; Miss Dashwood, £8. 8s.; 'T. W. G.,' £5.

The following business stands for Monday the 31st inst. :—

1. The further consideration of the second of the three Resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th of November last, adjourned on the 17th instant.

2. To consider the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee on the second paragraph of the recommendation of the Joint Sub-Committee, which was referred back to the Administrative Committee on the 17th inst., viz. :—

That the work connected with District Committees be separated and kept distinct from the work of the Organising Secretary; that it be controlled by the Districts' Sub-Committee, and be in charge of the Secretary; and that the Assistant Organising Secretary be under his direction, and be styled 'Assistant Secretary.'

To consider the following recommendations of the Administrative Committee :—

3. That, in order to save time, District Committees requiring grants should, as soon as possible after the 30th of September, send in an estimate of their receipts and expenditure for the whole financial year, and not for the quarter, as hitherto.

4. That a grant of £30, on account, be made to the Mile End Committee.

5. That a grant of £25, on account, be made to the Whitechapel Committee.

6. That a grant of £18. 15s. be made to the East-end Finance Committee, as a quarter's salary to the collector.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JAN. 21, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underlying Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians or Local Agencies	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment Letters for Hospitals, &c.				
Kensington	8	6	17	3	2	5	3	...	3	23	17	6	11
Fulham	1	1	2	...	...	...	6	...	6	8	2	1	7
Paddington	3	1	4	...	6	2	8	...	1	21	25	5	1
Chelsea	...	2	4	1	3	...	3	...	2	18	7	3	...
St. George's :—													
St. George's Division.	1	3	7	...	2	2	4	...	2	32	17	5	4
Westminster do.	3	2	7	1	2	...	3	...	4	...	5	2	...
Westminster :—													
St. James & St. Anne's	4	...	4	...	3	...	3	...	...	7	2	7	8
St. Marylebone	8	1	16	...	10	2	12	...	1	47	10	11	...
Hampstead	...	2	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	4	...	...	2
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	2	...	4	1	5	...	1	8	5	3	1
South St. Pancras	2	7	5	...	9	3	12	...	1	27	4	3	...
Islington	3	2	5	...	13	1	14	...	1	23	15	11	...
Hackney	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	...	3	3	...	2	...	3	...	3	8	4	...	...
Strand	1	1	2	...	2	...	2	...	1	3	7	3	...
Holborn	3	1	4	...	8	...	8	...	4	16	4	15	...
City	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	14	...
Shoreditch	...	3	3	...	...	...	4	...	5	8	...	7	...
Bethnal Green	2	1	5	...	2	...	4	...	2	21	10	4	...
Whitechapel	2	3	3	...	2	...	3	...	...	11	...	9	...
St. George's-in-the-East	3	1	3	...	4	...	5	...	1	13	3	4	...
Stepney	3	2	5	...	10	...	2	...	...	12	13	7	...
Mile End Old Town	...	7	7	...	5	...	5	...	3	15	2	13	...
Poplar	3	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	1	9	...	5	...
St. Saviour's	1	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	10	1	7	1
Newington	2	1	6	...	9	...	1	...	2	12	4	3	...
St. Olave's	3	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	6	3	10	2
Lambeth :—													
North	2	2	1	...	5	...	2	...	1	9	3	6	...
South	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	...	3	...	...	...	1	4	1	2	4
Battersea	2	...	4	...	6	...	6	...	6	12	1	1	...
Clapham	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	2	4	...	8	...
Camberwell :—													
Grove Lane	...	2	2	...	3	...	3	...	1	12	...	3	...
Peckham	...	1	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	4	...	1	1
Greenwich	1	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	4	9	7	...	18
Deptford	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	4	3	2	11
Woolwich	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	9
Lewisham	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	6	6	...	13
Kilham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Sydenham	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4	4	1	1	7
Total	66	36	100	202	4	96	118	71	21	218	112	432	187

REPORT OF VISITS TO OFFICES SUB-COMMITTEE.—The following is the correct account of the debate in Council of the 17th inst. (vide *Reporter*, page 14) on the second of the three resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th of November last :—'The second of the three resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th November last was then read by the chairman.' Mr. J. R. Holland, seconded by Sir Chas. Trevelyan, moved 'that the recommendation of the Administrative Committee be adopted.' He said that it would be advisable, before entering on the question, to know what proposals District Committees might have to offer as alternatives. Mr. Willis-Bund moved, as an amendment, 'That the principle of the recommendation be adopted without further delay.' District Committees had already had sufficient time for stating their opinions; and the Council, as a representative body, should not hesitate to express what it considered to be the wisest policy. Mr. Barrington seconded the amendment. It being past six o'clock, the debate was adjourned, on the motion of the Rev. H. I. Cummins, to Monday, the 31st instant.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

FULHAM.—The Fulham and Hammersmith Committee has received a donation of £35 from the magistrate of the Hammersmith Police-court.

ISLINGTON.—The Rev. Gordon Calthrop, St. Augustine's, Highbury, at the conclusion of his sermon on Sunday the 16th instant, urged his congregation to give their aid to the Islington Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. He said that the Society dealt with those who were in want in no unkindly spirit. It was most necessary to guard against imposition, which appeared so great that the prudence of giving at all sometimes seemed questionable. The Islington Committee was a branch of a large organisation, whose work it was to guide charity into the right channels, and to give the most suitable assistance to the poor. He hoped, in a future sermon, to give a sketch of the work of the Society.

BETHNAL GREEN.—Mr. F. Peek's Grant.—There is a detailed account of the work of the Bethnal Green Committee in connection with School Board cases dealt with by that Committee, in the *East London Observer* of the 15th inst.

ERRATUM.—Kensington Committee.—In Class III. of the annual return of the number of cases decided by District Committees, the following numbers are assigned to the Kensington Committee :—Grants, 6; loans, 186; employment, 22; letters for hospitals, 89; making a total of 303. The figures should have been distributed thus :—Grants, 186; loans, 22; employment, 89; letters for hospitals, 6; making a total of 303. The totals of Class III. will then be: Grants, 2,352; loans, 876; employment, 455; letters for hospitals, 828; and the grand total of the class will be the same as that put down in the last *Reporter*, viz. 4,611.

THE LONDON AND SUBURBAN FIRE BRIGADE.

On the 3rd of February 1876, at the Westminster Police-court, Samuel Simpson Secombe—who has since been known by the titles of 'Captain,' 'Secretary,' 'President,' and 'Treasurer,' of the London and Suburban Fire Brigade; 'President,' 'Treasurer,' and 'Secretary' of the Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Association; and 'Secretary' of the Special Appeal for Orphans in connection with the above societies—was summoned by Mr. Arthur Dove, on behalf of the London Gas Light Company, for the sum of £13. 5s. 3d. for gas supplied to premises in Union Street, Pimlico Road, and also for hire of meter, cutting off, &c.

The defendant did not appear when called, but had sent a letter stating that he had not received the summons, although the service on the premises had come to his knowledge.

Mr. Arnold, upon this, held that there was sufficient proof of service, and

Mr. Dove having proved his case,

Mr. Arnold made the order, as prayed, upon the defendant to pay the amount, or distress in default.

In order to levy the distress, it was necessary that the defendant should be first personally served with a minute of the order; and, although Davis, the warrant officer of the Court, had done his utmost to ascertain the whereabouts of the defendant, he could neither find him at the house in Union Street, which purported to be a fire-engine station, or at 19 Buckingham Street, Strand, the offices of the so-called societies. Months elapsed, and Gregory Secombe, the brother of the defendant, was taken into custody at Southwark Police-court, and sentenced to three months' hard labour for obtaining charitable contributions by fraud, the pretence being that he was collecting funds for the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Society.' Information having been received that S. S. Secombe was present at Southwark Police-court on the examination of his brother, the warrant officer went there and served him with a copy of the magistrate's order to pay the gas, and it was then ascertained that he resided at 41 Hill Street, Peckham. The order being disobeyed, Davis proceeded to levy a distress on his goods, but could not find sufficient goods to satisfy the distress, and consequently could make no return except 'nulla bona.'

Since then it appears that the defendant is a bankrupt, and, although

promises had been made to pay the amount within a few days, nothing more has been heard of the matter, and the Gas Company may have to receive any amount the assets of the defendant may realise.

EMIGRATION.—According to the returns supplied by the emigration officials at Liverpool, it appears that there is a falling off in the number of emigrants who left Liverpool during 1875 of 33,908 persons as compared with 1874. During the quarter ending December last 12,132 persons left Liverpool, of whom 7,952 were English, 90 Scotch, 932 Irish, and 2,565 foreigners. The nationality of the remainder was not specified. There is a decrease of 7,500 as compared with the same quarter in 1874. During December last the number of emigrants was 2,270, being a decrease of 1,192 as compared with December 1874. Nearly all the emigrants went to the United States.

THE PAUPER ROLL.—The number of paupers receiving relief in England and Wales on the 1st of July 1875 was 746,065; the returns show 134,238 indoor, and 612,268 outdoor; but 441 are counted in both these classes, or twice over, having had both indoor and outdoor relief on the day named. The paupers were 1 in 30, or 3·3 per cent. on the population enumerated at the Census of 1871. As we are nearly half-way towards the next Census, the population is increased, and the true ratios are not quite so high as those just stated. The total is less by 37,941, or 4·8 per cent., than at the corresponding date in 1874. The number of able-bodied paupers—namely, 94,969—shows a decrease of 6,632, or 6·5 per cent.; in Lancashire, a decrease of 11·7 per cent., and, in the metropolis, 15 per cent. The number of adult able-bodied male paupers shows a decrease from 20,474 in July 1874 to 18,943 in July 1875. The classification of the paupers, which deals with the gross number, 746,506, without a deduction for the 441 double entries, shows 134,338 adult males, being less by 8,385 than in July 1874; 312,231 adult females, a decrease of 16,657; 242,257 children, a decrease of 13,834; 3,202 vagrants, a decrease of 97. But the number of insane paupers has increased; the males being 23,295, an increase of 404; the females, 30,158, an increase of 638; the children, 1,025, an increase of 89. The total number of insane paupers in July 1875 was 15,174 indoor, and 39,304 outdoor, the majority of the latter being in asylums. The total number of paupers shows a decrease of the indoor from 137,944 in July 1874 to 134,238 in July 1875, and a decrease from £46,404 to £12,268 in the outdoor paupers.

NOT AN OBJECT OF SYMPATHY.—Sir John Iles Mantell, whose sentence of three months' imprisonment on a man named Bennett for an act of vagrancy has been remitted by the Home Secretary, referred to the matter at the Salford Police-court yesterday. He had since found that Bennett was an old offender. He read a list of eight or nine convictions against him for assaults and wife desertion. These facts, he said, he mentioned in order that public sympathy might not be thrown away upon undeserving objects. The magistrates expressed their sympathy with Sir John. Shortly afterwards a prisoner was brought before the Bench, charged with sleeping out, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, Sir John Mantell remarking that as long as he sat on the Bench popular clamour should not deter him from doing his duty.—*Daily News*, Jan. 12, 1876.

APPOINTMENT OF A CHARITY ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL INQUIRY SOCIETY OF IRELAND AT DUBLIN.—At the December meeting of the Council of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, it was resolved to appoint a committee to consider and make suggestions upon the subject of charity organisation:—

1st. To collect further information as to the working of charity organisation in London, New York, Elberfeld, and other places.

2nd. To collect information as to the working of charities in Dublin, and to suggest the branches of charity organisation that could be best undertaken by charitable bodies in Dublin.

3rd. To collect, through existing charitable organisations, information as to the causes of pauperism and to suggest means by which such information may be more completely and systematically collected.

The committee to consist of Professor Ingram, LL.D., F.T.C.D. (Vice-President), as chairman; the Very Rev. the Dean of the Chapel Royal; Major H. Le G. Geary, R.A. (Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General); John Lentaigne, Esq., C.B.; Edward Gibson, Esq., M.P.; William Findlater, Esq.; Professor O'Shaughnessy; David Ross, Esq.; William J. Hancock, Esq.; John R. Garstin, Esq.; Henry Dix Hutton, Esq.; Dr. Henry H. Stewart, M.D.; John O'Hagan, Esq., Q.C.; the Honorary Secretaries (Dr. Hancock, Constantine Molloy, Esq., and Joseph T. Pim, Esq.) and such other members of Council as wish to join. The honorary secretaries of the Society to be secretaries of the committee.

DORSET MENDICITY SOCIETY.

The number of vagrants relieved in the thirteen Unions of Dorset during the year 1875 amounted to 2,488, being a decrease of 355 in the number of relieved, as compared with 1874, and a decrease of 78 per cent. as compared with the year previous to the formation of the Society. This system of dealing with vagrancy was first started in Dorset in 1870, and has since been adopted in the counties of Hereford, Kent, and West Sussex.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the St. Giles's, Strand, Wandsworth, Lewisham, and Eltham Committees.

Ninth Annual Report of the Halifax (Nova Scotia) Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of January 1876 was 36,916, and 50,508 received outdoor relief, making a total of 87,424. This was an increase of 713 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873 this was a decrease of 12,113, 18,106, and 22,910 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 519. This was a decrease of 43 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 85 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES of the Charity Organisation Society, and their Offices.

KENSINGTON—39 Holland Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—7 Brook Green Terrace, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—20 Westbourne Park Terrace, W.
CHELSEA—5A Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Barnsbury, N.
HACKNEY—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur Street, W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBORN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
SHOREDITCH—56 St. John's Road, Hoxton, N.
BETHNAL GREEN—297 Bethnal Green Road, E.
WHITECHAPEL UNION—194 Commercial Road, E.
ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST—194 Commercial Road, E.
STEPNEY UNION—598 Commercial Road, E.
MILE-END OLD TOWN—116 Mile End Road, E.
POPLAR UNION—129 East India Dock Road, E.
ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK—9 St. George's Circus, S.E.
NEWINGTON—Vestry Hall, Walworth Road, S.E.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, SOUTHWARK—172 Tooley Street, S.E.
LAMBETH—Archbishop Sumner's Schools, Kennington Road, S.E.; and 21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
WANDSWORTH and PUTNEY—The Plain, Wandsworth, S.W.
BATTERSEA—175 Battersea, High Street, S.W.
CLAPHAM—73 Bromell's Road, Clapham Common, S.W.
CAMBERWELL—1 Grove Lane, S.E.; and Meeting-house Lane, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWICH—14 Haddington Terrace, King Street, S.E.
DEPTFORD—Mission Hall, King Street, Broadway, S.E.
WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDENHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards the expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 16 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the poor District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' of the Council.

A STRONG CASE for HALF-BINDING the NUMBERS of the *Reporter* for 1875 has been prepared by Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., New-street Square, Farringdon Street, E.O.; and can be obtained from them through all newsagents, price 1s. 4d. If the numbers for the year be sent to Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., they will be bound for 2s. 10d.

COVERS in Dark Green Cloth, for filing current Numbers of the *Reporter*, may be had of Mr. STACY, 257 Euston Road, N.W., post-free, on receipt of 1s. 3d. in postage-stamps.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 164.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 2, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

District Committees that have not stated in their returns of School Board cases the number and nature of the cases investigated but not relieved by them, are requested to send in a supplementary return of such cases to the Secretary without delay.

Mr. W. Bousfield has been elected a Representative of the Kensington Committee, in the place of Sir Alexander Gordon, M.P., resigned.

Mr. F. E. Colenso is an Honorary Secretary of the Strand Committee.

The office of the Shoreditch Committee will be open from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M., instead of from 10 to 12 A.M., as hitherto.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence is at present the only Honorary Secretary of the St. Giles' Committee. Mr. Reginald W. Smith has been elected Chairman of the Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield, in the chair; W. Bousfield, Esq., Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; C. J. Stevens, Esq., Fulham; Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Major Prendergast, Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Major Fitz-Roy, St. George's; H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); Miss Octavia Hill, Major-General Blunt, St. Marylebone; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; W. Legg, Esq., North St. Pancras; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; Reginald Smith, Esq., St. Giles's; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; H. N. Hoare, Esq., Rev. H. I. Cummins, City; Rev. H. P. Kelly, Shoreditch; Rev. J. D. McGachon, Bethnal Green; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney Union; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mile End; Rev. W. F. H. Barchell-Herne, R. Ellis, Esq., Poplar; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., A. D. Graham, Esq., St. Saviour's; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., Newington; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; R. M. Hensley, Esq., Wandsworth; J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersea; Thomas Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; A. Annesley, Esq., George Parkor, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., Lewisham; Capt. Gardner, B.N., Eltham; W. Day, Esq., H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., T. J. Phillips-Jodrell, Esq., Additional Members. Total, 60. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries. A. C. Mitchell, Esq., A. Glennie, Esq., J. W. Probyn, Esq., Visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Secretary read the following letter from the Secretary and Superintendent of the Middlesex Hospital, on the subject of the investigation of cases of out-patients, which was referred to the Administrative Committee by the Council on the 20th December last:—

I am directed by the weekly Board of Governors to thank you for your communication of the 19th inst., and to request you to be good enough to convey their thanks also to your Administrative Committee for the trouble they have taken.

Should the Board at any time decide upon making any alteration in their out-patient system, they will again communicate with you.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

(Signed) H. M. EVANS, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending January 22 the receipts had been £89. 14s. for the General Fund, and £64. 9s. for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £800. 10s. 4d. and £160. 13s. respectively.

GRANTS.

Grants of £30 and £25 were made, on account, to the Mile End and Whitechapel Committees respectively. A grant of £18. 15s. was made to the East End Finance Committee, as a quarter's salary to the collector.

GRANTS TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, with the consent of the Council, moved for returns of the grants made to District Committees. He proposed that a tabular statement should be drawn up, specifying the amounts granted, and (a) What District Committees have been always self-supporting; (b) What Committees, having received one or more grants, have since become self-supporting; (c) What Committees are still dependent on the District Committee Aid Fund for grants.

The motion was seconded and carried.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

Letters were read from 13 District Committees, containing resolutions on the question of Collection. After some discussion the Chairman stated that the question before the Council was—

The further consideration of the second of the three Resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th of November last, adjourned on the 17th instant, viz.:—

'That the Administrative Committee would recommend that the subject of a general collection of funds be treated as a separate question, but be brought forward on an early day.

'That the Administrative Committee would further recommend, that before the discussion of the subject, they should be authorised to ascertain from the richer Committees what steps (if any) they are prepared to take in the way of collecting funds in their districts for the poorer Committees.'

Mr. Hollond had moved, 'That the recommendation of the Administrative Committee be adopted;' and Mr. Willis-Bund had moved as an amendment, 'That the principle of recommendation of the visits to Offices Sub-committee be adopted without further delay.'

The Rev. H. I. Cummins then resumed the debate, by saying that it had been intended by Mr. Willis-Bund and himself that the question should be adjourned to Monday, the 24th, when both would have been present. Mr. Bund wished to institute a collection from the centre, and he was himself

inclined to take the same view, for he thought great advantages would accrue to the Society from it. Yet it was impossible not to see that there were great difficulties in the adoption of such a plan. It was evident, from the letters which had been read from the District Committees, that the richer were opposed to central collection, while the poorer were in favour of it. A great saving would certainly be effected. It was moreover, apparent that there were districts which could not supply funds for their Committees—where it was quite hopeless for Committees to look to their neighbours for support. And, on the other hand, there were districts which raised more than their own Committees needed—a fact which was proved by the support given to the District Committee Aid Fund. It was necessary now that those Committees which were more than self-supporting should get more than they required for their own use, while at the same time the poorer Committees collected as much as they could in their own districts, in order to require extraneous aid as little as possible. As matters stood, Committees in the richer districts were not raising much more than was necessary to supply their own needs. If the Society undertook the collection, one of two principles would have to be adopted: either the Committee must have a sort of delegation from the Central Council, administering charity in the poorer districts, or the persons who acted as the Committee would have to be relieved from the responsibility which pressed upon all who had to raise the money they expended. There would be in this a tendency to extravagance, and a tendency to lessen local interest in the work. So many difficulties were in the way of a central collection, both in regard to the richer and poorer districts, that he would suggest that eventually such a plan as that adopted in the City might prove to be the most advantageous. It would be advisable, therefore, to defer the question for a year, till it had been ascertained from experience whether the collection in the City of London produced satisfactory results.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said this subject was fully discussed at the end of 1872 and the beginning of 1873. Lord Lichfield moved, on December 16, 1872:—

That in the interests of the Charity Organisation movement generally, and with a view to the most equitable distribution of funds contributed for charitable purposes, it is expedient that all appeals for support be made from one centre.*

To this he had himself moved the following amendment:—

That the necessary funds for the local and general purposes of the Society should be raised exclusively by collections made by the various District Committees in their respective areas, and such voluntary subscriptions from public persons and bodies as may be received by the Council.†

The motion and amendment were debated for several days, there being adjournment after adjournment, and finally an amendment by Mr. Miner was carried by 24 to 14, and as a substantive motion by 21 to 11, and this was—

That in the opinion of the Council the District Committees should continue to collect funds exclusively within their respective areas, and employ them, as now, at their own discretion; but that all appeals for funds to the general public be made exclusively by the Council.‡

The speaker then proceeded to call attention to the question of raising money on the one hand by the District Committees, and on the other by the Council, during the four years between 1870 and 1874. In this matter two points were to be noted—first, that though a great deal of discussion had taken place formerly as to the respective limits of the collection of the Council and of the District Committees, yet since the resolution had been passed the collection of funds had been made by them, each in their respective spheres, without clashing. The next point was the amount collected by the District Committees and that collected by the Council. The two amounts

stood more than three to one in favour of the districts, the latter having collected £35,256, while the Council had collected £10,576, which was the more remarkable, because the District Committees had collected their amounts without making any general appeals, while the Council had made appeals to the public through *The Times* and other channels of public opinion. It was no wonder that the District Committees had been more successful; they were 37 to 1. The District Committee had a vast, varied, ready-made, and for the most part a voluntary and unpaid machinery employed in collecting: the Council could never have more than a few paid collectors.

The Chairman, Members, and Honorary Secretaries of the District Committees were known to and trusted by thousands of persons in their respective localities, to whom the Council or even the Society was a mere abstraction. It was through District Committees that the benefits of the Society were dispensed, and they were consequently looked upon with greater popular favour than a body like the Council, which merely revised and checked, and had nothing to do with the administration of relief. The District Committees also knew the quarters in which application could be made with the greatest prospect of success. They knew the liberal givers who only needed a good case to be brought to their notice. They knew the local charitable funds and the objects to which they could be applied. They had the support of local newspapers, and the assistance of the local clergy, the magistrates, and the tradesmen, and could make even a house-to-house collection, or a voluntary rate, towards which the action of the District Committees was constantly tending. It was a mistake to suppose that what were called the 'poorer districts' of London were destitute of resources: they were in fact the industrial parts of London, with great communities of working men, implying large industrial establishments; and if it were an object to the heads of these establishments to diminish pauperism and to promote habits of industry and self-respect, the District Committees had a great claim upon their support. Therefore, merely as a financial arrangement, it was a great advantage to the Society that the District Committees should be held primarily responsible for the collection of its funds, and it might be well doubted whether a sufficient collection could be secured in any other way. To forego this advantage would be disastrous: the District Committees would become careless in their expenditure and extravagant in their estimates (for only those who spend their own money can be expected to be economical), and the Council would be so constantly occupied in considering and revising estimates that it would probably become a mere Finance Committee.

London had a population as large as Scotland, and larger than Holland, and required an administration on statesman-like principles; it would not answer to deal with all districts alike. No principle less strong than that of local responsible administration would work in this vast mixed metropolitan population, and if it were abandoned the Society would dwindle and gradually disappear from sight, as other societies had done. He maintained that the District Committees were the Society, and the Council was only a representative body of the Committees for certain limited purposes of regulation and revision. On one point only had the existing system of collection failed. The Committees of wealthy parts of London had not been sufficiently sensible of their obligation to contribute towards the general expenses of the Society. Some had given only insignificant sums. Others had begun well, but their zeal had cooled. Had it not been so, this discussion could not have arisen. Now the City had come to the rescue, and there was no doubt, that if all the wealthy parts of London in East and West did their duty, ample funds would be obtained for carrying out the objects

* *Reporter*, December 18, 1872, p. 189, Vol. i.

† *Reporter*, January 22, 1873, p. 10, Vol. ii.

‡ *Reporter*, February 5, 1873, p. 18, Vol. ii.

Society. He announced that he should, at the proper time, move the following amendment:—

in the opinion of the Council the District Committees should collect not only for their own local purposes, but also for the general service of the Society; and each District Committee should transfer to the Council at stated intervals such portion of the funds collected by them as is not required in their respective districts, to be available for the general expenses of the Society, and for subsidising such poorer districts as may require assistance. And that this resolution be referred to the Administrative Committee to suggest the best mode of giving effect to it.

A short discussion arose as to the position this amendment would take; and then

Rev. R. J. Simpson urged the Council to be extremely cautious not to adopt any extreme course of action. The majority of the Committees should be left intact: it was not only the richer Committees only which might find collection from the centre inconvenient; the poorer Committees also would be at a disadvantage. The Society was working on a principle natural to and recognised by the English mind—of local self-government. He urged delay.

Fuller, who hoped that the principle of the recommendation would not be adopted, moved the following amendment, which he subsequently withdrew, viz.:—

A Sub-Committee be appointed to consider and report in what way the present system of collection can be improved.

Russell Barrington urged that though there were 37 Committees, yet the principles of the Society were the same, and the administration ought to be the same in St. George's East as in St. George's West. There could not be a house collection all over London if the collection were undertaken by the Council. Each Committee should be enabled to the Society for its collection; they should each do all they could. More than this it was impossible to do, unless there was a definite scheme before the Council.

After some remarks from Mr. C. E. Maurice,

Seton-Karr urged that the proposed alteration was not a radical, but a fundamental change; for if the District Committees had not the management of their finances, local interests would die out. He questioned if so much would be collected from the centre as had been collected by the Committees; as an instance of the feeling of the Committees, he said his own, in which on most occasions there was great divergence of opinion, had been unanimous in their opposition to the proposal. Mr. Fitz-Roy said that there seemed to be a prevalent opinion that the adoption of the Sub-Committee's recommendation would lead to the collection of funds by the Council, but that did not follow. There was no reason why collection of funds should not be made by the District Committees, and devoted to the work of the Society all over London. As the case stood, there were many offices which had no second officer, and consequently the work which they had undertaken was not efficiently performed.

Phillips Jodrell said that from what some members had stated he had understood that the abolition of the powers of the District Committees was contemplated; but Major Lloyd had pointed out that it was with a view to carrying out the principles of the Society and an equitable distribution of help of the poor by the rich—and not the mere collection of funds in the West to be distributed in the West, that a change was never proposed.

Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mr. Wightman-Wood (who spoke for the more thorough execution of the present plan of collection), Mr. Edgcombe, Major Prendergast, Mr. Miner, and other members spoke.

The Chairman then said that hitherto the two arguments of the members had been—if funds are collected by the Council, the collection will be smaller; and if funds are collected by the Committees and not by the District Committees, the local interest in their work will be destroyed. He wanted

to show that this principle of collecting from the centre arose from the Sub-Committee's Report. The Sub-Committee had stated, 'That having in view the vital importance of providing everywhere adequate machinery, and of securing uniformity in action—especially where this has to do with the administration of relief—the work of collecting funds be undertaken by the Central Office.' It was quite evident, both from this and on other grounds, that a different system of collection must be adopted. The Society should be a Metropolitan Society, and if it did not become this, the District Committees would be responsible. It would be well, therefore, that the Council should consider the question fully before it came before them in a practical shape—for when the time arrived for decision they would have to decide it on a broader principle than that on which they had hitherto worked, and would have to prove that they had not made light of the responsibilities which they had accepted as a Society. He should be sorry to see the amendment pressed. The matter was far too important to be settled without more deliberation.

Mr. Willis-Bund's amendment was then put and negatived.

Sir Charles Trevelyan pressed his amendment, which the Chairman had ruled to be in order, and subsequently moved the adjournment of the debate to the 7th of February.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, January 29, 1876:—*Donations*: S. Baxendale, Esq., £5; Rev. G. C. Bell, £2. 2s.; 'Cassix,' £5; J. Donovan, Esq., £5; George Hanbury, Esq., £5; Arthur Hill, Esq., £1. 1s. *Annual*: M. N. Buttanshaw, Esq., £1. 1s.; Colonel L. Gardiner, £1. 1s.; Capt. Hon. R. W. Grosvenor, £5; Dr. Hawksley, £2. 2s.; Lord Francis Hervey, M.P., £1. 1s.; H. W. Hoare, Esq., £2. 2s.; W. W. Moore, Esq., £2; Sir R. M. Stephenson, £2. 2s.; H. Sugg, Esq., £1. 1s.; E. Thornton, Esq., £2. 2s.; Major P. Turbervill, £5. *District Committee Aid Fund*: Mrs. Innes, £2. 2s.

The following business stands for Monday, the 7th inst.:—

I. The further consideration of the second of the three Resolutions of the Administrative Committee of the 25th of November last, adjourned on the 17th and again on the 31st ultimo, viz.:—

'That the Administrative Committee would recommend that the subject of a general collection of funds be treated as a separate question, but be brought forward on an early day.'

'That the Administrative Committee would further recommend that, before the discussion of the subject, they should be authorised to ascertain from the richer Committees what steps (if any) they are prepared to take in the way of collecting funds in their districts for the poorer Committees.'

Together with (a) the motion of Mr. J. R. Holland:—

'That the recommendation of the Administrative Committee be adopted.'

And the following amendments (b) moved by Sir Charles Trevelyan:—

'That in the opinion of the Council the District Committees should collect funds, not only for their own local purposes, but also for the general service of the Society; and that each District Committee should transfer to the Council, at stated intervals, such portion of the funds collected by them as is not required in their respective districts, to be available for the general expenses of the Society and for subsidising such poorer districts as may require assistance.'

'And that this resolution be referred to the Administrative Committee to suggest the best mode of giving effect to it.'

(c) Moved by Mr. Russell Barrington:—

'That this Council being of opinion that some change is required in the mode of collecting funds, it be resolved that a Sub-committee be appointed by the Council to consider and prepare some definite scheme, to be laid before this Council as soon as possible.'

(d) Moved by Mr. Peters:—

1. 'That each Committee collect funds within its own district, to the utmost extent of its ability, and pay them to the bankers of the Society,'
2. 'That an estimate of its requirements be made by each Committee at the beginning of the year, and considered by the Finance Sub-committee, who will include in their Annual Budget the sums which they recommend to be placed at the disposal of each Committee.'

3. 'That whatever sums Council may sanction on such recommendation be paid quarterly out of the available funds of the Society, by order of the Administrative Committee, unless they see grounds for proposing any change to Council.'

II. 'To consider the following recommendation of the Administrative

Committee on the second paragraph of the recommendation of the Joint Sub-committee, which was referred back to the Administrative Committee on the 17th ult., viz.:-

'That the work connected with District Committees be separated and kept distinct from the work of the Organising Secretary; that it be controlled by the Districts' Sub-committee, and be in charge of the Secretary; and that the Assistant Organising Secretary be under his direction, and be styled "Assistant Secretary."

To consider the following recommendations of the Administrative Committee:-

III. 'That, in order to save time, District Committees requiring grants should, as soon as possible after the 30th of September, send in an estimate of their receipts and expenditure for the whole financial year, and not for the quarter, as hitherto.'

IV. 'That working members of District Committees be eligible for membership of the Districts' Sub-committee, even though they may not be Members of Council.'

V. 'That a grant of £30 be made to the Mile End Committee, in completion of the grant previously applied for.'

VI. 'That a grant of £35 be made to the Bethnal Green Committee, in completion of the grant previously applied for.'

VII. 'That a grant of £25 be made to the St. Saviour's Committee.'

VIII. 'That donations of £10 be given to Mr. Howgrave and to Mr. Curth, in consideration of their services during the past year.'

IX. The following motion by Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, the debate on which was adjourned on the 3rd of January, viz.:-

'1. That whereas by the Acts 25 & 26 Vic. cap. 43 ss. 1 and 10, and 31 & 32 Vic. cap. 122, ss. 13-23 and 42, the Guardians of the Poor are empowered to provide for the maintenance, education, and training of all the indigent afflicted classes, both children and adults—namely (1) the blind; (2) deaf; (3) dumb; (4) lame children; (5) deformed children; (6) idiotic; (7) imbecile; (8) insane—by sending them to either public or charitable institutions, and paying their full cost therein; and ever since 1832, by the Act 4 & 5 Wm. IV., cap. 76, sec. 66, in the case of blind and deaf and dumb children, they may be maintained without its being considered in the nature of parochial relief to the parents.

'2. And whereas Parliament has also empowered the Metropolitan Asylum Board, by the Act 30 Vic. cap. 6, s. 5, and they may be compelled by the Local Government Board, to provide, at the cost of the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, asylums for both children and adults; (9) the sick; (10) insane; (11) infirm; (12) "and other class or classes of the poor:"

'3. While under the same powers the Metropolitan Asylum Board may provide (13) dispensaries; (14) proper places for the sick poor to obtain medical advice; (15) medicines and appliances; (16) surgical treatment and appliances:

'4. And under the same Act managers of Metropolitan District Board Schools may build, and maintain out of the Metropolitan Common Fund, and in the country (under the Act of 1844), out of the Union Common Fund, District Schools for maintaining all poor children, including the afflicted classes:

'5. And since School Boards, wherever established, must provide elementary day schools, and may remit the fees for the poor, and Guardians may pay the fees without its being deemed parochial relief for (18) all poor children, not excluding the afflicted, and may also build and keep up or pay the full cost in existing (19) industrial schools of all poor neglected children, not excluding the afflicted—

'6. A committee be appointed by the Council to consider this legislation, which provides charitable assistance out of the public rates, and how far the voluntary charities dealing with the afflicted and neglected classes may avail themselves of it, and assist in carrying out the intentions of the Legislature for the benefit of these classes of the poor.'

X. Mr. Day to move—

'1. That an Honorary Referee—the title given to the Honorary Organising Secretary and Representative Member of the Council for Sydenham—be recommended by the Council for each of the District Committees.

'2. That the seven East-End District Committees, with six offices (only about 10 minutes' walk apart, and which cost the Council in grants last year £906, including £105 for Permanent Loan Funds) be recommended so to unite that three offices may suffice, adopting the plan so economically and successfully carried out at Sydenham, for the Sydenham and Forest Hill districts, during the past six years.'

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE BLIND.

The Special Committee on the Industrial Training and Welfare of the Blind held its thirty-ninth and last meeting on Wednesday, January 26, at the Central Office.

There were present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), Colonel Fyers, Dr. Armitage, Dr. Hawksley, Messrs. F. J. Campbell, T. L. Clarke, D. Conolly, W. Harris, E. Johnson, C. A. Miner, R. Bruce Reid, T. L. Shadwell, G. Martin Tait, and W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and he was authorised to sign the report.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underlying	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Authorities	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospital, &c.			
Kensington	5	2	4	11	5	1	6	5	...	5	22	13	7
Fulham	2	1	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	5	8	2	3
Paddington	2	3	3	8	5	...	5	5	6	1	26	25	4
Chelsea	3	...	3	3	1	1	2	4	6	3	23	2	3
St. George's—													
St. George's Division.	2	2	3	7	1	2	3	6	...	6	18	6	...
Westminster do.	...	9	9	...	1	4	5	6	2	1	28	4	2
Westminster:—													
St. James's & St. Anne's	4	3	...	7	1	1	2	...	...	...	9	3	7
St. Marylebone	5	2	6	13	10	3	13	3	...	3	29	7	14
Hampstead	1	1	2	...	2	...	2	1	...	1	6	...	3
North St. Pancras and													
Highgate	1	2	...	3	2	...	2	...	...	...	5	4	4
South St. Pancras	3	4	4	11	8	5	13	...	...	1	25	4	3
Islington	4	2	2	8	15	1	16	1	...	1	29	11	4
Hackney	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	5	6	...	2	...	2	...	...	1	9	2	3
Strand	...	3	3	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	5	6	13
Holborn	1	3	4	...	11	...	11	3	1	...	19	5	14
City	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	4	5	6	22
Shoreditch	1	4	5	...	3	0	3	7	1	...	16	2	8
Bethnal Green	5	1	4	10	2	2	4	4	2	3	23	5	7
Whitechapel	1	6	3	10	2	1	3	...	...	9	14	5	13
St. George's-in-the-East	...	3	3	...	2	...	2	...	...	2	7	...	2
Stepney	3	2	3	8	1	...	1	...	1	2	11	15	4
Mile End Old Town	...	3	3	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	3	1	10
Poplar	...	2	2	...	1	1	2	...	...	2	6	1	...
St. Saviour's	1	1	8	10	4	...	4	...	1	2	16	2	4
Newington	2	3	3	8	1	...	1	...	...	1	10	3	4
St. Olave's	2	1	3	...	6	...	6	...	...	1	10	3	3
Lambeth:—													
North	1	4	5	...	2	...	2	...	...	2	13	2	3
South	2	2	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	10	1	5
* Wandsworth & Putney	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Battersea	3	8	11	...	...	...	8	...	1	9	20	...	...
Clapham	1	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	4	6	1	7
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	2	...	2	...	7	...	7	...	...	2	14	...	4
Peckham	2	2	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Greenwich	1	4	5	1	2	1	4	3	4	2	18	4	11
Deptford	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	4	6	1	3
Woolwich	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7
Lewisham	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	3	4	...	6	...	13
Eltham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Sydenham	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	1	1	2	9
Total	46	44	99	189	8	100	25	133	79	21	10	23	133
											452	170	189

* No return received from this Committee at the time of going to press.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of January 1876 was 37,261, and 51,687 received outdoor relief, making a total of 88,948. This was an increase of 1,524 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873 this was a decrease of 10,968, 17,960, and 22,742 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 484. This was an increase of 35 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 46 on the corresponding day of last year.

ERRATUM.—St. George's Union Committee, third line, second notice, page 17, *Reporter*, January 26, 1876—read 'Compton' instead of 'Cavondish.'

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 165.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 9, 1876.

WITH EXTRA HALF-SHEET.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

District Committees are reminded that all applications for the investigation of cases by the Mendicity Society must be made through the Central Office.

The Office of the Westminster Union Committee will be open from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. daily, instead of from 11 A.M. to 12 and from 3 to 4 P.M., as formerly.

The Hon. W. W. Vernon has been elected representative of the St. Giles' Committee in the place of Mr. R. A. Kinglake. Lord Eliot is President of the Committee. Mr. Hamilton Hoare has undertaken the office of Honorary Secretary of the Committee conjointly with Mr. W. F. Lawrence.

Mr. F. B. Montgomerie has been elected Chairman of the St. Saviour's Committee, in the room of Viscount Folkestone, M.P., resigned, and Mr. Allen D. Graham has been elected a representative of the Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; Major Yarl, J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Wm. Bousfield, Esq., Major Prendergast, Lieut.-Col. Sanford, Major Fitz-Roy, St. George's; H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); Major-General Blunt, Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Wm. Legg, Esq., North St. Pancras; Lady Wilson, South St. Pancras; H. Matthews, Esq., Islington; Reginald Smith, Esq., Hon. W. Warren Vernon, St. Giles's; H. Hill, Esq., Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Capt. Fortescue, Holborn; H. N. Hoare, Esq., Rev. H. I. Cummins, City; Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; C. L. Corkran, Esq., Whitechapel; Russell Barrington, Esq., A. G. Crowder, Esq., St. George's-in-the-East; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Hon. H. R. Scott, Mile End; Rev. W. F. H. Burchell-Herne, Ralph Ellis, Esq., Poplar; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's; B. R. Balfour, Esq., St. Olave's; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; F. Green, Esq., J. H. Warl, Esq., Battersea; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; G. Parker, Esq., Lewisham; H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham; Lord Vernon, W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-Presidents; General Cavenagh, Vice-Chairman; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., C. A. Miner, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., Additional Members; total, 52. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries; Rowland Hamilton, Esq., W. R. Glennie, Esq., Visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Secretary read letters from the North St. Pancras and Sydenham Committees on the question of collection from the centre.

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY NURSES.

The following letter from Mr. A. G. Crowder was read:—

There are vacancies for three nurses in the Workhouse Infirmary of St. George's-in-the-East. Salary £20 with board, residence, and uniform dress. I believe that respectable women willing to learn, but not having had experience, would not be rejected. I have already recommended two persons for these posts, and should be happy to give all necessary information to any Hon. Secretary with regard to those still vacant.

RETURNS.

A tabular statement of the amounts granted to District Committees, with other particulars, moved for by Sir Charles Trevelyan, was submitted to Council,* together with a complete return of the sums expended by District Committees in dealing with cases referred to them by the Divisional Committees of the School Board during the quarter ending December 31st, 1875, in accordance with the arrangement made with Mr. Peek.†—(Vide p. 30.)

Major Fitz-Roy called attention to a 'Letter to my Fellow-workers,' by Miss Octavia Hill; he thought it was well worthy of the perusal of all members of Council and of District Committees, and of all interested in the work of the Society. He quoted the following sentence:—

But the Charity Organisation Society must secure abundant and wise relief where needed, and it must stop that which is injurious. To accomplish these two ends, it must win the confidence of private donors and relief agencies. Besides this, if its investigations are to be trustworthy and effectual, and gently conducted, they must be watched over by persons of education and with deep sympathy for the poor.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending January 29 the receipts had been £47. 15s. for the General Fund, and £189. 15s. 10d. for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £650. 0s. 4d. and £93. 7s. 5d. respectively.

CONVALESCENT HOMES.

The Secretary stated that he had lately received many applications from District Committees for letters for Convalescent Homes, and that he would be glad if members would send him letters for deserving cases. The Administrative Committee had suggested that District Committees should keep lists of the subscribers to the principal Homes and Hospitals, and write when occasion arose to subscribers resident in the District. Mr. J. R. Holland had made an identical suggestion, in answer to a question, in June 1873. By this means those Committees in whose District resident subscribers were numerous, could give valuable assistance to Committees that were less fortunate.

GRANTS.

Grants of £30, £35, and £25 were made to the Mile End, Bethnal Green, and St. Saviour's Committees respectively.

Donations of £10 were given to Mr. Howgrave and to Mr.

* Vide p. 28.

† Reporter, April 21, 1875, pp. 62-74, Vol. iv.

Curths, in consideration of their extra services during the past year.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

Sir Charles Trevelyan resumed the debate by stating his objections to the following amendment, of which Mr. Russell Barrington had given notice, viz. :—

That, this Council being of opinion that some change is required in the mode of collecting funds, it be resolved that a Sub-Committee be appointed by the Council to consider and prepare some definite scheme, to be laid before this Council as soon as possible.

It was not necessary, after so long a discussion, to refer the question of the mode of collection to a Committee: it was the recognised duty of each District Committee to collect as much as possible, and retain only what was sufficient for its own use. He objected also to the amendment of which Mr. Peters had given notice, inasmuch as, if it were adopted, the District Committees would not have the expenditure of their own money. He considered that the 37 District Committees, with the Central Council to secure harmonious action, were evidence of the satisfactory progress that had been made in the organisation of charity. The Council and the District Committees had been a most efficient agency for the education of men and women interested in charitable work, and, though their work was criticised, their utility was recognised by the public. The chief difficulties of the Society had been overcome; it knew what remained to be done, and had the means to accomplish it. He moved as an amendment :—

That, in the opinion of the Council, the District Committees should collect funds, not only for their own local purposes, but also for the general service of the Society; and that each District Committee should transfer to the Council, at stated intervals, such portion of the funds collected by them as is not required in their respective districts, to be available for the general expenses of the Society and for subsidising such poorer districts as may require assistance.

And that this resolution be referred to the Administrative Committee to suggest the best mode of giving effect to it.

Adding, with the permission of Council, the following clause :—

And that the Administrative Committee be authorised to consult the District Committees on any points connected with the subject.

Mr. C. A. Miner seconded the amendment. He recalled the attention of Council to their resolution on the collection of funds by District Committees in February 1873. Soon after that resolution had been passed, an influential and most careful Committee on Appeals* had been appointed, which issued a series of reports. They had not, however, ventured to determine which was the best out of the many methods of collection that might be proposed, and did not adopt the suggestion that they should inquire into and compare the methods practised by other Societies. Since then, District Committees had given the Society at large but little assistance, from want of thought rather than from want of sympathy. It was obvious that a poor Committee should not invade a rich district and flood it with appeals; but, at the same time, none of the Committees laid before the residents in their District any detailed information of the work of the Society as a whole—of the efforts we were making, and the good we were doing, on behalf of the four and a half millions of London and the country at large. Few realised that we required money; we seldom made appeals, and we made our appeals ineffective by asking for the expenses of the Council as for a Society busy in debate, instead of actively engaged in suppressing imposture, and struggling face to face with pauperism.

* *Vide Reporter*, February 19, 1873, pp. 27, 45, 91, 122, Vol. ii.

He could not indorse Sir Charles Trevelyan's commendations of the accomplished work of the Society. He felt that we must secure the aid of trustworthy men and women of all classes—the labourers and the artisans; that we must have better District Committees and—what would require larger funds—two active competent officials in each of our offices.

The Hon. W. Warren Vernon said that as long as each Committee collected for itself, the Society would be disunited and weak. He pointed out that large proprietors must conceive a prejudice against the Society, when, having property in different parts of London, they received appeals from each of the local Committees in those parts, as well as from the Council.

Mr. T. J. Phillips Jodrell said that there was one fatal objection to the amendment. It would leave to the option of the individual Committees how much they required for their own use, and how much they should transfer to the use of the Society at large. It followed that poorer Committees, unable to meet their own wants, would be unjustly dealt with, while the richer would be permitted to injure the Society and their own districts by a lavish distribution of relief. It was an invariable rule that those who decided should not be parties interested in the decision. And if it was objected that, in taking away from the District Committees the control over the money they collected, the inducement to make an active collection was removed, it was time to withdraw from any attempt to organise charity and unite in hearty co-operation. The only plan he believed would be to collect from the extremities, and form a single fund for the whole Society.

Mr. Willis-Bund said that the only result of the adoption of the amendment would be the continuance of a recognised failure. Would a small Committee have discretion to give its quota to the 'general service of the Society'? or could we rely on its handing over a certain sum 'at stated intervals'? We wish to strengthen the Society, and yet we are placing the Council under the control of a few rich Committees.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson thought this only a new form of the old question—Are our Committees to be trusted as individual units—independent members of a great body? It was sufficient that the Committees were honest and patriotic, to ensure that the obligation to collect for the general service of the Society would be binding. Mr. Jodrell's proposal was both impracticable and unpleasant. The Committees would be liable to the suspicion of swelling their estimates, and the Council of doling out grants with parsimony.

Major Prendergast having explained the position of the St. George's Union Committee, which had not been fairly represented,

Mr. Russell Barrington objected that Sir Charles Trevelyan's amendment would bind the Council down to a particular policy before the Council had determined what policy was best. It would be better that the Council should discuss some definite scheme which had been previously well considered by a special Committee.

Mr. J. R. Holland showed that while the reasons for a change in the mode of collection stated in the Report of the Visits to Offices Sub-committee were not altogether satisfactory, yet the amendment did not amend the faults of the present system which were there mentioned. The objections to a central collection were that less money would be collected, and that it would be difficult to apportion the money when collected. What the advocates of centralisation really wanted was a guarantee that the District Committees should be made thoroughly efficient.

Mr. H. H. Hill said that it would be far more easy for the

public to realise the unity of the Society if, for purposes of collection, the claims of the Committees were merged in those of the Council.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen disapproved entirely of any collection from the centre. The conjunction of the East-end Committees for the sake of a combined collection had reduced the Bethnal-green Committee to dependence.

Lord Lichfield observed that throughout the discussion there was a manifest fear of the dictation of the Council consequent on a collection from the centre. Members seemed to forget they were representatives, and acting for the public good as one body. Sir Charles Trevelyan's amendment would leave things much as they were. If he did not intend to do away with the District Committee Aid Fund, he would perpetuate the confusion in the mind of the public as to the unity of the Society, and make it no easier than at present to appeal on behalf of it as a whole. No one could feel satisfied with a system under which the Committees would collect more than was required for their own use, and hand over the remainder; and the probable consequence would be that the Council would receive for the poorer districts just so much as the rich Committees did not absolutely require. The Society had to reform the out-relief system; but so long as the Guardians gave only so much as would keep a poor man out of the house, and the District Committees were unable to give him enough to make him independent, the poor could not be made to rely on our organisation, and the work of the Society would remain unfulfilled. When the time came, he was prepared to move the following resolution, which would lead to a definite and practical solution of the difficulty:

That the system, under which each District Committee has hitherto collected funds within its own district, and expended them without reference to the means and requirements of other parts of the Metropolis, has interfered with the establishment of a thoroughly efficient and reliable machinery for investigation, and has produced marked irregularities and inconsistencies in the distribution and administration of the Society's funds.

That such results being entirely at variance with the principles upon which the Society was started, the present arrangement for collecting and distributing the funds required for the use of the various District Committees is unsatisfactory, and requires amendment.

Sir Charles Trevelyan's motion was put, and negatived.

Mr. Russell Barrington then moved the amendment of which he had given notice. It was seconded by General Blunt, and carried.

Mr. E. Peters said that the object of his amendment was to give a greater unity to the Society, and to maintain at the same time the vitality of the Local Committees. It was impossible to rely on coercion or power of the purse in the hope of carrying out reforms. Members must feel that they deliberate and decide in Council as representatives of the interests of their Committees. He moved, as an amendment:—

1. That each Committee collect funds within its own district, to the utmost extent of its ability, and pay them to the bankers of the Society.
2. That an estimate of its requirements be made by each Committee at the beginning of the year, and considered by the Finance Sub-committee, who will include in their Annual Budget the sums which they recommend to be placed at the disposal of each Committee.
3. That whatever sums Council may sanction on such recommendation be paid quarterly out of the available funds of the Society, by order of the Administrative Committee, unless they see grounds for proposing any change to Council.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. H. H. Hill.

General Cavenagh suggested that the scheme proposed was of too stringent a nature—it would be better for a Committee to consider the details, and perhaps enter into arrangements with individual Committees, similar to that made with the City.

Miss O. Hill was inclined to support the amendment. Rich Committees ought to acknowledge that the first charge on

their funds was the support of the Society. It was difficult, under the present system, to hand over the money collected by a District Committee to the Society at large; for, unless the donor had expressed a wish that the Committee should turn it to what it considered to be the best account, it was necessary to reserve it for local purposes.

After a few words from Lord Lichfield, Mr. Peters withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Russell Barrington's amendment was then put and carried as a substantive motion, viz.:—

That this Council being of opinion that some change is required in the mode of collecting funds, it be resolved that a Sub-committee be appointed by the Council to consider and prepare some definite scheme, to be laid before this Council as soon as possible.

The question of the appointment of a Sub-committee in accordance with the motion was postponed to the 14th instant.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, February 5, 1876:—*Donations*: Dyers' Company, £5. 5s.; F. Ricardo, Esq., £5. 5s.; Mrs. Walker, £2. 2s. *Annual*: J. Beddoe, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss Frith, £1. 1s.; Harrison Hayter, Esq., £2. 2s.; J. B. S., £5; Miss Morse, £1. 1s.; Lord Algernon Percy, £5; W. H. G. Salter, Esq., £1; Michael Wills, Esq., £10. *District Committee Aid Fund*: St. George's Committee, £100; W. H. G. Salter, Esq., £1.

The following business stands for Monday, the 14th inst.:—

I. To appoint a Sub-committee in accordance with the resolution of Council of the 7th inst., viz.:—

'That, this Council being of opinion that some change is required in the mode of collecting funds, it is resolved that a Sub-committee be appointed by the Council to consider and prepare some definite scheme, to be laid before this Council as soon as possible.'

II. To consider the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee on the second paragraph of the recommendation of the Joint Sub-committee, which was referred back to the Administrative Committee on the 17th ult., viz.:—

'That the work connected with District Committees be separated and kept distinct from the work of the Organising Secretary; that it be controlled by the Districts' Sub-committee, and be in charge of the Secretary; and that the Assistant Organising Secretary be under his direction, and be styled "Assistant Secretary."'

To consider the following recommendations of the Administrative Committee, viz.:—

III. 'That, in order to save time, District Committees requiring grants should, as soon as possible after the 30th of September, send in an estimate of their receipts and expenditure for the whole financial year, and not for the quarter, as hitherto.'

IV. 'That working members of District Committees be eligible for membership of the Districts' Sub-committee, even though they may not be Members of Council.'

V. To consider a motion by Mr. W. M. Wilkinson on 'the effect of existing legislation upon the Charities for the Blind, Idiotic, and other afflicted and neglected classes of the poor,' the debate on which was adjourned on the 3rd of January and postponed on the 7th instant.—*Vide Reporter*, January 5th, 1876, p. 1; and February 2nd, 1876, p. 24.

VI. Mr. Day to move:—

1. That an Honorary Referee—the title given to the Honorary Organising Secretary and Representative Member of the Council for Sydenham—be recommended by the Council for each of the District Committees.

2. That the seven East-End District Committees, with six offices (only about 10 minutes' walk apart, and which cost the Council in grants last year £906, including £105 for Permanent Loan Funds), be recommended so to unite that three offices may suffice, adopting the plan so economically and successfully carried out at Sydenham, for the Sydenham and Forest Hill districts, during the past six years.'

VII. Lord Lichfield to move:—

'That the Council cannot countenance or knowingly permit the employment of District Committee agents in work directly or indirectly connected with any political party or organisation.'

VIII. To receive the report of the Special Committee on the Training and Welfare of the Blind.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE AID FUND.

RETURN OF GRANTS MADE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES OUT OF THE ABOVE FUND,
AND OTHER INFORMATION,

MOVED FOR BY

SIR CHARLES TREVELYAN.

January 31, 1876.

Districts	Grants made in the undermentioned Years						Total of Grants since the commencement of the Fund	Remarks
	1872	1873	1874		1875			
	General purposes	General purposes	General purposes	Permanent Loan Fund	General purposes	Permanent Loan Fund		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Kensington.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Always self-supporting.
Fulham	25 0 0	60 0 0	170 0 0	25 0 0	120 0 0	..	400 0 0	Dependent on the Fund.
Paddington.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Always self-supporting.
Chelsea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Do. do.
St. George's (Hanover Square) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Do. do.
Westminster Union :—								
St. James and St. Anne's	..	..	..	..	37 0 0	..	37 0 0	Dependent on the Fund.
St. Marylebone	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Always self-supporting.
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Do. do.
North St. Pancras and Highgate ..	..	30 18 0	50 0 0	25 0 0	50 0 0	..	155 16 0	Dependent on the Fund.
South St. Pancras.....	..	32 10 0	65 0 0	..	88 0 0	..	185 10 0	Do. do.
Islington	..	50 0 0	55 0 0	25 0 0	70 0 0	..	200 0 0	Do. do.
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Always self-supporting.
St. Giles's	..	40 0 0	30 0 0	..	25 0 0	..	95 0 0	Dependent on the Fund.
Strand	..	..	32 10 0	..	..	..	32 10 0	Self-supporting.
Holborn	..	70 0 0	80 0 0	25 0 0	85 0 0	..	260 0 0	Dependent on the Fund.
City	..	31 9 6	126 0 0	..	97 10 0	..	254 19 6	See Reporter, No. 146, page 145.
Shoreditch	25 0 0	100 0 0	50 0 0	25 0 0	90 0 0	..	290 0 0	Dependent on the Fund.
Bethnal Green	30 0 0	49 0 0	155 0 0	..	135 0 0	..	369 0 0	Do. do.
East End Inquiry Committee* ..	55 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	55 10 0	
Whitechapel & St. George's East*	25 0 0	45 0 0	140 0 0	25 0 0	..	..	235 0 0	
Stepney & Mile End Old Town*	..	135 0 0	190 0 0	25 0 0	..	..	350 0 0	
Whitechapel	..	..	..	..	145 0 0	20 0 0	165 0 0	Dependent on the Fund.
St. George's-East	..	..	..	..	60 0 0	20 0 0	80 0 0	Do. do.
Stepney	..	..	..	..	124 0 0	15 0 0	139 0 0	Do. do.
Mile End Old Town	..	..	..	..	150 0 0	25 0 0	175 0 0	Do. do.
Poplar	..	149 10 0	100 0 0	..	95 0 0	25 0 0	369 10 0	Do. do.
East End Financial Committee..	..	..	82 5 0	..	56 5 0	..	138 10 0	1874 and 1875.
St. Saviour's	..	..	50 0 0	..	110 0 0	..	160 0 0	Dependent on the Fund.
Newington	..	57 19 0	..	..	20 0 0	..	77 19 0	Do. do.
St. Olave's	..	60 3 2	67 0 0	..	180 0 0	..	267 3 2	Do. do.
Lambeth	25 0 0	92 10 0	..	15 15 0	60 0 0	..	193 5 0	Do. do.
Wandsworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Always self-supporting.
Battersea	..	60 10 0	25 0 0	..	..	..	85 10 0	Self-supporting.
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Always self-supporting.
Camberwell	..	41 0 0	35 0 0	..	20 0 0	..	96 0 0	Dependent on the Fund.
Greenwich	..	15 0 0	..	..	..	..	15 0 0	Self-supporting.
Deptford	..	16 10 0	3 0 0	..	15 0 0	..	34 10 0	Dependent on the Fund.
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Always self-supporting.
Lewisham	..	7 7 0	..	..	..	..	7 7 0	Self-supporting.
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Always self-supporting.
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Do. do.
	185 10 0	1144 4 9	1505 15 0	190 15 0	1782 15 0	105 0 0	4913 19 9	

ABSTRACT :—

Number of Committees always self-supporting	12
Do. do. which have become self-supporting	4
Do. do. dependent on the Fund	20
Special arrangement with the City Committee	1
Total	37

* The East End Inquiry Committee was opened in February 1871, and continued to be the only office for five of the East London Poor Law Divisions (viz., Whitechapel, St. George's-in-the-East, Poplar, Stepney, Mile End Old Town), till February 1873, when the joint Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East Committee, and the Poplar Committee were formed. The East End Inquiry Committee became, in April 1873, the Stepney and Mile End Old Town Inquiry Committee. In March 1875 separate Committees were formed at Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East, but they continue to make use of only one office. In April 1875 separate Committees were formed in Stepney and Mile End Old Town. The East End Finance Committee was formed early in 1874.

NDON AND SUBURBAN FIRE BRIGADE AND DISABLED FIREMEN'S RELIEF AND PENSION FUND.

Thursday afternoon, the 3rd inst., Joseph Kinsman, 32, attired in a suit of fireman's clothes, was placed at the bar, before Mr. Lushington, with obtaining, and attempting to obtain, money from various persons in the district of this Court by representing himself to belong to the 'Fire Brigade,' and as collector to two sham societies, called the 'London and Suburban Fire Brigade,' and 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.'

George Lewis, junr., instructed by Mr. Ribton-Turner, prosecuted on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society; the prisoner was undefended.

Witness, in opening the case, said he was instructed by the Charity Organisation Society to prosecute the prisoner for committing extensive and gross frauds on the public. The Charity Organisation Society had been for a long time endeavouring to break up one of the most insidious ever committed on the public. Only a month ago, a man similarly to the prisoner, named Gregory Seecombe, brother to the President, and Treasurer to these sham societies, was convicted of a like offence, and sentenced to three months' hard labour. It might be said that after the exposure by the press, and in consequence of that had come before the public during the examination of that no more would be heard of these sham societies; but it came to the ears of the Society that the prisoner was going round collecting money from the metropolis, and, unfortunately for him, he fell into the hands of Detective-sergeant Bell, who apprehended Seecombe. That active officer took him into custody, and found books on him showing that he had collected nearly four hundred pounds for these sham societies during the last year, and he had no vouchers to show what had become of the money. He reminded his Worship that the secretary was a bankrupt, and published no accounts. A vast number of documents were in the possession of the prisoner, which he had not been able to examine carefully, he should call the detective-sergeant and another witness and remand, in order that the prisoner might be brought before the Court, who had so thoroughly investigated the affairs of these societies, and expressed, in strong terms, his opinion on their frauds.

Mr. Brett, who said, I am a tanner, and carry on business at No. 5, 12, 13, Bermondsey. I know the prisoner as coming to my office in last year asking for a subscription for the 'Fire Brigade.' But it was for the firemen of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I gave him a receipt, and his name was entered in a book. On Tuesday morning he came again into my office and said, 'Mr. Brett, I have in for your subscription for the Fire Brigade.' I gave him 2s. 6d. for the receipt produced, and then left the place. Some time after was gone Sergeant Bell called on me, and in his presence I the receipt, and found it to be for 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.' I should not have given him the money had I not been collecting for the 'Metropolitan Fire Brigade.'

Mr. Lushington, to the Prisoner: Do you wish to ask this witness any question?

Prisoner: Yes, sir. Did I not tell you that it was for the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.'

Mr. Lushington: No. You said for the fire brigade, and I thought it was for an association of the men belonging to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Prisoner: I have nothing more to ask you at present.

Mr. Lushington: Bell said: I am a detective sergeant of the M division. On Tuesday evening last I happened to call on Mr. Brockies, leather merchant, at 173 Bermondsey Street, on particular business, when I saw the prisoner enter the counting-house with a book in one hand and a pen in the other, and an ink-bottle fastened to the button of his coat. I stood so that I was not able to recognise him. I heard him say, 'I have come for your subscription for the "Fire Brigade," and produced his book, and to write out a receipt, when Mr. Brockies said "Stop! I have read in the newspaper lately respecting a swindle by "sham firemen," and I think I shall give you any more money.' I then came forward to the prisoner, and by what authority do you go about collecting for the "Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund?" He said, 'I know you, Mr. Bell. The secretary, Mr. Seecombe, sent me out funds for that Society, and here are my books, &c., authorising me to do so.' I said 'Very well, let me look at your books.' Witness took the book out of his hand, and saw the entries of several tradesmen and the neighbourhood for various small sums. I asked him if he had the book. He said 'I have not.' I said, 'Do you mean to say only that receipt book?' He pulled out a book from his pocket, and said 'That's my collecting book.' Witness took it from him and said 'I shall take you in custody for obtaining money by false and fraudulent pretences.' He said, 'What do you mean, Mr. Lushington, I charge you with fraud, and you must go with me to the Court.' I searched him, and in a pocket-book I found slips cut out of the newspapers of the examination and conviction of Gregory on the 5th of January, and of that of C. S. Bore, on 7th August

1874. I also found a list of subscribers and the counterpart of another receipt-book. The collecting-books found on him show that he had received £378 during the year for the London and Suburban Fire Brigade and the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.' I further searched him, and found £22. 12s. 10d. in gold and silver on him. I have since received several receipts, showing that the prisoner had obtained money from other parties who were not now in attendance. Witness handed them up to his Worship for inspection.

Mr. Lushington: Have you the counterfoil of one for 2s. 6d. received from a Mr. W. Winter, No. 8510, January 22, 1876?

Sergeant Bell: No, Sir; It is not among the prisoner's papers.

Mr. Lushington (to the prisoner): Have you any questions to ask this witness?

Prisoner: You say it was in the evening when you saw me enter Mr. Brockies'. Why, it was half-past one, as I had only just had my dinner.

Sergeant Bell: I don't know what time you dine; it was after four when I took you into custody.

Mr. Lewis: I now ask your Worship to remand the prisoner until Tuesday, as I understand Mr. Benson will be here on that day, and he knows all about these sham societies, and the frauds committed by men like the prisoner.

Prisoner: I object to your remarks. I am an authorised collector, and I have a witness in Court to prove it. Mr. Baily, the clerk, is present to prove that.

Baily: Oh, yes; he is the authorised collector. The man who was convicted by Mr. Benson last month was not.

Mr. Lewis: I object to this person making any remark, as he is concerned in the frauds. Mr. Benson has carefully investigated the proceedings of these sham associations, and has expressed his opinion that they were gross frauds. Seecombe, the secretary, president, and treasurer, was a bankrupt, and had no money or funds whatever.

Sergeant Bell recalled: I can't find any such association as the Fire Escape Association in existence.

Mr. Lushington (to the prisoner): Do you wish to say anything about that?

Prisoner: There is no such society. I admit that, Sir.

Mr. Lewis: I have in my hand the prospectus of a 'Fire Escape Association. J. Kensman, Secretary, 16 Holborn. I suppose the prisoner knows all about that.

Prisoner: There was such an association, but it is not now in existence.

Mr. Lushington: Well, prisoner, I have heard quite enough to grant Mr. Lewis a remand. You are therefore remanded until Tuesday next.

SIXTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH CHARITABLE FUND, BRUSSELS.

The following report was read at the recent annual meeting of the British Charitable Fund, Sir Henry Barron, Bart., being in the chair:—

'Notwithstanding a reduction in the amount of subscriptions, as compared with the previous Report, the Committee have the satisfaction of stating that the general condition of the Society remains favourable.

'The applications for aid during the year have been numerous, and in certain instances of a more serious character than usual; whilst the assistance rendered has greatly exceeded the limit formerly imposed on the Society by the precarious nature of its resources, and has proved, it is hoped, of permanent benefit to many of the recipients. A considerable sum has been expended on casuals, and in forwarding, in some cases, entire families to England.

'As a consequence, probably, of the disorganised state of labour at home, the number of English workmen seeking employment abroad has been greatly beyond the customary average, and the relief afforded to this class has been in a corresponding degree important.

'In connection with the numerous appeals to the Society, the Committee consider themselves called upon to direct general attention to the continually increasing number of young English females annually arriving in Belgium. Misled for the most part by the specious and designing representations of interested individuals, and reduced to a state of destitution and its too frequent consequences, they have, very generally, to be forwarded to their homes at the expense of the Fund. So serious has the evil become that the Committee earnestly appeal to the public press, in order to arrest, if possible, a danger which, even in a modified form, renders the expediency of young persons entering families abroad, without satisfactory reference, in the highest degree doubtful.

'In order, as far as possible, to prevent imposition, communication has been established with various charitable institutions on the Continent, and with the London Charity Organisation Society; it is also considered necessary to caution the public against private claims on their benevolence, and to suggest that applicants be referred to the Committee, whose sources of information are extensive, and who consider it their duty to investigate all cases offered by subscribers to their notice; and in no case whatever are applicants authorised, in soliciting private relief, to make use of the name of any member of the Committee.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, FEB. 5, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
Kensington	1	1	6	8	5	3	4	2	8	14	29	10	4
Fulham	1	1	2	4	5	3	2	1	3	6	4	4	5
Paddington	2	1	2	5	9	3	2	1	3	6	23	21	12
Chelsea	1	1	3	5	7	7	3	1	2	6	18	7	8
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	1	3	4	8	2	2	1	1	1	2	28	10	4
Westminster do.	1	1	8	10	1	1	3	1	1	5	5	5	5
Westminster:—													
St. James & St. Anne's	1	4	5	10	5	5	2	1	1	2	12	5	12
St. Marylebone	4	9	13	26	10	6	2	2	6	10	39	11	9
Hampstead	1	2	3	6	4	4	1	1	1	1	8	1	2
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	2	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	7	5	1
South St. Pancras	2	5	7	14	3	13	1	1	1	1	21	8	8
Islington	2	1	2	5	13	13	2	1	2	2	26	16	19
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	9	1	1	1	1	12	2	6
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	2	8	11	1	9	1	1	1	1	19	1	8
Strand	9	9	4	1	5	5	5	1	5	19	1	8	8
Holborn	1	3	4	14	14	14	3	1	3	3	21	6	14
City	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	3	8	2	14
Shoreditch	1	1	1	3	1	1	8	1	8	8	25	5	5
Bethnal Green	3	1	6	10	4	4	4	1	6	11	25	5	5
Whitechapel	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	3	9
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	3	5	2	1	1	1	3	3	11	14	14
Stepney	3	3	3	9	1	2	1	1	1	1	7	9	7
Mile End Old Town	1	3	4	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	3	12
Poplar	4	3	2	9	1	4	1	1	1	1	15	2	11
St. Saviour's	1	1	5	7	1	1	2	2	1	5	12	8	9
Newington	5	2	7	14	3	3	1	1	2	3	13	7	7
St. Olave's	2	3	5	10	2	3	1	1	2	3	13	1	6
Lambeth:—													
North	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	1	4
South	3	3	3	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	7
Wandsworth & Putney	2	1	3	6	1	1	3	1	4	4	8	4	10
Battersea	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	10
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	10
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	1	1	2	4	3	3	2	1	3	3	11	1	3
Peckham	1	2	3	6	1	1	5	5	2	12	16	5	20
Greenwich	3	3	3	9	1	1	3	3	3	3	16	5	20
Deptford	1	2	3	6	2	3	3	1	1	5	13	4	3
Woolwich	1	1	2	4	2	3	3	1	1	5	13	2	2
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	5	17
Eitham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	21
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Total	36	23	106	165	36	91	29	156	66	22	16	31	135
											456	159	245
												101	

SAVINGS BANKS.—The National Debt Commissioners report that on the 15th of January 1876 their accounts showed £42,344,566 standing to the credit of the (trustee) savings banks of the United Kingdom, and £25,955,130 to the credit of the Post Office Savings Banks. The total is £68,299,696, which is upwards of £3,200,000 more than at the corresponding period last year.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of January 1876 was 37,405, and 51,744 received outdoor relief, making a total of 89,149. This was an increase of 201 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873 this was a decrease of 10,500, 8,266, and 22,666 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 581. This was an increase of 97 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 151 on the corresponding day of last year.

PAUPERISM.—The average number of paupers relieved on the last day of each week in the quarter was 682,367, of which 136,079 received in-door and 546,288 outdoor relief. The number of in-door paupers was less by 2.0 per cent. than in the corresponding period of 1874; the decline of outdoor paupers was equal to 7.1 per cent. The average weekly number of in-door and outdoor paupers was 978,001 in 1874, whereas pauperism has since steadily declined, and in 1875 the average weekly number was but 714,208, showing a decrease of 27 per cent. from the number in 1870. The decline of in-door paupers during these five years was equal to 10 per cent., and of outdoor paupers to 30 per cent. In 1870 there were 5.5 outdoor paupers to each workhouse inmate; in 1875 this proportion had declined to 4.3.

RETURNS OF SCHOOL BOARD CASES FOR THE DECEMBER QUARTER OF 1875.

Five District Committees had no cases:—

Hampstead
St. George's-in-the-East
Clapham
Eltham
Sydenham.

Two District Committees had cases, but expended no money on relief:—
Mile End one, and
Lambeth (South) one.

Thirty-two District Committees expended money on the relief of cases:—

No money expended on	Money expended on	Total number of cases	
12	2	14	Kensington £ 2 1 4
0	4	4	Fulham 6 10 0
1	1	2	Paddington 4 19 3
1	1	2	Chelsea 0 14 2
21	3	24	St. George's (Hanover Square) 0 10 0
5	4	9	Westminster (St. James's & St. Anne's) 1 14 0
5	1	6	Marylebone 3 17 0
0	1	1	North St. Pancras 1 0 0
12	17	29	South St. Pancras 0 17 9
3	5	8	Islington 41 11 8
7	8	15	Hackney 5 18 6
2	3	5	St. Giles's 4 10 0
1	15	16	Strand 1 10 0
4	9	13	Holborn 11 0 0
5	14	19	City 19 11 10
5	17	22	Shoreditch 11 16 9
27	14	41	Bethnal Green 9 8 6
0	3	3	Whitechapel 6 16 0
6	1	7	Stepney 0 9 11
6	7	13	Poplar 9 6 5
19	7	26	St. Saviour's 5 0 8
11	11	22	Newington 3 7 3
6	4	10	St. Olave's 5 7 0
10	5	15	Lambeth (North) 3 16 0
0	1	1	Wandsworth 0 7 0
0	5	5	Battersea 2 4 0
2	19	21	Camberwell { Grove Lane 9 5 6
0	3	3	{ Peckham 1 15 6
2	2	4	Greenwich 0 19 0
7	10	17	Deptford 3 9 1
0	17	17	Woolwich 6 17 4
0	1	1	Lewisham 0 12 3
180	215	395	Total amount expended £187 13 10

January 21, 1876.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

66. WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 16, 1876. WITH EXTRA HALF-SHEET. PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

Seventh Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in Rooms on Wednesday, March 22nd, at 3 P.M.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

District Committees which have not yet sent in copies of Annual Reports to the Central Office are requested to send them with as little delay as possible.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Wm. Bousfield, Esq., F. Combe, Esq., Kensington Committee; C. J. Stevens, Esq., Fulham; J. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., W.S. Seton, Esq., Chelsea; Lord Claude Hamilton, Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Major Fitz Roy, St. George's; F. C. Mills, Esq., Westminster (St. Anne's); Major-General Blunt, Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Miss Collett, Southwark; Hon. W. Warren Vernon, St. Giles's; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Strand; Rev. W. T. Thornhill-Webber, Capt. Fortescue, R. Barker, Esq., Holborn; Rev. H. I. Cummins, City; Rev. H. G. Hennessy, H. P. Kelly, Shoreditch; Rev. Septimus Hansard, Rev. J. D. Bethnal Green; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran, Esq., City, Whitechapel; Russell Barrington, Esq., St. George's in the East; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Hon. R. Scott, Mile End; R. Ellis, Esq., F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's; Thornton, Esq., Newington; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; R. W. Esq., Wandsworth; J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersay; T. Galabin, Esq., Berwell; A. Annesley, Esq., G. Parker, Esq., Lewisham; W. Day, Esq., C. A. Barry, Esq., Sydenham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Kent; A. H. Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Esq., George Blount, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., J. W. W. Wightman-Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 100. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries; P. E. Nichol-J. Barber, Esq., Visitors.

QUESTIONS.

3. Fuller asked if 'any Hon. Secretaries called the attention of their Committees to any useful information that contained in the Annual Reports of District Committees, or any other publications connected with the Society,' that he had been present at a recent meeting of the Committee, at which the Hon. Secretary read extracts from Reports which contained suggestions for the improvement of District work.

Major Blunt said that parts of Reports were sometimes used at the meetings of the Marylebone Committee. They derived use of one useful hint in the last Report of the Committee—'the inquiry into cases relieved in the last twelvemonth, with a view to testing the final results upon which had been given to applicants.'*

* Vide p. 35.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending February 5 the receipts had been £39. 18s. for the General Fund, and £101 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £520. 5s. 1d. and £104. 7s. 5d. respectively.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS: APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

The appointment of a Sub-committee in accordance with the following resolution of Council of the 7th inst. was then discussed, viz.—

That, this Council being of opinion that some change is required in the mode of collecting funds, it is resolved that a Sub-committee be appointed by the Council to consider and prepare some definite scheme, to be laid before this Council as soon as possible.

A letter was read from Sir Charles Trevelyan, proposing that, each of the Committees having appointed a Representative, the 37 Representatives should choose a Sub-committee of six to sit as nearly as possible *de die in diem*, and report without delay.

Mr. Russell Barrington submitted a list of 13 members, whom he moved should be appointed members of the Sub-committee. He had carefully selected them. He did not intend the Sub-committee to be representative, but to be composed of hardworking members well versed in the business of the Society. They would have to devise that plan of collecting the funds of the Society which might be considered best under present circumstances; they were to obtain information and to receive the opinion of each Committee, but not to decide on behalf of the Council. Sir Charles Trevelyan's proposal was too cumbersome and would involve delay.

Mr. A. H. Hill thought that the suggestion made by Sir Charles Trevelyan was good in principle. He would propose that the system of poor law division be adhered to, and that the Sub-committee be composed of five members, one chosen by the Hon. Secretaries of each poor law division. He would move this as an amendment.

Sir Charles Trevelyan considered that, as it was a question of principle on which the Sub-committee had to prepare a definite scheme, it would be well that the 37 Committees, being in fact semi-independent, should feel that the subject was to be debated both impartially and through the medium of representatives. The delay that would be incurred was exaggerated; in a week's time the Sub-committee might commence its sittings. If a Sub-committee were chosen at once, members who held extreme views might be selected, one member a makeweight, as it were, against another.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson hoped that Mr. Barrington would reduce the number to seven; and Major Prendergast urged the Council to select those members who had served on a variety of Committees, and were acquainted with the work of the Society rather than that of a District Committee only.

Mr. A. H. Hill's amendment, having been seconded, was

put and negatived. Eventually it was determined that the number of the Sub-committee be reduced to seven, that five be a quorum, and that the selection of the members be left to Mr. Barrington.

The following members of Council were then appointed members of the Sub-committee: The Chairman of Council, General Blunt, Captain Boyce, Rev. J. D. McGachen, Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, Mr. R. M. Hensley, Mr. Russell Barrington; the Rev. J. D. McGachen taking the place of Major Fitz Roy, whose name had been proposed by Mr. Barrington, but who was unable to serve.

WORK CONNECTED WITH DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

Mr. J. R. Hollond moved the adoption of the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee, viz. :—

'That the work connected with District Committees be separated and kept distinct from the work of the Organising Secretary; that it be controlled by the Districts' Sub-committee, and be in charge of the Secretary; and that the Assistant Organising Secretary be under his direction, and be styled "Assistant Secretary."

He explained that the Organising Secretary had given the Society the very greatest assistance in founding District Committees. This part of the work of organisation having been completed, other important matters, such as inquiries into fraudulent charities, the Bill for the prevention of Frauds on Charitable Funds, and the organisation of night refuges, necessarily occupied his attention. There would be in these, and in other similar most delicate and difficult matters, full scope for Mr. Ribton-Turner's tact and ability. The division of work was merely a useful administrative change.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in seconding the adoption of the recommendation, said that the Society owed to Mr. Ribton-Turner the original construction of its District Committees. The work connected with these had outgrown the powers of one man, already fully occupied with what was a most useful public work—inquiries and prosecutions; for the perverters of charities deserved the same treatment as forgers, or those who embezzled public or private funds.

Mr. A. H. Hill said that he feared that the change had been proposed in consequence of the prevalent sensitiveness of the District Committees to prompt interference. He would vote for the recommendation, with the addition of the words, 'and that the title of the Organising Secretary be Secretary—Investigation and Inquiry Department.'

Mr. Hill's amendment was seconded, put and lost; and, an amendment by Mr. Wightman Wood having been negatived, the recommendation was adopted.

ESTIMATES.

Mr. E. Peters moved the next recommendation of the Administrative Committee, viz. :—

'That, in order to save time, District Committees requiring grants should, as soon as possible after the 30th of September, send in an estimate of their receipts and expenditure for the whole financial year, and not for the quarter, as hitherto.'

He said that such a method would ensure early notice of the possible wants of the Committees, and would allow the funds at the disposal of Council to be most fairly apportioned. District Committees would continue to make application from time to time as at present, and account for their expenditure; the time of the Society also would be saved, for there would not be in each year repeated discussions on the estimates of each Committee.

The Rev. H. G. Henderson seconded the motion; and the words 'in order to save time' having been omitted at Mr. Barrington's suggestion, the recommendation was adopted.

THE DISTRICTS' SUB-COMMITTEE.

The adoption of the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee was then moved by Major Fitz Roy, seconded by the Rev. J. D. McGachen :—

'That working members of District Committees be eligible for mem-

bership of the Districts' Sub-committee, even though they may not be Members of Council.'

Mr. A. H. Hill pointed out that the proposal was of a most unusual nature. The Sub-committee could, not strictly speaking, be composed of any who were not members of the Administrative Committee.

Mr. Wightman Wood disclaimed any wish to keep out of the Sub-committee any who were really working for the Society on the District Committees. But he considered that the Council ought really to be composed of those at work on the Committees; and in that case the workers might be members of the Sub-committee. If representatives at Council did not attend, the Committees should see to it, and improve both the Council and, indirectly, the Sub-committee, by electing energetic men in the place of their absentee representatives.

Mr. C. A. Miner said that all Committees should adopt the plan in vogue at the St. George's Union Committee, the representatives of which give due notice to the Hon. Secretary if they cannot attend at Council, and another representative is then temporarily appointed. The Rev. J. D. McGachen had mentioned that the Sub-committee might be the means of interesting and drawing together the younger workers in our districts. It was a sign of the weakness of Council that it was not truly representative; it should be constituted of men who had leisure to attend frequently.

Mr. H. H. Hill thought that the younger members of the Society should come forward; if they did so, the composition of Committees might be more varied and the Society strengthened both at the centre and at the extremities.

Major Fitz Roy said that the recommendation was made because younger members did not attend the Administrative Committee. He thought the matter required further consideration.

The recommendation was then referred back to the Administrative Committee.

HONORARY REFEREES.

Mr. W. Day then moved the first of the two motions of which he had given notice, viz. :—

'That an Honorary Referee—the title given to the Honorary Organising Secretary and Representative Member of the Council for Sydenham—be recommended by the Council for each of the District Committees.'

He compared the work of the Honorary Referee to that of the managing director of a company. At Sydenham the Hon. Secretary received all letters and conducted the correspondence; the Treasurer kept and accounted for the use of the funds; the Hon. Referee superintended their collection. He arranged the time and order of the collector's visits and supervised his books, and reported each week to the Committee. The result was a great economy of time, money, and labour.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe seconded the motion, rather to promote a discussion than because he approved of it. The East End and other Committees were in want of hon. secretaries who had sufficient time for conducting the business of their offices. To merely recommend that they should each have one more honorary officer would obviously produce no result whatever.

After a few words from Mr. Wightman Wood and Major Fitz Roy, the motion was put and lost.

EAST END DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

Mr. Day then moved :—

'That the seven East End District Committees, with six offices (only about 10 minutes' walk apart, and which cost the Council in grants last year £906, including £105 for Permanent Loan Funds), be recommended so to unite that three offices may suffice, adopting the plan so economically and successfully carried out at Sydenham for the Sydenham and Forest Hill districts during the past six years.'

He said that in the large district of Sydenham and Forest Hill it had been found practicable to carry on the work of

the Society most efficiently with one Committee and office, situated three-quarters of an hour's walk from the offices of the Poor Law. The Dispensary, at which 9,118 patients attended in the course of the year, was used as the office of the Committee from 12 to 2 daily, and from 4 to 5. He concluded that three offices would be enough for the 7 East End Districts and that one room was sufficient for the business of each Committee.

Mr. E. Peters said that the result of the separation of the Stepney and Mile End Committees had been a larger attendance at both; and the Rev. H. P. Kelly added that, while Mr. Day's statement respecting the relative distances of the Committees from one another was incorrect, a comparison between the East End Districts and Sydenham could not hold good. In Shoreditch alone there was a population of 130,000. The returns in the last *Reporter* showed how small a number of cases were dealt with by the Sydenham Committee. No inquiries had been made for other districts, and no reports had been sent out in the week ending February the 5th.

Mr. Russell Barrington stated that it was very often difficult to obtain a suitable central position for an office in the East End. The Whitechapel Committee was obliged to have offices outside the Poor Law district.

Mr. C. A. Miner said that more numerous offices were required. The assistance of busy men must be obtained, and to that end the offices must be situated at convenient distances. The work of the Society had to be efficiently performed for the benefit of four and a half millions, and, indirectly, for the country at large. We should divide in order to conquer, and split our districts into minute divisions, with persons responsible in each division, working from many centres and with great detail. He thought the plan of sharing a room, which had been found so successful and economical at Sydenham, might be adopted by other committees with great advantage.

Mr. R. Ellis said that an office in the north of the Poplar district was much wanted.

Mr. J. R. Hollond thought that the Council should expressly state their opinion that these offices were useful; he would move the following amendment:—

'That in view of the large population comprised in the seven East End Districts, and the need of carrying out the principles of the Society as effectually there as in other parts of London, the Council does not consider the number of offices established in those districts out of proportion to the work required to be done.'

Mr. C. E. Maurice seconded the amendment, and, after some words from Mr. Day in reply, the amendment was carried with only one dissentient vote.

[A discussion on the Organisation of Charity in East London will be found in the *Reporter* of May 20, 1874, Vol. iii. p. 259.—Ed.]

The motion of Mr. W. M. Wilkinson on Legislation for the Afflicted Classes was postponed to the 21st instant, on the understanding that it should stand first in the order of business for that day.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, February 12, 1876:—*Donations*: Miss Archer, 2s. 6d.; Lieut.-General F. Johnston, £5; Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd, £2; R. Somervell, Esq., £1; 'L. C. T.', £10. *Annual*: Capt. Hamilton Aidé, £2. 2s.; Miss Hall, £1. 1s.; Lord Claud Hamilton, £3. 3s.; The Duchess of Leeds, £5; H. B. Praed, Esq., M.P., £2. 2s.; W. M. Praed, Esq., £5. 5s.; H. Robson, Esq., £10; Miss H. M. Ward, £1.

The following business stands for Monday, the 21st inst.:—
I. To consider a motion by Mr. W. M. Wilkinson on 'the effect of existing legislation upon the Charities for the Blind, Idiotic, and other afflicted and neglected classes of the poor,' the debate on which was adjourned on the 3rd of January and postponed on the 7th and 14th instant.—*Vide Reporter*, January 5th, 1876, p. 1; and February 2nd, 1876, p. 24.

II. To consider the following alterations in the Bye-laws, recommended by the Administrative Committee in accordance with the resolution of Council of the 24th of January last, viz.—

'That the Administrative Committee should be held in a greater degree than heretofore responsible for the general business of the Society:—

(A) Instead of Bye-law 4, viz.—

[4. All business shall, with the following exceptions, come up to Council through the Administrative Committee.

Exceptions.

(a) Letters announcing the appointment of representatives or other members of Council, received after the meeting of the Administrative Committee.

(b.) (*Vide Reporter*, December 9, 1874, and *infra*.)

(c) Secretary's report of any matter of special interest for the Council, or for District Committees, not set out in the report of the Administrative Committee.

(d.) Statements by members on subjects of special interest to the Society.

(e.) Questions.

(f.) Reports of Committees]—

The following Bye-law, viz.—

4. The following business shall be submitted to Council by the Administrative Committee.

(a.) Questions of general principle.

(b.) Appeals from decisions of the Administrative Committee.

(c.) The annual financial statement, or budget estimate, and any charges in excess of the expenditure therein authorised, as well as any changes in the establishment relating to the superior officers of the Society.

(d.) Reports of Special Committees appointed by Council.

(e.) Matters especially referred to Council by the Administrative Committee for information or decision.

(B) Instead of Bye-law 5—

[5. The order of Council business shall be as follows:—

(a.) Minutes.

(b.) Correspondence.

(c.) Secretary's report.

(d.) Statements by members.

(e.) Questions by members who are present.

(f.) Report of Administrative Committee.

(g.) Recommendations of Administrative Committee brought up for adoption.

(h.) Notices of motion.

(i.) Reports of other Committees.

(k.) Motions.

But the Chairman shall at any time be at liberty, with the consent of the Council, to vary the order of the subjects upon the Agenda Paper]—

The following Bye-law, viz.—

5. The order of Council business shall be as follows:—

(a.) Minutes.

(b.) Correspondence.

N.B.—No correspondence shall be read at the meeting of Council, unless it be absolutely urgent, or be specially directed by the Administrative Committee to be so read, as bearing upon some point of general interest as regards the working of the Society. (*Vide Reporter*, December 9, 1874.)

(c.) Statements by members on subjects of special interest to the Society.

(d.) Questions by members who are present.

(e.) Minutes of the Administrative Committee.

(f.) Reports, recommendations and references from the Administrative Committee.

(g.) Questions submitted by the District Committees in accordance with Bye-law 7.

(h.) Appeals from decisions of the Administrative Committee.

(i.) Reports of Special Committees.

(j.) Notices of motion.

(k.) Motions.

But the Chairman shall at any time be at liberty, with the consent of the Council, to vary the order of the subjects upon the Agenda Paper.

(C) Bye-law 8—'Question,' to be read as follows:—

8. The questions referred to in Bye-law 5 (d) shall be in writing, and shall relate only to peculiar cases coming under the notice of the District Committees, or to subjects in regard to which the information and experience of other members or Committees are desirable. In these cases the Chairman shall allow short answers to be made, but not more than one quarter of an hour shall be devoted to this head;

The words 'to practice or' having been omitted after the word 'only' in the second line.

(D) Bye-law 17—'Report of Administrative Committee,' to be read as follows:—

17. The minutes of the Administrative Committee shall be read each week for information, but recommendations shall be distinguished therein from orders passed upon the responsibility of the Committee, and, except in cases of business expressly referred to the Administrative Committee by the Council, or that may be ruled by the Chairman to be urgent, recommendations shall be read at one meeting and discussed at the next, notice being given in the *Reporter* in the interval;

The words 'read each week for information' in the first line taking the

place of the words 'shall be considered as a report read each week for adoption.'

(E) Instead of Bye-law 28—'Duties of the Administrative Committee,' viz.—

[28. The duties of the Committee shall include:—

- (i.) Consideration of weekly financial statement.
- (ii.) Consideration of correspondence.
- (iii.) Consideration of Organising Secretary's report. All questions of fundamental principles which may arise out of such report to be brought up for the decision of Council.
- (iv.) Consideration of statistics, and any other information which may be supplied by the District Committees.
- (v.) Superintendence of working machinery of Central Office, as detailed in each of the following sub-divisions.
 - (a.) Books and forms suggested for general use.
 - (b.) Duties of clerks and officers.
 - (c.) General work of the office.
 - (d.) Notices of motion to be submitted to the Council.

N.B.—The Committee shall arrange the order in which motions are to be brought forward, giving precedence to those relating to Council business, and to matters of urgent importance, and placing those relating to the Society at large next. It shall also have power to fix a day and hour for the introduction of any subject of general interest.]—

The following Bye-law 27, in which Bye-law 19—'Prosecutions'—has been incorporated as paragraph vi. :—

27. The duties of the Committee, as the executive body of the Society, shall be:—

- (i.) To carry on all the business of the Society not specially reserved by Council, and to exercise the necessary supervision over its officers.
- (ii.) To prepare the budget estimate for submission to the Council; to pass all accounts not involving unauthorised expenditure; and to sanction all necessary changes amongst the subordinate staff of the Society.
- (iii.) To pass orders with regard to all expenditure authorised under the budget estimate; to make transfers; when necessary, from one minor head of accounts to another, and to revise salaries of subordinate officers, so long as the totals of expenditure are not exceeded.
- (iv.) To make grants to District Committees, provided such grants shall not exceed £100 to any one Committee in each year.
- (v.) To report any matter of interest or importance for the information of Council.
- (vi.) To decide as to the prosecution of street-beggars, begging-letter writers, and impostors, the following rules being observed:—
 - (a.) The prosecution of street-beggars shall be left to the District Committees; also the prosecution of impostors and begging-letter writers, whose operations are not known to extend beyond the area of one District Committee.
 - (b.) The persons or societies immediately concerned in any case shall, if possible, be induced to prosecute, it being understood that this Society will always afford such assistance as the circumstances may appear to require.
 - (c.) In cases in which the interests of the public appear to render prosecution desirable, and in which no one else will undertake it, the Committee shall consider the propriety of prosecuting.
 - (d.) No prosecution shall be authorised by the Committee unless an opinion has been previously obtained from the legal advisers of the Council as to the probability of securing a conviction.

N.B.—The Committee shall consider the agenda for Council arrange the order in which the motions are to be brought forward, giving precedence to those relating to Council business, and to matters of urgent importance, and placing those relating to the Society at large next. It shall also have power to fix a day and hour for the introduction of any subject of general interest.

(F) Bye-law 28—'Powers of Administrative Committee,' to stand thus:—

28. The Secretary shall be authorised to carry out orders of the Committee, as distinguished from recommendations, without waiting for the adoption of such orders by Council; The words 'and the Committee shall be at liberty to pass orders with regard to all expressly authorised expenditure, and with regard to fresh expenditure not exceeding £5,' having been omitted.

III. That a grant of £35 be made to the Poplar Committee.

IV. To receive the report of the Special Committee on the Training and Welfare of the Blind.

V. Lord Lichfield to move:—

'That the Council cannot countenance or knowingly permit the employment of District Committee agents in work directly or indirectly connected with any political party or organisation.'

VI. Mr. Wightman Wood to move:—

'That it be an instruction to the Sub-committee on the Collection of Funds to make it part of their scheme that the District Committees in their

respective districts and the Council throughout the country generally be permitted to collect funds without restriction, in any manner that may seem expedient to them.'

VII. Mr. W. M. Wilkinson to move:

'That the Council should adopt means of warning the public as to those charities which it has ascertained to be unworthy of public support, either on account of fraudulent dealing with the funds, or of their professed objects being unnecessary or hurtful.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEB. 12, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Letters for Hospitals, &c.					Class total			
Kensington	5	6	4	15	1	6	4	11	2	1	1	28	16	8	9		
Fulham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	5	6	3	3	5		
Paddington	5	5	10	1	6	1	6	1	4	4	8	24	13	10	11		
Chelsea	1	1	1	2	6	1	7	1	1	2	1	4	5	2	2		
St. George's:—																	
St. George's Division.	1	1	2	1	3	4	5	1	5	5	29	7	5	6	6		
Westminster do.	8	8	1	3	1	5	3	2	5	5	5	5	4	4	4		
Westminster:—																	
St. James & St. Anne's	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4	8	4	4	4		
St. Marylebone	3	4	7	2	19	5	26	4	1	3	8	41	10	14	11		
Hampstead	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	3	3	3	3		
North St. Pancras and																	
Highgate	4	1	5	4	1	5	1	1	1	2	12	4	4	4	4		
South St. Pancras	3	5	8	16	9	4	13	1	1	1	31	3	11	4	4		
Islington	6	1	2	8	19	19	1	1	1	1	28	14	3	3	3		
Hackney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	1		
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	2	2	4	1	5	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	1		
Strand	1	3	3	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	8	12	6	6	6		
Holborn	1	4	2	17	17	17	4	1	1	5	26	10	15	2	2		
City	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	20	2	2		
Shoreditch	1	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	2	2	2	2		
Bethnal Green	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	9	5	3	3	3		
Whitechapel	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	5	5	5		
St. George's-in-the-East	2	1	2	5	3	1	4	1	1	1	9	4	3	3	3		
Stepney	1	3	7	11	2	1	3	1	1	1	18	20	1	1	1		
Mile End Old Town	1	1	6	8	1	1	4	1	1	1	4	13	6	6	6		
Poplar	1	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	9	6	1	1	1		
St. Saviour's	2	3	5	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	10	9	9	9	9		
Newington	4	2	6	12	2	2	6	1	7	21	7	2	2	2	2		
St. Olave's	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	8	6	3	3	3	3		
Lambeth:— (North)	1	7	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	8	10	10	10	10		
South	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2		
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Battersea	1	2	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	5	10	2	5	5	5		
Clapham	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	19	19	19		
Camberwell:—																	
Grove Lane	1	3	3	4	4	4	3	1	4	13	2	4	4	4	4		
Peckham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4		
Greenwich	3	1	2	6	2	2	2	4	1	7	15	2	1	14	14		
Deptford	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	3	3	5	5	5		
Woolwich	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	6		
Lewisham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	20	20	20		
Eltham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	14	14		
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1		
Total	43	33	101	177	5	122	28	155	75	16	8	11	109	441	177	185	128

* No return received from this Committee at the time of going to press.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fifth week of January 1876 was 37,339, and 51,491 received outdoor relief, making a total of 88,830. This was a decrease of 319 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873 this was a decrease of 10,664, 18,839, and 23,937 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 488. This was a decrease of 93 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 43 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

DEPTFORD.—In the column of remarks in the Tabular Statement of the District Committee Aid Fund, *Reporter*, February 9, 1876, p. 28, the words 'Dependent on the Fund' are applied to the Deptford Committee.

The Hon. Secretary of the Deptford Committee writes:—

The sum of £16. 10s. received in 1873 was never asked for by us, but was, we understood at the time, simply a distribution among the poorer Committees of a sum of money remitted to the Central Office for that special purpose. The Grant of £3 in 1874 was for the cost of a copying press, and of certain new office forms and books adopted at the special request of your visitor; and that of £15 in 1875 was for the expenses of a Public Meeting which we certainly should not have held but for a similar suggestion, with a promise that the expense should be repaid us. Excluding, then, the Donations of £16. 10s., we have received during the four years Grants amounting to £18 from the fund in question, and during the same period we have collected in our own District some £650 for the purposes of the Society; you will therefore see we cannot be considered in any sense as dependent on the Fund.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE AID FUND.

ENT SHOWING THE TOTALS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ABOVE FUND FROM DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND THE COUNCIL
SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE FUND UP TO FEBRUARY 12, 1876.

Contributors	Contributions					Total	Remarks
	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876, to Feb. 12		
m Committee	£ s. d. 50 0 0	£ s. d. 100 0 0	£ s. d. 100 0 0	£ s. d. 200 0 0	£ s. d. ..	£ s. d. 450 0 0	
n do.	..	75 0 0	125 0 0	100 0 0	..	300 0 0	
's do.	200 0 0	1,100 0 0	300 0 0	250 0 0	100 0 0	1,950 0 0	
bone do.	..	25 0 0	30 0 0	20 0 0	..	65 0 0	
do.	10 10 0	10 10 0	10 10 0	10 10 0	..	42 0 0	
	260 10 0	1,310 10 0	555 10 0	580 10 0	100 0 0	2,807 0 0	
.....	..	..	100 0 0	*200 0 0	187 13 10	487 13 10	* The £200 contributed by the Council in 1875 is exclusive of a loan of £65, which has not yet been repaid.
Totals	£260 10 0	£1,310 10 0	£655 10 0	£780 10 0	£287 13 10	£3,294 13 10	

—The following is an extract from the Sixth Annual this Committee:—‘The Committee thought it advisable to cases that had been relieved by them in the previous twelve- of 1874), with the view of testing the final results of the had been given to the applicants. A list of cases was prepared a. Some were reported on by the Agent; but the majority were o the Incumbents of the parishes within which the individuals to some lay member of the Committee. It is not altogether re- have to admit that only one-half of those on the list were found ived permanent benefit from their applications, and to be main- emselves in independence. Of the other half, some had left d could not be traced; others had come down to parish relief; l portion were evidently no longer deserving of any aid or coun- atever. If, then, good results can only be partly secured by inquiry and careful deliberation, what, the Committee may fairly be the effect of charity administered without care or forethought eggars, or to that large and increasing class of persons who tales of distress and helplessness to benevolent ladies and gen-

ISABLED FIREMEN'S RELIEF AND PENSION FUND.

day afternoon, the 8th instant, Joseph Kinsman, 32, the sham as placed at the bar, Southwark Police Court, before Mr. Ben- ther examination, charged with fraudulently obtaining moneys us tradesmen and others in the district of this Court, by repre- self as a member of the ‘Fire Brigade,’ and of the so-called Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.’ rge Lewis, jun., instructed by Mr. Ribton-Turner, prosecuted f the Charity Organisation Society; and Mr. Blanchard Wontner he prisoner. son, to Mr. Lewis: What is the charge against the prisoner? ris: He is charged with going about collecting moneys for bled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund’ from persons in of this Court, many of whom could hardly afford it, by repre- self as a ‘fireman,’ and I shall be able to show you that no such a fund is in existence. That is the false pretence, and I shall be w that no relief has been given to ‘disabled firemen,’ but that has been applied to other purposes. son: Supposing that it is so, and that the prisoner is conscious that the money was not applied to what he states, it would be y; but, if he is the tool of some other designing knave, and did f any fraud, there is no case against him. ris: I shall show you he has a perfect knowledge of the frauds, ollected himself nearly £400 during the past year for the so- abled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.’ son: How do you prove that? ris: By the books found on him by Sergeant Bell, who appre- n. The book shows £378 odd collected by him, and there is show that any relief or pension has been given to anyone, and y well knows that. The prisoner has represented himself as a whereas he was never connected with the Metropolitan Fire The prospectus he carried about with him sets forth that the e the West London Commercial Bank (Limited), Sloane Square, ere is not a shilling there, or any funds to grant relief. There

has been no balance-sheet since the year 1872, although the prisoner and others have been going about collecting sums amounting to upwards of £6,000. It is a gross fraud. These men go about, dressed like firemen sometimes, stating that they belong to the fire brigade, and thereby acting on the sympathies of the public. If I can show you that such a fraud has been carried on, and that no substantial relief has been given, I think you will agree with me that gross frauds have been committed.

Mr. Wontner: Your Worship may recollect when I was here on the occasion of Gregory Seccombe being charged before you?

Mr. Benson: Yes, I do indeed.

Mr. Wontner: Bailey, the clerk, was then called, and he proved that this man was the authorised collector, whereas Gregory Seccombe, whom you convicted, was not.

Mr. Benson: I am in the position of a jury, and must be guided by the evidence before me. I have nothing to do with the last occasion. It will be quite open to you to call Bailey.

Mr. Wontner: I shall do that, sir.

Mr. Benson, to Mr. Lewis: I think this is a case that I must send for trial. I have looked at the section of the Act, and I think that Bailey, the clerk, is in the same boat with the prisoner. You don't mean to show that he goes into a room and divides the money with Seccombe?

Mr. Lewis: It looks very much like it.

Mr. Wontner: My clients have brought an action against the Charity Organisation Society which would have been tried last term; but the Judge ordered the defendants to answer certain questions to which a rejoinder had been made, and an application has been made for an order to issue fresh interrogatories, and, pending that action, they gave the man into custody.

Mr. Lewis: We did not give him into custody. He was apprehended by Sergeant Bell, who happened to be in a house where he called for a sub- scription to the ‘Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.’

Mr. Benson, to Mr. Wontner: Why not stop sending out agents until the action is settled?

Mr. Lewis: I may as well tell you, sir, that the action is brought because the Charity Organisation Society pointed out the Society to the public as a swindle.

Mr. Benson: The case had better go on.

Mr. George McCourt was the first witness called by Mr. Lewis: He said, I am accountant to the West London Commercial Bank (Limited), Sloane Square, Chelsea.

Mr. Lewis: Is there any association called ‘The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund’ keeping an account at your bank.

Witness: No, sir. There never was any such account at this bank.

Mr. Lewis: Has a man named Seccombe kept an account at your bank?

Witness: Yes, Samuel Simpson Seccombe.

Mr. Lewis: How much have you to his credit?

Witness: Fourpence.

Mr. Lewis: How long have you had that balance?

Witness: Since the 31st of December. Nothing has been paid in after that.

Mr. Lewis: Look at your ledger, and tell me what was the balance on the 30th of November.

Witness: £3. 5s. 4d.

Mr. Lewis: How much on June 30th?

Witness: £65. 17s. 11d.

Mr. Lewis: Who drew on the account?

Witness: Mr. S. S. Seccombe.
 Mr. Lewis: Were the cheques countersigned by anyone.
 Witness: No.
 Mr. Benson: I have looked over the books found on the prisoner, and I don't see any mention of the bank.
 Mr. Lewis: That is in the prospectus which the prisoner carried about him. You will find the bank mentioned in that.
 Mr. Lewis to Mr. McCourt: How much money was paid in between June 30th and September 30th?
 Witness: £42.
 Mr. Lewis: What was drawn out?
 Witness: By October the 1st all was drawn out but £2. 10s. 10d.
 Mr. Lewis: How much was paid in since October 1st?
 Witness: About £30. That was drawn out in small sums, and on the 29th of December the account was overdrawn. A sum, however, was paid in on the following day, leaving a balance of fourpence in Mr. Seccombe's favour.
 Mr. Lewis: Do you know the prisoner?
 Witness: No, sir.
 Mr. Wontner: Have you given any information before this to the Charity Organisation Society?
 Witness: No.
 Mr. Wontner: Has anybody been to your bank from that Society?
 Witness: No. I attend here on a Crown Office subpoena. I am employed in the bank, and I am authorised by the manager to attend with the books. I don't know Mr. Seccombe. All I know is that he had an account in the bank.
 Mr. George Henry Hills, M.R.C.S., Old Kent Road, was next called: He said I was at one time surgeon to 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.' I ceased to be so in September 1874, when I requested Mr. Seccombe to erase my name from the prospectus and the books.
 Mr. Lewis: Did you ever receive any remuneration for your services?
 Witness: No, nothing at all.
 Mr. Lewis: Did you ever attend any disabled firemen?
 Witness: Yes, I attended two, and Mr. Gregory Seccombe. The names of the others were Everett and Kitson.
 When did you attend to them?
 Witness, referring to his book: Everett in May and Kitson in June 1874.
 Mr. Benson: How did you know they were disabled firemen?
 Witness: They were dressed as firemen, and I received a letter from Mr. Seccombe setting forth that they were 'disabled firemen.' One had a bad leg, and the other had been injured by a hatchet. I thought they were actually members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and that they were not assisted by that body.
 Mr. Benson: What sort of injuries were they?
 Witness: Quite recent, and such as firemen might have in their avocation.
 Mr. Lewis: What were the expenses incurred by your attending to them?
 Witness: 19s. 6d. I have sent in that account, but I have never been paid.
 Mr. Wontner: When did you send in your account?
 Witness: After I resigned.
 Mr. Wontner: Have you seen any other men of the Society?
 Witness: I can't say that I have. I only recollect these two firemen, and I firmly believed them to belong to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I have seen a prospectus since I resigned, and I did not find my name in it.
 Walter William Court was next called, and in reply to Mr. Lewis, said: I am a printer, and carry on business in Grerille Street, Hatton Garden.
 Mr. Lewis: Are you not one of the Committee of 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund'?
 Witness: I am one of them, and my name appears in the prospectus.
 Mr. Lewis: Give me the names of anyone who has received relief during January last?
 Witness: I can't inform you, as I have no knowledge of it.
 Mr. Lewis: Give me the names of anyone relieved during December, November, and October last year?
 Witness: I can't do that.
 Mr. Benson: Can you give me the name of anyone relieved?
 Witness: I can't without the books.
 Mr. Benson: When did you last attend a committee meeting?
 Witness: I can't give a date.
 Mr. Lewis: Have you attended one since you were here on the last occasion, when Gregory Seccombe was convicted?
 Witness: There was a meeting, but it was not considered a committee meeting.
 Mr. Lewis: Who attended that meeting?
 Witness: I did, and Mr. Treleving, and Mr. Harrison.
 Mr. Lewis: Who is Mr. Treleving?
 Witness: He is a watchmaker, and I believe resides at 73 Red Lion Street, Holborn.

Mr. Lewis: When was that meeting held?
 Witness: Last night—since I got the subpoena.
 Mr. Lewis: We have tried to subpoena Harrison, but we were told he had leave of absence for three days.
 Mr. Lewis: When did you attend a committee meeting before?
 Witness: About two months ago; but that was not a business meeting.
 Mr. Benson: Have you attended a committee meeting of the Society for the purpose of business during the last six months?
 Witness: I have not, and I don't know whether any relief has been voted during that time.
 Mr. Lewis: What has become of the money collected during the last six months?
 Witness: I don't know. The committee has nothing to do with the money. The Secretary attends to that.
 Mr. Lewis: Then for what purpose do the committee meet?
 Witness: To consider cases generally.
 Mr. Lewis: Have you seen a balance-sheet for 1875?
 Witness: No. I have for 1874. The one for 1875 has never been issued.
 Mr. Lewis: Why not?
 Witness: I can't say.
 Mr. Lewis: Who audited the balance-sheet for 1874?
 Witness: Mr. Harrison.
 Mr. Lewis: Do you know the prisoner?
 Witness: Yes, I have known him about two or three years.
 Mr. Lewis: What is he?
 Witness: Collector to 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.'
 Mr. Lewis: Have you known him as anything else?
 Witness: I have not. He has been our collector for three years up to this time.
 Mr. Lewis: How much has he collected during that time?
 Witness: I can't say.
 Mr. Lewis: What is his salary?
 Witness: I don't know. I believe he is paid a poundage.
 Mr. Lewis: You get paid for your printing?
 Witness: Yes; but there is an account of £4 or £5 due to me.
 Mr. Lewis: How much did you receive for printing during 1875?
 Witness: I believe nearly £10.
 Mr. Lewis: Look at that book found on the prisoner connected with the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Society.' Have you seen that before?
 Witness: No. I see some prospectuses in it, however, which I printed some time in 1875.
 Mr. Lewis: Look at this prospectus with the name of Dr. Hills on it. When did you print that?
 Witness: I can't say whether it was printed in 1875 or not. I have printed similar ones during that year.
 Mr. Lewis: Did you print those with the banker's name in during last year, when there was only fourpence in the bank?
 Witness: Yes, I did.
 Mr. Lewis: Do you know how much money was collected during the last three years?
 Witness: No, I do not.
 Mr. Lewis: Who can tell us?
 Witness: I think Mr. Seccombe, the secretary, can.
 Mr. Lewis: Have you applied for the money due to you for printing?
 Witness: Yes, but I can't get any after what has taken place, and I believe there have been no funds since Christmas.
 Mr. Lewis: Did you authorise this man to go about collecting money from the public dressed like that?
 Witness: Yes, but that was about three years ago.
 Mr. Benson: Then you mean to say he has been acting under your sanction?
 Witness: Yes, sir.
 Mr. Wontner: I think after that there is the answer to the charge as far as the prisoner is concerned.
 Mr. Benson: Not quite so. I think I shall commit for conspiracy, as this man's crime, if any, is shared by others.

[The remainder of the evidence will appear in our next issue.]

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.
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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 167.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 23, 1876.

WITH EXTRA HALF-SHEET.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicancy.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, March 22nd, at 3 P.M.

Mr. Robert Dundas has consented to act as a representative of the St. George's Union Committee during the absence of Mr. W. W. Moore.

Miss M. H. Nattali has accepted the post of Hon. Secretary to the Chelsea Committee, *vice* Major-General Marriott.

Major-General Marriott will continue to act as Treasurer to the Committee.

The St. Giles' Committee will hold their General and Inquiry Committee Meeting on Wednesdays at 4.30 P.M. The Inquiry Committee will also meet as usual at 5 P.M. on Mondays.

NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

District Committees which have not yet sent in copies of their Annual Reports to the Central Office are requested to forward them with as little delay as possible.

The attention of District Committees is called to the conditions on which grants have been made towards a Permanent Loan Fund, *viz.* :—

(1) That they be kept separate from the General Fund of the Committee, and be appropriated exclusively to fresh loans; (2) that any losses they may sustain be made good out of the General Fund; (3) that the Committee will exert themselves to increase the Loan Fund thus established.—*Vide Reporter*, May 26, 1875, Vol. iv., p. 78.

There are at the Central Office five convalescent letters for the Metropolitan Convalescent Institution.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); Dr. Anderson; W. Bousfield, Esq., F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Yard, *Paddington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Major Prendergast, R. Dundas, Esq., Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Major Fitz-Roy, *St. George's*; F. C. Mills, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Miss Octavia Hill, Major-General Blunt, C.B., *St. Marylebone*; Rev. H. F. Mallet, C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; Lady Wilson, *South St. Pancras*; H. Matthews, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Sir Richard Wilbraham, Capt. Fortescue, G. Barrington Baker, Esq., *Holborn*; H. N. Hoare, Esq., Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; C. L. Corkran, Esq., *Whitechapel*; Russell Barrington, Esq., *St. George's-in-the-East*; Hon. H. R. Scott, *Mile End*; R. Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; R. M. Hensley, Esq., *Wandsworth*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; A. Annesley, Esq., *Lewisham*; H. Reid, Esq., *Sydenham*; Lord Vernon, W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-Presidents*; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairmen*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, G. Blount, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., S. Fuller, Esq., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 53. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*; Hon. and Rev. W. H. Fremantle, G. C. T. Bartley, Esq., *Visitors*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read commenting on a recent meeting of the Rural Deanery of Stepney,* at which the subject of the Charity Organisation Society was discussed.

'It was gratifying to hear that the members, with one exception, bore testimony to the value and usefulness of the Society, some of them giving instances, and all declaring that it was most helpful. I was the more gratified with this expression of opinion, as I had an idea that in some quarters the Society was not favourably regarded. This idea was a correct one a year ago, but is not so now.'

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending February 12 the receipts had been £47. 15s. 6d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £551. 4s. 10d. and £104. 7s. 5d. respectively.

GRANTS.

A grant of £35 was made to the Poplar Committee.

LEGISLATION FOR THE AFFLICTED CLASSES.

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson resumed the discussion of his motion, which had been adjourned on the 3rd of January, on 'the effect of existing legislation upon the charities for the blind, idiotic, and other afflicted and neglected classes of the poor.'

He said that since the matter was last before Council, he had received letters from the Local Government Board, from the Counsel to the Home Office, and from the officials of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board, approving of the statement of law contained in the paper he had submitted in January. The Council might therefore be sure that there was no material error in the statement; and it would now have to consider

* See p. 39.

† *Vide Reporter*, Vol. v., pp. 1, 11, 39.

how and to what extent this legislation could or ought to be applied. Much opposition would probably be encountered in pressing the enforcement of these laws. Guardians who considered themselves guardians of the rates rather than of the poor would certainly oppose it; and for some time the charities would not recognise the injury they were doing to the afflicted by assuming the responsibility of dealing with all such cases with a machinery capable of effectually aiding and teaching only some 10 per cent. They had the remedy, however, in their own hands; they might refuse to take cases suitable for the Poor Law, or, when they took such cases, only receive them on full payment for their maintenance. Under the present system those admitted into charitable institutions were admitted as charity-paupers, and thus the whole lower middle class and upper artisan class, who would gladly contribute to the charities and who deserved charity, did not obtain it, the totally destitute being preferred to them: in fact, unless some change was made, *new* charities would be required for this class that were ready to contribute. If the duty of discrimination was acknowledged by the public, it would soon become evident what cases were left for the charities to deal with. It might be objected that it injures the moral sense of the afflicted poor to become paupers dependent on the Poor Law, while the moral sense of those who subscribe to charities prefers to keep the poor dependent on charity: yet laws enabling the guardians to give thorough help and support to the afflicted have lain dormant for 44 years, while charity having vainly endeavoured during that period to do the work of the law, has now succeeded in performing a tenth part of the duty it had undertaken. The Metropolitan Asylums' Board was in London the means of doing great good, but outside its magic circle, though the law for the relief of the afflicted remained in existence, it was not put in force.

Sir Charles Trevelyan read a passage from the Report of the Special Committee on the Training of the Blind.*

There are upwards of 30,000 blind persons in the United Kingdom, and of these there are scarcely 800 at work in industrial institutions, whilst there are believed to be nearly 10,000 of them able-bodied, and capable, if properly trained, and afforded the opportunity of obtaining employment, of contributing toward their own livelihood.

The census of 1871 proved that there were 2,656 blind persons between the ages of 10 and 25 years, of whom only 795 were under training in Institutions. The numbers were nearly the same in the census of 1861. The reason for this was evident; for the reports of Institutions contained numerous references to the many applications for admission which the managers could not entertain for want of funds. Of 11,518 deaf and dumb, only 1,122 were in Institutions, and though one in six were of the school age, only one in ten were at school. Mr. Wilkinson had done an important service in collecting in one paper the legal authorities on this question, and the Committee on Idiots' Institutions about to be appointed would be another opportunity for dealing with it in a practical manner.

Mr. Seton-Karr said that though there might be a large mass of legislation which was practically a dead letter, yet, speaking from his experience as a guardian, he could cite numerous instances in which the guardians had made use of existing institutions and maintained the afflicted at them. He thought Mr. Wilkinson's statements required some qualification.

Mr. Edgcombe added that so far as he knew, the guardians never refused applications for the maintenance of the afflicted: whether many such cases came before them was another matter.

* Report on the Training of the Blind, by a Special Committee of the Society, with Appendix, price 1s.

Mr. Willis-Bund pointed out that the enforcement of the legislation to which Mr. Wilkinson had called their attention would greatly enlarge the operations of the Poor Law, and would make many of those who were not at present on the rates inmates of asylums. It was questionable whether it would be wise to enlarge our asylums or increase their number, especially when the change would involve an enormous increase in the rates, and the whole subject of local taxation was recognised as a public difficulty at present under consideration.

Mr. A. H. Hill considered it would be inexpedient to raise the rates, yet the motion dealt with a most important part of the organisation of charity. He would move as an amendment—

That the statement of Mr. Wilkinson, in respect to existing legislation for the afflicted classes, be printed in some conspicuous and popular form, and be afterwards posted at the various offices of the District Committees of this Society and affiliated societies.

That the District Committees be recommended to avail themselves as largely as possible of the opportunities of reference of suitable cases to the public authorities under the statutory regulations indicated in Mr. Wilkinson's statement.

Rev. H. F. Mallet seconded the amendment.

Mr. G. C. T. Bartley said that, speaking as a visitor, he could not help remarking that the importance of the question had been under-estimated and its bearing misunderstood. Owing to the present confused system of charity, numbers of the afflicted were untrained and untended, and only a very feeble effort was made to educate them physically and mentally. The Poor Law should not give any relief, except such as was sufficient and ample, and a condition of its receipt should be that the recipient received a proper training. Afflicted children should not be left in the workhouse, but taken to the most suitable institutions and taught. What more important work of organisation could there be than to put useful charities on a secure and permanent basis, and ensure that they should work in harmony with the Poor Law?

Major Fitz-Roy said he had less experience as a guardian than Mr. Seton-Karr and Mr. Edgcombe, but he remembered instances in which it had come to light that applicants for relief had a neglected member of their family who was an idiot, and of whom no mention was at first made. Mr. Wilkinson was anxious for the future of the afflicted, and wished to have them trained—not because they did not apply for relief, but because they were proved to exist year after year neglected.

After a few words from Mr. Wilkinson, who explained that lunatics were sent to the asylums by common consent because they were dangerous, but idiots and others were overlooked and left at home because they were harmless, Mr. A. H. Hill's amendment was adopted, with the following addition:—

And that the Administrative Committee take any further action that they may think necessary.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE AGENTS.

Lord Lichfield then moved:—

That the Council cannot countenance or knowingly permit the employment of District Committee agents in work directly or indirectly connected with any political party or organisation.

He explained that the employment of such an agent was so manifestly unadvisable that, had it not been brought to his notice that in one Committee the agent was so employed, while a doubt was expressed as to the opinion of Council on the matter, he would not have brought forward his motion. A District Committee might almost accidentally act contrary to the feeling of Council.

Major Prendergast seconded the motion.

The Rev. M. S. A. Walrond moved the previous question.

The Rev. J. D. M'Gachen and Mr. C. L. Corkran said that the agent was unpaid, and, though the member of a political club, was a fairly good officer. It was impossible to exclude from service those who held strong political, religious, or other opinions. The exclusion would act as a bribe to suppress honest conviction, and active men, who cared to have and express opinions of their own, would go elsewhere.

Mr. Russell Barrington stated what, as far as he knew, were the facts of the case. If these were true, the influence of such an agent was most injurious.

The previous question having been put and lost,

Miss O. Hill, Rev. R. J. Simpson and others urged that the question be treated as one of principle, as Lord Lichfield had intended it should be, and the following amendment, which had been moved by Mr. A. H. Hill, was agreed upon, viz:—

That it is highly inexpedient that the District Committees of this Society should employ as Charity or Inquiry Agents persons directly connected, as paid officers, with any political party or organisation.

The alterations in the Bye-Laws recommended by the Administrative Committee, in consequence of the resolution of Council of the 24th January last, were adopted.*

The Report of the Special Committee on the Training and Welfare of the Blind was received by the Council.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, February 19, 1876:—*Donations:* Mrs. Tyson Amhurst, £1. 1s.; Baron Bramwell, £5; 'C. W.', £10; W. Shute, Esq., £1. *Annual:* Rev. E. R. Benyon, £1. 1s.; W. Burgess, Esq., £1. 1s.; J. Faithful Fortescue, Esq., £1. 1s.; The Earl Fortescue, £1. 1s.; W. M. Hale, Esq., £1; Mrs. C. Hunt, £3; Andrew Johnston, Esq., £10 for 1875, and £10 for 1876; C. E. Maurice, Esq., £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund:* Major Haggard, £20.

The following business stands for Monday, the 28th inst.:—

1. That a grant of £30 on account be made to the Stepney Committee.
2. That a grant of £20 on account be made to the Shoreditch Committee.
3. Mr. Wightman Wood to move:—

'That it be an instruction to the Sub-committee on the Collection of Funds to make it part of their scheme that the District Committees in their respective districts and the Council throughout the country generally be permitted to collect funds without restriction, in any manner that may seem expedient to them.'

4. Mr. W. M. Wilkinson to move:

'That the Council should adopt means of warning the public as to those charities which it has ascertained to be unworthy of public support, either on account of fraudulent dealing with the funds, or of their professed objects being unnecessary or hurtful.'

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the St. George's (Hanover Square), St. Marylebone, North St. Pancras, City, Whitechapel, Poplar, St. Saviour's and Woolwich Committees.

Fifth Annual Report of the Kent Mendicity Society, 1875.

Annual Report of the Council of the Kaiser Franz Josef Institute for the Relief of the Small Tradespeople of Vienna, 1875.

LEGISLATION FOR THE AFFLICTED CLASSES—On a review of all these Acts of Parliament, the 'Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867,' seems to be most beneficial, and the widest in its scope, and to leave little to be desired, excepting that it should be put into full force and vigour by its energetic and excellent Boards, and similar powers conferred throughout the country. The Metropolitan Asylum Board has already provided the following asylums for imbeciles, conducted on the highest scientific and humane principles:—The Leavesden asylum, with 2,000 inmates; the Caterham asylum, with 2,000 inmates; the Hampstead asylum (temporary), with 450 inmates; the Clapton asylum (temporary) for idiot children, 300 inmates; The Homerton hospitals, for fever and smallpox patients; the Stockwell hospitals, for the same. The latest development of the Asylum Board is that it is to take up the management of the new training ships, to replace the Goliath recently burnt, and thus to swallow up an additional portion of unnecessary charity.—W.M.W. *vide Reporter*, January 12, 1876, p. 11.

* *Vide Reporter*, Feb. 16, 1876, Vol. v., p. 33.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEB. 19, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospital, &c.			
Kensington	5	2	3	10	1	3	1	5	6	1	21	5	11
Fulham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	5	6
Paddington	2	1	5	8	1	7	1	1	1	1	24	18	15
Chelsea	1	6	6	13	5	1	6	1	1	1	21	13	11
St. George's Division	3	2	2	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	28	11	4
Westminster do.	1	7	8	16	3	3	3	1	1	1	33	3	3
Westminster:—													
St. James' & St. Anne's	2	4	6	12	4	4	1	1	1	1	11	3	7
St. Marylebone	6	1	4	11	11	7	18	3	1	1	34	13	6
Hampstead	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	2	4	5	5	1	1	1	1	7	1	3
South St. Pancras	3	6	3	12	8	3	11	1	1	1	24	6	10
Islington	6	1	6	13	20	1	21	1	1	1	29	17	10
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4	4
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	2	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	6	4	4
Strand	1	1	5	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	4	7
Holborn	1	1	6	8	10	10	2	1	1	1	19	5	22
City	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	5	10	21
Shoreditch	1	3	3	7	4	4	6	1	1	1	14	2	3
Bethnal Green	2	2	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	4	2
Whitechapel	2	4	6	12	2	2	2	1	1	1	9	10	6
St. George's-in-the-East	1	4	5	10	1	3	3	1	1	1	13	5	5
Stepney	1	2	2	5	2	2	4	1	1	1	10	7	4
Mile End Old Town	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Poplar	2	3	5	10	2	2	1	1	1	1	9	7	3
St. Saviour's	2	3	7	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	9	4
Newington	1	3	3	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	3	3
St. Olave's	5	1	6	12	4	4	3	1	1	1	13	2	2
Lambeth:—													
North	2	2	1	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	1	6
South	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	4	4
Wandsworth & Putney	1	3	4	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	4	3
Battersea	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	4	4
Clapham	1	3	3	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	7	2	19
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	6	6	3	15	3	3	2	1	1	1	17	1	1
Peckham	4	4	1	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greenwich	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	2	3	5	9	4	15
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	8
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	2	2	7	2	1	10	13	2	3
Lewisham	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	5	1
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	44	28	92	164	5	101	23	129	86	12	622	126	419

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

HAMPSTEAD.—ERRATUM.—The following donations of the Hampstead Committee should have been inserted in the tabular statement of the payments made by the District Committees and the Council to the District Committee Aid Fund, which appeared on page 35 of the *Reporter* of the 16th instant, viz., £10 in December 1873, and £10 in December 1874. The total of the contributions for the year 1873 will then be £665.10s. 0d.; and for the year 1874, £790.10s. 0d.; and the grand total will be £3,314. 13s. 10d., instead of £3,294. 13s. 10d.

MILE END OLD TOWN.—At the ordinary Meeting of the Ruridecanal Chapter of Stepney, on Monday, Feb. 14, the subject of debate introduced by the Rev. W. H. Langhorne was the Charity Organisation Society; he moved the following resolution:—'That the principles and mode of operation of the Charity Organisation Society are conducive to the welfare of the poorer classes, and merit the co-operation of ministers of religion.' The Rev. H. Geary attended by invitation. Fifteen out of twenty-five members of the deanery present took part in the discussion, and they all, with one exception, bore testimony to the value of the Society in their several districts. The Rural Dean expressed the desire, which met with pretty general approval, that the Society would take off the hands of the clergy, who were already overworked, the inquiry into the treatment of cases requiring relief. One member thought that not the least valuable aspect the Society presented was that of sending down to the East end gentlemen who, by working on committees and visiting cases in person, supplied to a certain extent an element generally lacking in this part of London, namely, the class of resident gentry. Another had found his labours very sensibly lightened by the action of the Society. It was generally felt that in time this action would result in an improved social condition of the labouring classes. The member who objected to the Society did so on the grounds that its action was dilatory, its expenses greater than need be, and its treatment of cases capricious. The objections, however, were answered, and the member in question was asked to attend the Committee of his district again.

ST. GEORGE'S UNION.—Chronic Cases.—The following is an extract from the last annual report of this Committee:—Chronic cases, i.e. cases requiring more or less *permanent* support, had been for some time regarded as scarcely coming within the scope of the Committee; but an appeal to charitable persons disposed to assist such cases, either directly or through the Committee, has produced a special fund for their benefit; and the following are the general rules adopted for its management:—A case to be considered as deserving should fulfil the following conditions: 1. Unable to earn a living, through age, infirmity, or other cause. 2. Long resident in the district. 3. Character, and former habits of life good. 4. Income, if any, insufficient. 5. Good reason why the case should not be left to the poor-law. 6. No pension fund, or almshouse immediately available. The amount required to complete a weekly income sufficient to prevent the necessity for begging is then to be determined. The minimum for such weekly income to be 12s. 6d. for a couple and 8s. for a single person. The sum collected for each case is to be sufficient to ensure the continuance of the weekly allowance for at least one year. A copy of the terms upon which the allowance is given is sent to the recipient, and to the person through whom the allowance is to be paid, and an agreement signed before the first payment is made. The Guardians have cordially agreed to co-operate with the Committee in these arrangements, on the condition that they are informed of any allowance granted to those already in receipt of out-door-relief.

BIRMINGHAM.—Birmingham and Edgbaston Charity Organisation Society.—The annual meeting of this society was held at the Midland Institute on the 11th instant. The mayor presided. The following are particulars of Table I of the statistics published in the annual report:—Number of applicants (local), 388; renewed applications, 551; tramps, 192; investigated at request of societies in other towns, 33; total, 1,164. The society is about to extend its labours to the whole town of Birmingham, including Handsworth and Moseley, where no organisation for the suppression of impostors has yet existed.

PERTH.—Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.—A meeting of the Provisional Committee was held in this town on Thursday, the 10th instant. Sheriff Barclay, Lord Provost McDonald, and others, were present. The association has been in existence since the 8th December last, and has in that period received 181 applications. With regard to the question of vagrancy, Sheriff Barclay was in favour of assisting in some way the tramps passing through Perth to Glasgow and Dundee. Mr. Miller quoted the Dorsetshire Mendicity Society in evidence of the work that a similar society had done in checking vagrancy. Bailie Ramsay recommended that the Committee should put into the hands of the Superintendent of police small sums at intervals, to be used at his discretion.

BERLIN.

Extract from the Annual Report of 1874 of the Berlin Anti Pauperism Association, established November 1869.—We may here be permitted to point out that there exists a Society in London, formed on the same principles as our own, called the Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity, which has at its disposal about 40 fixed District offices. A large number of salaried officers are constantly engaged in the service of this Society. Most probably the salaries alone of these officers amount to more than twice or three times as much as our Society receives and disburses for all purposes. It must be remembered that the proletariat in London stands in opposition to the well-to-do population in a far more menacing manner than is the case here in Berlin. The very practical Englishman may also have found out, and may have more easily understood, that a governmental poor-law and alms to beggars are not the only things to be depended on, but that the former must rather be supplemented by a determined organisation based upon the free action of the population, and that the latter must be entirely stopped if order and safety are to be maintained in large towns, and if the demoralisation of the lower strata of society is to be effectually checked. At all events it must be conceded that the metropolis of the German Empire, which in this case takes the priority, has remained quite disproportionately behind the English metropolis. Indeed, we have reason to believe that Berlin has already been outstripped by many German towns which have formed associations after the pattern of our own, adopting our rules and regulations. At least we have learned from experience that strangers who visit us for the purpose of making themselves acquainted with the working and results of our Society express their astonishment at the smallness of the means at our disposal.

We are not at all of opinion that the feeling of benevolence should not be as great in Berlin as it may be in any other place. The fact that the large number of existing benevolent associations here is being constantly increased by newly formed ones, is a proof that the population of Berlin is not at all devoid of feelings of benevolence and charity. But what may be praise to the inhabitants generally may be injury to the good cause itself. The great number of old and new benevolent societies blunts the feelings and dissipates the resources.

We do not intend at present to argue this point any further, but confine ourselves to the observation that we shall renew our endeavours to

organise all the different associations, and to concentrate them by creating a central office for all corporations, associations, and institutions, which are in any way connected with the care of the poor or any benevolent purposes.

The point most injurious to the development of the Society is the prejudice prevalent among a great many citizens, and to which they stubbornly cling through thinking that it is a good work to support beggars by alms: 'It is not right to send away the poor unfortunate creatures with empty hands, and to direct such people in the first instance to the Society in order to have their position and prospects in life inquired into is a severity of management, too inquisitorial and offensive to delicate feeling.' Such good-natured people will not be convinced, that with their penny benevolence, far from doing any real good, they only contribute to the demoralisation and enervation of mankind.

For our part we shall not tire to continue our warfare against this prejudice, and we trust that in the end truth will prevail.

THE DISABLED FIREMEN'S RELIEF AND PENSION FUND.

(Continued from page 35.)

Southwark Police Court, February 8, 1876, before Mr. Benson.

To Mr. Court: You said the other day, when Gregory Secombe was before me, that all accounts passed through the Committee?—Court: I said the balance-sheets passed through the Committee.—Mr. Benson: Have you ever seen an account of what these men collected?—Witness: No. It was never brought to my knowledge; nor, as far as I know to that of any of the committee.—Mr. Benson: Have the committee salaries?—Witness: No. They are not paid a penny.—Mr. Lewis: Does Mr. Harrison get a salary?—Witness: I believe he is paid for drawing up the balance-sheets and auditing the accounts. Mr. Lewis: Does Mr. Treloving have a salary?—Witness: I believe not.—Mr. Lewis: How is the relief disbursed?—Witness: According to the number of recipients. The committee go into all the cases to ascertain the most deserving, and then forward the names to the Charity Organisation Society for inquiry. Mr. Lewis: Have you relieved anyone during last year?—Witness: I believe there were several fresh cases in 1875.—Mr. Lewis: Have you attended a committee meeting when relief was ordered during the last twelve months? Be careful.—Witness: I can't say with any certainty.—Mr. Lewis: Have you received any of the funds?—Witness: I have not, except for printing. I charged a fair remuneration, and my bills will bear scrutiny.—Mr. Benson: As it was necessary that you should be consulted before relief was given, have you any knowledge of what became of the money the prisoner collected during the last twelve months?—Witness: I have not.—Mr. Benson: Do you think you have acted properly, if it was your duty to know that?—Witness: I don't think I have been treated properly. I have, however, seen the prisoner paying in money to Mr. Bailey, the clerk, in the office.—Mr. Lewis: Did you print these receipt books?—Witness: No.—Mr. Wontner: How long have you been a member of the committee?—Witness: About four years.—Mr. Wontner: Have you attended a large number of meetings?—Witness: Not a large number; but I have a number during that time.—Mr. Wontner: I understand the claims of persons for relief are submitted to the committee?—Witness: Yes, that is it.—Mr. Wontner: And, when such claims are made, to ascertain whether there were funds to allow relief or not?—Witness: Yes.—Mr. Wontner: With your entire knowledge, has there not been a large number relieved?—Witness: Yes.—Mr. Benson: How many to your knowledge?—Witness: About twenty.—Mr. Benson: You said just now you did not know of a single farthing in 1875. Do you know any?—Witness: No; I can't call to mind the people who were relieved in 1875.

Mr. Benson: How do you know anyone was relieved?

Witness: I only know the names are placed in a book for the committee's inspection, but I was not present.

Mr. Wontner: Before 1875 you know that many were relieved and received pensions, which were paid weekly?

Witness: Yes, in some cases as much as fifteen shillings weekly was paid to one person.

Mr. Wontner: How long did that continue?

Witness: As a rule, not more than three months; but, if a proper case, it would be extended to another three months.

Mr. Wontner: Do you remember seeing in the newspaper a statement made at Greenwich Police-court?

Witness: It was pointed out to me at the time; but I don't remember seeing any contradiction to that.

Mr. Wontner: Look at this report cut out of a newspaper. Have you seen that before?

Witness: Yes, and it is a contradiction to a statement made previously at the same police-court. It was in the *Standard*.

Mr. Benson: When was that in the *Standard*?

Mr. Wontner: On the 20th November 1874.

Mr. Lewis, to Mr. Court: Who appointed you a committee man?

Mr. Court: I can't remember; I took the place of a former committee-man.

Mr. Lewis: Can't you say who appointed you?

enson: I don't think that matters much.

ewis: Very well, sir. To Court: How much relief did you give?

ss: I can't say.

enson: Have you spoken to anyone about the Society since Gregory e was convicted?

ss: Yes, I saw the prisoner, and spoke to him about it. He was sent in this Court at the time, and we conversed about it.

enson: Did you know that after that the prisoner went about g money?

ss: Yes, sir.

enson: And you don't know what became of the money he col-

ss: I thought it was disbursed to persons for relief and pensions.

enson: But you say you gave nothing in 1875.

enson: Are you not surprised that there is only fourpence in the

ss: I suppose the money was disbursed as it came in.

ewis: Do you know any of the pensioners?

ss: Yes. Several were in the Court when Gregory Seccombe was l, but they were not called.

enson: I saw some men in dirty green suits. They did not look e pensioners. To Court: You may stand down. Get away with

enry Myers said: I am a clothier, carrying on business in the h Road. On the 1st instant, the prisoner called on me with a is hand, and said, 'I have called for your annual subscription for abled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.' I said, 'What did I last year?' He replied, 'Five shillings.' I accordingly gave him , and he gave me the receipt produced. I knew nothing of the on, but I thought it was a charitable one.

. Benson: When I gave the man 5s. last year he had a similar h him.

orge Wintle, licensed victualler, 155 Grange Road, said: The called on me on the 21st of January last, and asked me for a sub- to 'The Firemen's Relief Fund.' I said, 'How much did I give year?' He replied, 'Two shillings,' and I gave him that sum, and d me the receipt produced.

eth Beavis, in the service of Mr. Sharp, 45 Grange Road, said: ner called at our house on the 2nd instant. He said, 'I have : Mr. Sharp's annual subscription.' I spoke to Mr. Sharp, and m two and sixpence.

Buckley, Albert Embankment, Vauxhall, said: On the 1st of r last I gave the prisoner five shillings for the 'Disabled Fire- lief and Pension Fund,' and he gave me the receipt produced.

enson: Had you given the prisoner money before?

ss: No, sir. Not to that fund.

d Noah Bailey, 38 Saint James's Grove, Peckham, said: On the e last the prisoner called on me at my late residence, 36 Grosvenor mberwell, for a subscription to the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Fund.' I was going to give him a guinea, as I thought it a worthy t I reflected and only gave him a half-crown.

n Garley, a lad in the employ of Samuel Simpson Seccombe, at 19 Buckingham Street, Strand, was next called by Mr. Lewis, and ave seen pensions paid to several persons.

wis: Can you name them?

ss: Yes. James Bradley, John Vincent, George Ray, and Mrs. They all received 5s. weekly.

wis: Did they receive these sums during January?

ss: Yes. That is a pound a week.

enson: Have you the pension book here?

ss: No, sir.

wis: Then I call on Mr. Bailey, the clerk, to produce it; I have Crown Office subpoena on him to produce it.

(standing forward): Am I bound to produce it, your worship?

enson: I cannot compel you on that Crown Office subpoena, but I h a summons under my hand and seal.—To Bailey: Do you pro- book?

: No, I decline to do so.

wis to Garley: Is there a relief book kept?

ss: Yes. By Mr. Bailey, who pays the 'pensions and relief.'

enson to Mr. Lewis: Why not call Bailey?

wis: I shall do so in time.

ley: How much has been paid for pensions and relief during x months?

ss: I don't know. I have seen the persons come and receive money. 1875 there were no persons receiving pensions between March and r. There was a balance due to the Treasurer, Mr. Seccombe, at the 74, and I suppose the money collected went to pay that. One man, sent, was paid 10s. a week in September.

wis: What became of the rest of the money collected?

Witness: It was used for office expenses by the Secretary, to pay salaries, and collectors' poundage. I have a salary; so has Mr. Seccombe and Bailey. Vincent was on the funds in October. There was no one else.

Mr. Lewis: How much was collected in September and October?

Witness: I don't know. There was only Mr. Kinsman collecting for the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.'

Mr. Lewis: Has the 'Fire Escape Association' anything to do with your office?

Witness: No, sir. That's an old book, which the prisoner had to enter what he received for the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund.'

Mr. Lewis: Your worship will perceive from a prospectus found on the prisoner, that he was Secretary to the 'Fire Escape Association.'

To Garley: Were not Gosling, Davis, and Tyndall collectors in Septem- ber last?

Witness: I don't think they were.

Mr. Lewis: Who received the pensions in November?

Witness: Vincent, I think, had 10s. a week. Also in December; and then I think others came on. Three had 10s. a week in December.

Mr. Lewis: Then during 1875 the pensions paid amounted to £10. Do you know how much was collected from the public?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Lewis: Is there a book kept of the money collected?

Witness: Yes, sir.

Mr. Lewis: What do you do in the office?

Witness: I enter up the counterfoils when the collectors bring them in.

Mr. Lewis: Where is the book?

Witness: It has been taken away by Mr. Seccombe, I believe, to be audited. He keeps the money. He took away the book about a fortnight ago.

Mr. Lewis: How much does Seccombe get?

Witness: I don't know. I get 8s. a week.

Mr. Lewis: What does the prisoner get?

Witness: He got 5s. in the £1 for all he collected.

Mr. Lewis: Who supplied the uniform?

Witness: The secretary, out of the funds.

Mr. Lewis: I have no more questions to ask this witness, and I think it is probably time to adjourn.

Mr. Wontner: I submit to your worship that there is no case against the prisoner, as shown by the evidence of last witness and Mr. Court. I refer your worship to a case before Mr. Ingham of a similar kind, when one of the collectors was brought before him, and he discharged him, as it was proved that a society, whether bad or good, was really in existence; consequently he could not be charged with fraud.

Mr. Benson: Perhaps you know something of the Co-operative Credit Bank?

Mr. Wontner: That's my brother, sir.

Mr. Benson: I think a colourable fraud has been committed. There is something similar between this association and the Co-operative Credit Bank. There Mr. Oakley gets all the money he can, and no one knows where it goes to.

Mr. Wontner: Well, the Charity Organisation Society, which prosecutes in this case, swallows all their funds for salaries and expenses, and no one prosecutes them.

Mr. Benson: That Society was not formed to give relief exactly, but to prevent fraud, and the expenses must be necessarily heavy. I shall now adjourn the case. What day will suit you, Mr. Lewis?

Mr. Wontner: Before you name a day I must ask you to admit the prisoner to bail in his own recognisance, as Mr. Seccombe and Mr. Bailey will take all the responsibility for what the prisoner has done.

Mr. Benson, to the prisoner: What have you been?

Prisoner: I have been in the Army, and seven years in the East Indies. I am now in the Army Reserve.

Mr. Benson: If you are allowed to go on your own recognisance will you undertake not to collect any more moneys?

Prisoner: I promise that, sir.

Mr. Benson: Then I'll take your own recognisance in the sum of £50 to appear at this Court on Friday, the 18th instant, to which day I remand the case.

On Friday, the 18th instant, Joseph Kinsman, 32, dressed in a shabby fireman's suit, was placed at the bar at Southwark Police Court before Mr. Benson for further examination, charged with obtaining various sums of money from various individuals by means of falsely representing himself to be a member of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Mr. George Lewis, jun., instructed by Mr. Ribton-Turner, of the Charity Organisation Society, prosecuted; and Mr. Blanchard Wontner defended the prisoner, who had been out on his own recognisances.

As soon as the prisoner had been placed at the bar,

Mr. Wontner said: Before any further proceedings are gone into I wish to say a few words with a view to the prisoner being discharged or liberated on his recognisance to appear at some future day. Your Worship is aware that an action is pending between my client Mr. S. S. Seccombe

and the Charity Organisation Society, and it is of the utmost importance that no further evidence be taken in the case until after that action has been tried.

Mr. Lewis: I have called Mr. Harrison, the auditor of 'The Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund,' and I wish to examine him as to the funds of that sham society.

Mr. Wontner: I object to those observations; and as for Mr. Harrison, he is one of our most important witnesses in the action; therefore I consider it very improper that he should be called on to give evidence in this court. Mr. Lewis is fishing for evidence for his defence. What I require is that this case be adjourned *sine die* or for two or three months, and in the meantime Mr. Seccombe will undertake that during that time no more money shall be collected for these societies.

Mr. Benson: Then you say if his bail is extended no more money shall be collected while the action is pending. Mr. Lewis, do you object to that?

Mr. Lewis: I do, sir, as I desire to call a few more witnesses to show the extent of the frauds.

Mr. Benson: Supposing it to be a fraud by Seccombe or the Society, and that the prisoner was a bona fide employed servant, I don't think he can be convicted of fraud. But if it can be proved that he was concerned in the fraud, then he can be charged with conspiracy. He is charged before me with obtaining charitable contributions under false pretences.

Mr. Lewis: I foresee all that, sir, and that is the reason I wish to call a few more witnesses, to show the prisoner's connection with the Society.

Mr. Wontner: The action will be tried as soon as the judges come back; therefore I think it very wrong that Mr. Lewis should examine any more witnesses. He has called Mr. Harrison, who is now in the witness box, and he is one of our most important witnesses, and ought not to be examined until after the action has been tried. I have promised that no more money shall be collected in the interval.

Mr. Lewis: This action is all a pretence, sir. I wish to examine Mr. Harrison.

Mr. Benson: Who is he?

Mr. Lewis: The auditor of this so-called 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund,' which is all a sham.

Mr. Benson: I have my opinion about that, and have no wish to call him or hear anything more about the Society.

Mr. Lewis: Then, as you don't wish to hear Mr. Harrison, I will consent to the arrangement; but the prisoner and others must not collect money from the public in the meantime.

Mr. Benson: I have nothing to do with any arrangement with Mr. Seccombe, but if the prisoner is liberated on his recognisances he must not collect any more money, or he will be liable to heavy punishment.

Mr. Lewis: Perhaps a short adjournment will do.

Mr. Benson: Where will the action be tried?

Mr. Lewis: At Westminster.

Mr. Benson: Then I think an adjournment of six weeks will do. (To Mr. Harrison.) Do you wish to give evidence to-day?

Mr. Harrison: Not particularly, I, however, have no objection.

Mr. Benson: What bail was the prisoner liberated on?

Mr. Lewis: His own recognisances in £100, sir.

Mr. Benson (to the prisoner): I shall adjourn the case until the 31st of March, when you must surrender to answer any charge made against you, and you must not collect any more money in the meantime.

Prisoner: Not for the 'London and Suburban Fire Brigade'?

Mr. Benson: No; nor for the 'Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund,' or the 'Fire Escape Society,' all of which you seem to have been connected with. You must find other employment.

Prisoner: I have tried to do so, but owing to the report in the *Echo* saying I had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment, I can't obtain a situation.

Mr. Benson: You had better write to that paper, and I am sure they will insert a contradiction. The case is adjourned until the 31st of March next.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of February 1876 was 37,362, and 51,178 received outdoor relief, making a total of 88,540. This was a decrease of 290 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873 this was a decrease of 10,677, 18,761, and 25,880 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 519. This was an increase of 31 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 117 on the corresponding day of last year.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.—In the year ended the 31st of December returns from 810 industrial and provident (co-operative) societies were forwarded to the Friendly Societies' Office. At the end of the year there were 357,821 members, and the net profits of the year were £1,070,923.—*Times*, Feb. 17, 1876.

PROFESSIONAL BEGGING.—A robust man, named Thomas Southon, aged 38, who had lost an arm and was to all appearance thinly clad in a white jacket and trousers, was brought before Mr. Balguy, at Woolwich police-court, on Saturday, charged with placing himself in a public thoroughfare for the purpose of soliciting alms. A constable proved that the prisoner was in the habit of standing daily against a blank wall, and that many poor people gave him money. Prisoner: I never ask them for anything. Mr. Balguy: No; but I have seen you myself for months past dressed in that cold-looking suit, but stuffed with warm clothes underneath, and though you do not speak, your whole appearance says, 'Give me a halfpenny.' Inspector Phillips said the prisoner had a good Cardigan jacket on, and plenty of warm underclothing. The other day a gentleman gave him an overcoat; but he afterwards said that it would never do for him to wear that, because if he did he shouldn't 'earn a penny.' Prisoner said he wore the white linen because it looked clean. Mr. Balguy: Because it looks cold! How long have you been a professional beggar? Prisoner: (smiling)—I have not done any work since November. The inspector said the prisoner had been living upon alms for at least two years, and occupied a very comfortable house. Prisoner: That's because I am a respectable and sober man. I am a teetotaler and never enter a public-house. Mr. Balguy: You look well fed, and I dare say you make a good living, but you must not beg directly or indirectly. Standing about the streets, looking like a person in want, is begging as much as if you asked for alms. Prisoner: I will not do it again, sir, in Woolwich. Mr. Balguy—I will give you one chance and discharge you, but if you are brought here again for the same thing you will be sent to prison.—*Daily News*, Feb. 14, 1876.

THE KING OF THE BEGGARS.—Yesterday at the Rochdale police-court, Captain H. C. von Nieroth, a young man of respectable appearance and of good address, was brought up on remand on a charge of vagrancy, which would ultimately resolve itself into one of obtaining money by false pretences. The prisoner had given the name of Captain H. C. Nieroth, but he had also gone under other aliases. The Chief Constable had ascertained that the prisoner for the last ten years had been engaged in systematically swindling the public, and had been connected with almost every religious denomination. Nieroth had informed gentlemen in Rochdale that he had a particular claim upon their benevolence on the ground that during the cotton famine in Lancashire he at that time was residing in Germany, and had contributed largely towards the relief of the operatives. The prisoner has been so successful as a begging impostor that he holds among the fraternity the distinguished position of 'The King of the Beggars.' He has been a Quaker, a Baptist, and a member of the Wesleyan body. He was mixed up with Moody and Sankey, and appears to have taken a prominent part in all recent spiritual revivals in England, frequently preaching at street corners under the pretence of improving the public, and collecting money for the erection of places of worship. The prisoner was remanded.—*Echo*. The following is a further notice of this case, taken from the *Globe* of the 15th inst.: The Rochdale magistrates have sent 'The King of the Beggars' to prison for three months. The evidence given against Herman Charles von Nieroth, who is said to go by this title amongst the fraternity of professional beggars, showed that in Manchester, Liverpool, and elsewhere, he has been doing a good business, at one time palming himself off as an unfortunate nobleman in distress, and at another representing himself to be a religious benefactor, whose sole object in life was to benefit his suffering fellow-men. It is said that the prisoner on one occasion pressed the Bishop of Manchester for £500 to assist in promoting religious education; but although he does not appear to have been successful in his dealings with the bishop, it is clear that his dupes have been both numerous and liberal.

LODGING-HOUSES AND DWELLINGS.—A Return (obtained by Mr. Cawley) has just been issued of the number of lodging-houses provided by local authorities or the Commissioners under the Act 14 and 15 Vict., cap. 34, &c. At Huddersfield there is one capable of accommodating 160 persons; the average number last year was 135; the cost was £4,185; the annual receipts as rent, £690; and the debt remaining due of the money borrowed, £2,000. At Liverpool there are two places, the cost of which amounted to £17,928. 16s., which was repaid in October, 1869. There are 26 other places erected at the instance of companies and private persons, and the required particulars are given in the document now printed.—*Times*, Feb. 17, 1876.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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THE

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 168. WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 1, 1876. WITH EXTRA HALF-SHEET. PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is
the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicancy.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, March 22nd, at 3 P.M.

The Poplar Committee will meet on Wednesdays at 3 P.M. on and after the 1st of March.

Mr. W. Hazell has resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of the Holborn Committee. Mr. W. J. Barlow and Mr. G. B. Baker continue to be the Hon. Secretaries.

One of the Hon. Secretaries of the St. Olave's Committee is about to leave town for a fortnight, and would be glad if some member would undertake the joint Hon. Secretaryship of the Committee for that time.

NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

District Committees which have not yet sent in copies of their Annual Reports to the Central Office are requested to forward them with as little delay as possible. Of the 150 copies to be sent, 75 should be made up without the List of subscribers, with a view to binding.—Vide *Reporter*, October 7, 1875, vol. iv. p. 125.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Dr. Anderson; W. Bousfield, Esq., F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; C. J. Stevens, Esq., Fulham; J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Major Prendergast, Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, R. Dundas, Esq., Major Fitz-Roy, St. George's; H. Peto, Esq., Bevan, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho); The Earl of Lichfield, Major-General Blunt, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq.,

Hampstead; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; H. Hay Hill, Esq., Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Sir Richard Wilbraham, G. Barrington Baker, Esq., Holborn; H. N. Hoare, Esq., City; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; R. Barrington, Esq., St. George's-in-the-East; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; A. D. Graham, Esq., F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's, Southwark; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., H. Brand, Esq., Newington; R. M. Hensley, Esq., Wandsworth; J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersea; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; R. V. Tidman, Esq., A. Annesley, Esq., Lewisham; C. A. Barry, Esq., H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-Presidents; A. H. Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., George Blount, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., Additional Members; total, 50. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., Secretaries; A. Grainger, Esq., Visitor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from Major-General Bainbrigge, R.E., regretting that, in consequence of failing health, he was no longer able to attend at Council as an additional member.

The Secretary was instructed to convey to General Bainbrigge the expression of the regret of the Council at the loss of his valuable services.

QUESTIONS.

Major-General Blunt asked if Committees, when looking for 'relations able to assist,' were in the habit of extending their inquiry to sons who were soldiers in the army? He had found this productive of good results in several cases; and in one, in which but little assistance was expected, 10s. a week had thus been procured for a parent.

Mr. Seton-Karr called the attention of Council to the following letter which appeared in the *Spectator* of the 26th ult.:

THE NEW CRUSADE.

(To the Editor of the *Spectator*.)

SIR,—It might greatly assist the work of the Charity Organisation Society, if you would allow the readers of the *Spectator* to be told how urgently that work requires the services of thoughtful and steadfast men.

To many, the Society is known only as occasionally prosecuting an impostor; and the public generally are, perhaps, scarcely aware that by far its first object is to deal adequately with cases of distress. Offices have been established in different parts of London for dealing with such cases; and the goal aimed at is that, after careful examination, the right thing shall be done for them, however hard or costly the right thing may be to do.

It is obvious that this goal cannot be even approached, unless there is present in each office some one determined to give the best of his heart and of his brain to the work,—some one who comes to the work convinced that the service of the poor is the most exalted service to which he can be called, and who is yet aware that many difficulties surround that service, difficulties requiring the most patient study, and not easily solved even by the highest intelligence. The daily routine of the office—the face-to-face examination of applicants—is a task of no mean order; and much depends upon the accuracy of the first diagnosis. As the office-door opens there is no one to tell us who is coming in, or what fresh combination of circumstances we have to encounter. It may be the trained impostor, ready with his skillfully-prepared story, and pleading the extremest urgency. It may be the ordinary case, so hard to deal with or to let alone, the conditions of which may be summed up in three words,—poverty, profligacy, improvidence. It may be the beggar-nomadic, or tramp, who, if he has a sense of humour, may enjoy wasting the time of a society instituted for his repression; or the beggar-resident, not differing essentially from the preceding, and depraved by a long course of doles obtained by practised and impartial importunity from parochial charities, district visitors, and ministers of all denominations. But, on the

other hand, we may have to listen to a tale of deep and genuine distress—a tale which, if told aloud, would stir the compassion of the land; or some foolish prodigal may come in, willing to return if any door were open to him; or fallen women, driven in by hopelessness, and yet but half-willing to be saved. There is no phase of distress, real or simulated, capable or incapable of treatment, that may not, at any moment, come before us.

Moreover, we want men of energy and discernment in our offices, not only for the correct apprehension of the cases in the first instance, but because immediate action is sometimes necessary. It does not do always to wait for the meeting of a Committee. We also want them because the laborious following-up of the investigation by inquiry and correspondence, and the still more laborious task of obtaining suitable relief, require no small amount of skilful and conscientious effort. The daily work in a Charity Organisation office, to be well done, demands an intelligence that shall not slumber, an earnestness that shall not tire, a patience not to be overcome, a sympathy that will not suffer itself to be chilled—and none know better than those of us who have attempted the work, how miserably easy it is in these respects to fail, and how miserably certain we are, when we fail, to err.

It is not uncommon to find young men giving themselves up, in a spirit of devotion and self-abnegation, to the work of the Church; and it is not, perhaps, too much to expect that a few will be ready, in the same spirit, to give themselves up to work for the poor. The Society has no large salaries to offer, but the men the work wants will not be deterred by this consideration,—I am, Sir, &c.,

A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending February 19 the receipts had been £51. 11s. 0d. for the General Fund, and £20 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £504. 15s. 0d. and £89. 7s. 5d. respectively.

GRANTS.

Grants of £30 and £20 were made to the Stepney and Shoreditch Committees respectively.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

A recommendation of the Sub-committee on the collection of funds—‘that three members be added to the Sub-committee, viz.:—Mr. J. R. Hollond, Mr. C. A. Miner, and Mr. E. Peters,’ was taken as urgent, and after some discussion the following amendment, moved by the Rev. H. G. Henderson, and seconded by Mr. Russell Barrington, was carried:—

That the Sub-Committee have power to add to their numbers.

Lord Lichfield stated that he would be unable to serve on the Sub-committee.

FRAUDULENT CHARITIES.

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson then moved—

That the Council should adopt means of warning the public as to those charities which it has ascertained to be unworthy of public support, either on account of fraudulent dealing with the funds, or of their professed objects being unnecessary or hurtful.

He said that there would be little difficulty in making out a list of many charities which have been already sufficiently investigated, to be ranged in the class ‘unworthy of public support on account of fraudulent dealing with the funds,’ and in placing them under a moderately-worded heading, advising their members not to support them. All charities persistently refusing to render proper balance-sheets, or to explain doubtful items, would condemn themselves to a place on this list, and the correspondence with them might be published with proper remarks, and in strong cases circulars might be sent to the subscribers. The mere publication of similar correspondence in the newspapers had in Glasgow been sufficient to entirely destroy the fraudulent charities there. Handbills in some flagrant cases might be useful and even necessary, and in the worst cases it would be advisable to prosecute. In cases of fraud, it would be generally desirable to avoid anything that might be libellous, but in others it might be equally desirable to state purposely the real facts on which the opinion of the Council was based. The

inefficiency of the law was the chief difficulty; the same legal principles were not at present applied to those who collected and administered charity-funds as were found necessary to protect the unwary in commercial transactions. Yet until the intended Bill in Parliament could be promoted Council should work in the direction of such legislation.

Besides fraudulent charities, there were numerous badly-devised charities which derived enormous sums from the public for doing ‘hurtful and unnecessary’ work—such were Soup Kitchens, Free Dormitories, ‘Improvident’ Dispensaries, and the like. These had a directly pauperising tendency, and though under the name of charity they aimed at saving the poor from the degradation of becoming paupers, yet the effect of their action was to undermine all the best principles of the Poor Law and subvert its machinery, without creating any machinery of their own to replace it. It was impossible to organise charity except by bringing the action of the charities into harmony with the Poor Law. The Council had some years ago pronounced on the demerits of Soup Kitchens and Free Dormitories, and their views respecting dispensaries were well known; it was now time, therefore, to let the public know the conclusions the Council had arrived at, and the reasons on which these conclusions were based. It had been suggested that an annual directory of charities might be published, from which the undeserving would be excluded on certain well-considered principles, fully explained in the preface, and sanctioned by the Council. Some proposed forms of notice to be inserted in the ‘Reporter’ were then read.

Sir Charles Trevelyan seconded the motion. He said that though there might be many opinions as to the mode of giving practical effect to it, yet there could be no doubt of the propriety of taking some action. The Council had undertaken the duty of inquiry, and was competent to give an opinion, yet it remained silent, though it was admitted that the system of charity at present in force relaxed the family tie and trained the poor to mendicancy. Wages were at present supplemented to such an extent that women and children could barely obtain a subsistence by their labour. He would suggest that the motion be referred to the Administrative Committee to propose a detailed plan of action.

Mr. Seton-Karr hoped that if any plan were adopted no step would be taken without great caution. The Bill for ‘The Prevention of Frauds on Charitable Funds,’* though introduced into the House of Lords under the most favourable auspices, had proved a miserable failure. It was necessary to draw a marked distinction between the fraudulent charities and those ‘hurtful and unnecessary’ or contrary to the principles advocated by the society it required the utmost discretion to state definitely in what courses charity should flow; it might be creditable to prosecute with success, but an unsuccessful prosecution might prove disastrous.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta thought that though the Society had better means than any of testing the quality of certain charities, yet it might be unwise and ungracious to turn public censor, and then, perhaps, fail to do the good we wished, by checking much charity that was genuine and right in so far as it was done in a kindly spirit. He quite agreed with the first part of the motion.

Mr. C. E. Maurice said that the Hampstead Committee had already taken steps to prevent successful imposition, by printing notices of certain well-known fraudulent charities, and distributing them for exhibition in shop-windows and elsewhere.

Lord Lichfield said that the motion required the Council to perform that which the Society promised to do when it was established. We had an expensive machinery for enquiring

* *Vide Reporter*, July 9, 1873, p. 117, Vol. ii.

into these subjects, and it should be utilised for the public good; we should be ready to give information, not only respecting individual applicants, but also regarding any persons combining for professedly charitable objects not deserving of public support. With regard to the risk of failure, he quoted the course adopted by the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society; they had found that farmers were grossly defrauded by the sale of adulterated manures, and had therefore secured the services of a consulting chemist on whom they could thoroughly rely; they forwarded him samples for analysis, and undertook the responsibility of publishing the analysis, with the name of the vendor. Several prosecutions had ensued, and in some cases they were unsuccessful, but the result was that the fraud was put down. He hoped the Council would not hesitate to adopt the motion, leaving the details to the Administrative Committee.

Mr. Ribton-Turner said that modern thought had outgrown the law of false pretences. A law was now wanted similar to that in force in France, in which a general principle was adopted placing charity frauds in the same category as commercial frauds under the Companies Act. The principle of the Bill for the Prevention of Frauds on Charitable Funds had been approved.

Mr. Wightman Wood supported the principle; to warn the public against fraudulent charities was one of the first duties of the Society. But as the latter words of the motion were likely to be variously construed, he would move as an amendment that the motion be read as follows:—

That the Council should adopt means of warning the public as to those charities which it has ascertained to be unworthy of public support, either on account of fraudulent dealing with the funds or the absence of satisfactory accounts.

As to libel, an action for libel would fail, if the Council had stated only what was true in fact; for it could hardly be proved that the Council made the statement out of malice.

Major Prendergast seconded the amendment, which was accepted by Mr. Wilkinson, and adopted as a substantive motion.

The motion of which Mr. Wightman Wood had given notice was, with the permission of the chairman, withdrawn after a few words of explanation.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, February 26, 1876:—*Donations*: Sidney Field, Esq., £1. 1s.; Hon. Albertine Grosvenor, £10; Miss Emily Nottidge, 5s. *Annual*: The Earl of Aberdeen, £5. 5s.; W. Bousfield, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss Scott Douglas (1875), £1. 1s.; G. M. Gray, Esq., £5; T. Holmes, Esq., £1. 1s.; Alan Lambert, Esq., £1. 1s.; Capt. R. C. Mayne, R.N., £1. 1s.; Hon. and Rev. E. Moore, £2. 2s.; Dr. Hutchins Williams, £1. 1s.; W. Wynyard, Esq., £1. 1s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: G. M. Gray, Esq., £5.

The following business stands for Monday, the 6th of March:—

1. To consider the report of the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee.

2. Mr. Russell Barrington to move:—

'That it is most desirable that this Council should be purely a representative body; that it therefore be resolved that no more additional members be elected, and that the present additional members be requested to try and qualify themselves as soon as possible as Chairmen of Committees, hon. Secretaries, or representatives.'

3. Mr. C. A. Miner to move:—

(i.) That it being important to secure the due representation of all the District Committees, and their systematic co-operation in the work of the Council and of its Sub-Committees—it be a recommendation to the District Committees that they invariably elect their representatives annually, and that they make every effort to appoint such members to the office as will be able to give the necessary time and attention to the work.

(ii.) That in the event of a representative of a Committee being temporarily prevented from attending the meetings of the Council, it is advisable that he should give due notice to his Committee of his inability to do so, and that they should at once appoint another member to fill his place during his absence.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquirer for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
Kensington	5	7	6	18	2	1	3	3	1	4	25	13	6
Fulham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	5	4
Paddington	3	1	1	1	8	1	9	4	3	1	22	14	5
Chelsea	1	1	1	1	5	1	6	1	1	2	9	17	2
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	1	3	1	5	1	1	5	1	1	5	31	8	10
Westminster do.	1	3	9	13	3	3	3	2	1	4	17	3	1
Westminster:—													
St. James & St. Anne's	2	2	2	3	2	5	1	1	1	1	8	2	9
St. Marylebone	2	4	11	17	17	2	19	4	1	1	42	18	13
Hampstead	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	1	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	7	5	7
South St. Pancras	3	2	7	12	9	4	13	1	1	1	25	2	7
Islington	1	1	1	1	7	7	1	1	1	1	9	35	10
Hackney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	1	6	6	2	1	1	3	9	4	4
Strand	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	6	14	13
Holborn	1	3	4	2	9	9	3	3	3	6	19	2	18
City	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	26
Shoreditch	1	5	6	5	1	6	3	3	3	3	13	3	6
Bethnal Green	2	3	5	1	1	2	4	2	1	3	12	4	8
Whitechapel	1	2	1	4	4	2	6	1	1	1	10	7	6
St. George's-in-the-East	2	4	6	4	1	5	1	1	1	1	11	6	12
Stepney	3	3	1	7	3	1	4	1	1	1	12	10	6
Mile End Old Town	1	2	3	4	1	5	1	1	1	1	8	3	7
Poplar	1	1	2	3	3	4	7	1	1	1	11	5	3
St. Saviour's	2	2	5	9	4	4	4	1	1	1	14	4	4
Newington	2	3	5	3	3	3	1	2	1	4	12	4	3
St. Olave's	3	5	8	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	12	14	4
Lambeth:—													
North	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	9	2	4
South	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Battersea	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Clapham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	2	2	2	6	1	7	1	1	1	1	11	3	3
Peckham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greenwich	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	3	12
Deptford	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	5	8	3	7
Woolwich	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lewisham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eltham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	36	37	76	149	7	119	25	151	62	20	516	93	393
											228	217	120

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of February 1876 was 37,556, and 51,373 received outdoor relief, making a total of 88,929. This was an increase of 389 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873 this was a decrease of 9,535, 18,382, and 28,473 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 496. This was a decrease of 23 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 56 on the corresponding day of last year.

CLOTHING CLUBS.

'When I first went to St. Luke's, Berwick Street, I inherited an old-fashioned clothing club. People were invited to deposit their money, and if they took it out in orders for severely useful articles, which they were directed to get at certain shops, received interest on their deposits to the amount of 20 per cent., while, if they simply took back their money, no interest was added. I found this club languid; there were only 117 depositors. In analysing the thing, I discovered that 91 per cent. declined the bonus, and took back at Christmas merely the sum of their deposits in coin. I therefore called the depositors together, and told such as came that the old club would be discontinued, but that if any would like me simply to take care of their money I would begin a penny bank, the members of which should have no interest, and buy their own books. In a few months we had 1,600 names on our list, and the business of the bank became so onerous that I was obliged to decline the deposits of those who did not live in the district. This set me to question the whole fabric or scheme of charitable bonuses.'—*East and West London*, by the Rev. Harry Jones.

SUMMARY OF THE EXISTING PROVISIONS FOR THE CARE AND EDUCATION OF IMBECILES AND IDIOTS, WITH SUGGESTED FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

(For the use of the Committee to be appointed in accordance with the Resolution of the Council of the Charity Organisation Society of the 21st June, 1875).

ACCORDING to the Census Returns of 1871 there were about 30,000 Imbeciles and Idiots in England and Wales, or one in every 771 of the population.* Although the most afflicted and helpless of the human race, they are nearly all capable of being in some degree improved, so as to make their lives more tolerable to themselves and less burdensome to others, while a proportion of them may be made wholly or partially self-supporting. The young are especially susceptible of improvement, and the most favourable period is the earliest age at which the child can dispense with a mother's care. On the other hand, confirmed fatuity is likely to be the result of neglect in childhood and youth.

But the provision as yet made for this unhappy class of our population is totally inadequate. More than 10,000 are scattered in Union Houses, where they cannot receive the training and supervision they especially require, and often seriously interfere with the comfort of the other inmates, meeting, in return, with ridicule and unkindness. A large number are in Lunatic Asylums, where they are bewildered by the delusions of the insane, or alarmed at their ravings; and, owing to their imitative propensities, they are made worse than they were before. Others remain at their own homes, where they can only in rare instances obtain the education and treatment suited to their condition, while too often they are grossly neglected.

Private charity has proved unequal to the task. Only about 1,100 Idiots are in training in Asylums on the voluntary principle, and attempts which have recently been made in the Central and Western Counties to found new Institutions have not been attended with much success. Afflictions of this class can only be effectively dealt with as a common burden by public administrative arrangements. As they prevail in a certain fixed ratio to the whole population, the means of mitigation or remedy should be provided, not merely at favoured points like the Metropolis and a few large towns, but generally throughout the country. They also affect all classes of society in nearly an equal degree; so that, while the removal of an imbecile member of a struggling working-class family is a necessity, there is no family so wealthy to whom it is not an

* The following extract from the 'General Report upon the Census of 1871' (Vol. iv., p. 63) is deserving of attention in reference to this and other points:—

'According to the Return, the total number of persons described as Idiots or Imbeciles, in England and Wales, is 29,452, the equality of the sexes being remarkable—namely, 14,728 males, and 14,724 females. Compared with the entire population, the ratio is 1 idiot or imbecile in 771 persons, or 13 per 10,000 persons living. Whether the returns are defective, owing to the natural sensitiveness of persons who could desire to conceal the fact of idiocy in their families, we have no means of knowing; but such a feeling is no doubt likely to exist among those who look upon mental infirmity as humiliating, rather than as one of the many physical evils which afflict humanity.

'Idiots and Imbeciles seem to be the last class which has obtained the attention of philanthropists and men of science. Less has been done for them than the lunatics—partly because they are a less dangerous and troublesome class, but partly also from the doubt which existed as to the possibility of effecting a cure, or even any material alleviation of their condition. But attention has now been directed to them, and in consequence of the observation and experience of the last twenty-five years, it has been ascertained that in a large proportion of cases of congenital mental infirmity, a patient may, by care and training, be made able to contribute, at least in part, to his own support. This and other important results have been accomplished by means of the special institutions established for these unfortunate persons.'

object to secure for such a member the best scientific treatment, with a public guarantee of proper supervision. The machinery required to provide for this class of cases in every part of England is also so expensive, and so dependent for its efficiency upon proper organisation and inspection, that, although much incidental aid may be obtained from private benevolence, the necessary buildings and establishments cannot be set up and maintained in working order by any power short of that of the entire community, every member of which has a personal interest in the absence of the painful and demoralising spectacle of the neglected idiot, and in the knowledge that he is properly cared for, and improved to the extent of his capacity.

Even now, in the contemplation of the Law, every Idiot and Imbecile who cannot be provided for by his own family is entitled to a suitable provision at the public charge.

The State has acknowledged this obligation in reference to the large number of idiots who have been received into public establishments as paupers or lunatics, although no arrangement has been made for their separate treatment and instruction there.†

By the Poor Law Act of 1844 (7 & 8 Vic. c. 101), the Local Government Board may combine any number of country Unions and Parishes into School Districts for the management of any class or classes of infant poor not above sixteen years of age; and children may be sent from parishes not combined if within twenty miles. The largest powers are given to build schools, provide necessaries, and pay out of a common fund.

By the 19th Clause of a Bill recently submitted to Parliament by the President of the Local Government Board, the provision in the 14th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1849, which enables guardians to contract to receive in their workhouse certain paupers chargeable to some other Union or parish, is proposed to be extended to the managers of a District or other asylum for the reception of paupers, and to every case in which the Local Government Board shall give their consent.

By the Acts 25 & 26 Vic. c. 43 and 31 & 32 Vic. c. 122, Poor Law Guardians may, with the consent of the Local Government Board, send pauper idiots to any institution for the reception and relief of idiots maintained at the charge of the county rate or by private subscription, or to any other Union House where special arrangements have been made for the same purpose, paying their full cost therein.

By the Elementary Education Act of 1870 (33 & 34 Vic. c. 75) School Boards are bound to provide for the education of all children, not excluding idiots, with all necessary teachers and appliances; and children of the idiot and other afflicted classes have at least as strong a claim as other children to capitation-grants out of the annual vote for education, according to suitable standards of proficiency to be fixed in each case.

But by far the most effective legislation which has taken

† The necessity of a 'distinctive system' of treatment for Idiots has been repeatedly urged by the Lunacy Commissioners, as, for instance, in the following passage from their Report for 1865:—

'It has long been our opinion, as the result of extended experience and observation, that the association of idiot children with lunatics is very objectionable and injurious to them, and upon our visits to County Asylums we have frequently suggested arrangements for their separate treatment and instruction. It is always to us a painful thing to see idiot children, whose mental faculties and physical powers and habits are capable of much development and improvement, wandering, without object or special care, about the wards of a Lunatic Asylum. The benefits to be derived, even in idiot cases apparently hopeless, from a distinctive system, and from persevering endeavours to develop the dormant powers, physical and intellectual, are now so fully established, that any argument upon the subject would be superfluous. The soundness and importance of such views are generally recognised and appreciated, and benevolent efforts are being made in several quarters to carry them into practical operation.'

on this subject is the Act 30 Vic. c. 6, under which the powers of the Metropolitan Asylums District have the direction of the Local Government Board, to establish asylums for the sick, insane, and infirm at the cost of the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund. These powers have been applied, greatly to the public advantage, by the transfer of imbeciles and idiots from the Metropolitan workhouses and asylums to the Caterham, Leavesden, and Hampstead Asylums, and by the arrangement subsequently made for clothing the children, and educating them in a training-school at Clapton, pending the completion of a more perfect institution at Darenth, near Dartford, for five hundred children, at an estimated cost of £52,000. In short, this branch of administration has been satisfactorily provided for, not only by law but also in fact, as regards the great Metropolitan institution; and the question for consideration appears to be, whether this arrangement may not be extended to the rest of the country, with such modifications as local circumstances may require, so that the idiots and imbeciles in each county or group of counties may be separately cared for in asylums or training-schools maintained out of the rates—a portion of the cost being recovered from the relatives when they are able to pay, and capitation grants being made from public funds for every pauper idiot so maintained.

There is still another class of cases. Persons of the 'lower middle' or 'upper artisan' class, who are so unfortunate as to have an imbecile child, have real difficulty in obtaining proper care and training for him. They cannot appear as witnesses before their Boards of Guardians to claim the benefit of the legal arrangements for destitute imbecile children, and the conditions of admission to the great institution at Lambeth are a tedious and expensive canvass, or a minimum payment of fifty guineas a year, both of which are impossible to them. According to the rules of the Earlwood Institution, 'paupers who are provided for by the law of the country are ineligible; and the Founder explained that the object was to 'supply relief chiefly to the middle and poorer classes, and at the same time become a model and a motive for improvement in our pauper institutions.' But it appears, from an analysis of the list of the candidates, that, having regard to the position in life and the occupations of the destitute families, less than one-fourth answer to the description primarily intended to be relieved, while the remainder are pauper cases from all parts of the country, which ought to be fully paid for in charitable institutions by the Guardians, and be supported by them in their own institutions. It is, therefore, as an indirect consequence of the undevoted state of our provincial Poor Law arrangements for imbeciles and idiots, that the provision made by voluntary institutions for the relief of the lower-middle and artisan class has been diverted from its original object, and these classes have been left without assistance to bear the burden of providing for the care and education of an idiot child, or to come down under it. Everything, however, will fall into its place when the Provincial administration shall be placed on the same footing of efficiency as the Metropolitan. Persons of the lower-middle class with small means, and the too-do of the artisan class earning good wages, would be able to contribute according to their means towards the maintenance of their idiot children. They cannot pay fifty guineas, but they might pay some thirty, some twenty, and some ten; and the charitable would gladly make good the deficiency.

THE CHRISTIAN MEN'S UNION ASSOCIATION.

Aristobolus Police-court, on Wednesday last, the 23rd February, Thomas Yates, charged as a waiter, was charged before Mr. D'Eyncourt with obtaining charitable contributions by fraud. Montagu Williams (who was accompanied by Mr. Ribton-Turner), instructed by Lewis and Lewis, appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Sampson defended the

prisoner; and Mr. Jameson, from the office of Messrs. Wontner and Sons, watched the case on behalf of the Christian Men's Union Association.

Mr. Montagu Williams, in opening the case, said: I have been instructed this morning to appear on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society to prosecute this man for obtaining money by false pretences, and for conspiring, with other persons not in custody, to obtain money by false pretences. The Charity Organisation Society was not the first to set this matter in motion, for it appears that yesterday a police-constable named Love observed the defendant in Patahull Street, Kentish Town, soliciting subscriptions from door to door. From what took place, the constable's suspicions were aroused, and he thought himself justified in taking the defendant into custody. He found upon him a book containing the names of persons who had subscribed, and also circulars appealing 'for funds to give free dinners and breakfasts to hungry little children,' and bearing the name of 'The Christian Men's Union Association, Mr. Frederick Cox, Secretary, 32 Mornington Crescent, N.W.' This circular contains the following abridged extract from the *London Mirror* of January 10th, 1870:—

'The Mission House, 23 Church Way, Somers Town, the Grafton Hall, Fitzroy Square, W., and 103 Euston Road, Burton Crescent, W.C., are the seats of operation of the Christian Men's Union Gospel Mission to the outcasts and abandoned of mighty London. To-day we would tell our kind readers something about some hundreds of the ragged and uncared for children of London—the class known as "street Arabs" and "gutter children." On Sunday mornings all poor and hungry children who are gathered into the school are given a free breakfast, and a good meat dinner twice a week during the cold and cheerless months of winter.

'It was one of these bi-weekly dinners at Church Way that we attended on Tuesday last, with a view to the reproduction of the scene, which so impressed us, in the *London Mirror*. Here were collected over a hundred little ones whose wan faces and pinched-up looks but too clearly proclaimed the sufferings which surround their young lives in their miserable abodes, patiently awaiting the ever welcome meal. There they were, boys and girls—many of them mere infants, holding in their hands their plates—which, if massed together, would have made up what was once upon a time fashionable—"a Harlequin set"—or saucers which were to do duty for plates, their knives and forks and spoons. At one end of the room, with its walls only relieved by texts and hymns, the good secretary, assisted by several willing hands, was ladling out liberal portions of a savoury stew, composed of Australian meat, rice, and vegetables, which was further supplemented by potatoes "all hot" and slices of bread. Grace is sung before meat, and then the children set to with a hearty good will. Happily no limit is placed on the supply, and it is well that this should be so, for they will not have another good nourishing dinner like this until the succeeding Friday—Tuesdays and Fridays being the appointed days for "feeding the ravens." Then comes the Sunday breakfast, which was meted out with no sparing hand; and thus, with what they get at home, or pick up some way or other, they are enabled to tide over the week. It would be a very good thing if they could have a dinner every day, and in summer as well as winter time, like most other people, and that they could have if a generous public would supply the funds for this mission of love and mercy, which has no endowment to meet its wants, and no wealthy corporation or patron on which it can fall back in time of need. Still it is a very good thing that the committee are enabled to do so much for these starving children, and for some of the more distressed of the adult population around about their three stations. For let us mention that it is their kindly custom to send out dinners to the sick and the very poor twice a week, so far as their scanty resources enable them to do, and about forty families were so supplied last Tuesday.

'There were, we should add, five boys out of those present on Tuesday who have had situations provided for them out of the school, but who receiving very small wages—about three shillings a week—are still allowed to partake of the bi-weekly dinners. Earnestly appealing for that assistance so much needed for sustaining this Christian effort in its many branches, we need only add that a number of gentlemen have consented to be referees, that the Committee meet regularly for the transaction of business, and that communications may be addressed either to Mr. Robert Howells, the treasurer, 89 New Bond Street, or to Mr. F. W. Cox, the Secretary, 32 Mornington Crescent, N.W., to whom Post Office Orders on the General Post Office should be made payable; cheques to be crossed to the Birkbeck Bank. We would also remind our readers that parcels of old clothing or bedding will be gratefully received for distribution at the homes of the destitute.'

It appears (continued the learned counsel) that the policeman was not very far wrong, because the hall-keeper at this hall, where these dinners are so liberally provided, referred him for further inquiries to Mr. Cox, the Secretary. Now in 1873 Mr. Cox was charged at Marlborough Street Police-court—prosecuted, on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society, by myself—with obtaining money by false pretences, in connection with another association called the 'Free Dormitory Association.' After some conversation between Mr. Newton and the learned counsel—here is the printed report of the case—the former said there was a miscarriage of justice, and, however sorry he might be, he must discharge the defendant, but cautioned him as to his future conduct. I shall be able to show by-and-by that, under the guise of giving breakfasts and dinners to these poor children, a very large amount of money is obtained from the public. You would be perfectly astounded to learn that they realise from this source alone something like 6000, to 10000, a year. They have given, I believe, at one period some two or three breakfasts to poor children. The dinners are an utter myth, but they think they do enough to satisfy the requirements of the law, and to keep themselves beyond any charge of false pretences, because they could answer, 'This is not a false pretence, for we can show that we have given on some occasions breakfasts to hungry children.' This man (the defendant) is merely a tool; he is only the collector. I propose to charge other persons, not only with obtaining money by false pretences, but with conspiring to defraud the public. I believe, from the instructions I have received to-day, and also from information which I have received since I have been here from the Inspector of police, that it would be unwise for me to call my witnesses into the box this morning. At the same time I feel that I could not ask you to detain this man in custody, he being simply a collector, until my case is ready, and I have agreed with the solicitor who appears for him that, subject to your approval, he should go out upon his recognizances until this day week, and in the meantime those who have instructed me will take measures to bring the other persons before you. I may mention that three of the committee are persons who gave evidence on behalf of Mr. Cox when the 'Free Dormitory' case was heard at Marlborough Street. I have no doubt that on Wednesday next I shall be able to lay the whole case before you, but I think it my duty to make this statement here to-day in order to prevent the unwary public giving any more to these persons. I believe that a gross fraud has been perpetrated, and under these circumstances I think you cannot have any objection to the course which I propose.

Inspector W. Lucombe, Y division, examined by Mr. Williams, said: In consequence of the defendant being taken into custody, I made certain enquiries with regard to the dinners alleged to have been given at Grafton Hall. I saw the hall-keeper, who said there were no dinners, but breakfasts were given there.

Mr. D'Eyncourt: Where is Grafton Hall?—In Fitzroy Square, just out of Euston Road.

Mr. Williams: Could you learn how long ago it was since any breakfasts had been given there?—Yes, last Sunday.

Did you see Mr. Cox?—Afterwards I went to Church Way and the other place.

Mr. Sampson objected that this was not evidence against the defendant.

Mr. D'Eyncourt said the constable had already been examined, and his deposition had better be read.

Police-constable Joseph Love, 351 Y, was called, and his deposition read. He proved that about 12 o'clock on the previous day, he was in Patahull Road, and saw the prisoner. He about him ask for contributions for the free dinners. When witness spoke to him he said he was only the collector, and he must make any inquiries of Mr. Cox, the Secretary. Witness took the book (produced) from him. He had the book open. Several of the circulars produced were in it, and there were others in his pocket.

Mr. D'Eyncourt: Those in the book refer to 32 Mornington Crescent. (To the Inspector): You say no dinners were given at Grafton Hall. You have not been to 87 Bond Street?

Mr. Williams: He has been to Church Way. The defendant is found going about begging, and we only produce slight evidence to justify a remand.

Mr. Sampson: Before you remand the defendant I wish to make a statement. This case will be in every paper in London to-morrow morning, and the learned counsel has very skilfully introduced matters which will prejudice it.

Mr. Williams: I thought I was showing the defendant every consideration. The case is as yet incomplete, and I simply asked that he should be released upon his own recognisances.

Inspector Luscombe (in reply to the Magistrate): I inquired of the hall-keeper, and he asked what I wanted to know about it, because he was directed to refer anyone who came to inquire there to Mr. Cox. I said, 'If these dinners are given here you can surely tell me.' I mentioned the name of Mr. Ball, and asked if that was one of the committee-men. He said that was his son. He lives at Mornington Crescent, and he is the hall-keeper's son, and son-in-law to Mr. Cox. I asked the neighbours and tradespeople where these dinners to hungry boys were given, and they said it was the first they had heard of such a thing. I could find no one except Mr. Ball. He referred me to Mr. Cox, and I asked him to give me an account of the committee-men. Well, one was dead, and one in the country, and so forth. I also asked him if he could refer me to any independent gentleman, anyone of position, or anyone that could satisfy me that it was a *bond fide* affair, and he gave me some names.

Mr. Sampson: Whom you did not go to make inquiries of?

Witness: From inquiries made I did not think it was worth while.

Mr. Sampson: I ask to be allowed to make a few remarks. In the first place, the police-constable takes this man into custody. I do not pretend that he is a man of high position in life; he is in a very humble position, employed to make these collections, and he goes from door to door and receives what benevolent people are willing to give towards this charitable and benevolent object of feeding the poor and destitute. I shall be able to show you, when this case comes to be investigated, that my client has accounted for every farthing that he has received; that not one shilling of the money that was given him has remained in his pocket beyond his wages and the salary that he was to have as collector. I do not hesitate to say that when the whole matter is before you, it will be found that the action of the Charity Organisation Society is unwarranted and uncalled-for; that this is a *bond fide* benevolent thing, and a benefit to the poor in that neighbourhood; and I think from what I have been told that the parties who organise this affair will be able to show that every shilling they have received has gone to feed the hungry and destitute, and that they started from the first commencement with that object in view. This man is taken into custody, and there is the collecting-book with the *bond fide* signature of the officials. Here you have a book with a printed heading given to him by those above him, and in it are entered the shillings and sixpences which he has received with the names and addresses of the persons who gave them. A considerable amount of doubt has been thrown upon Mr. Cox. I have not the pleasure of knowing that gentleman, but I will state this that the learned counsel did not tell you that he was honourably acquitted.

Mr. Montagu Williams: I could not say such a thing.

Mr. Sampson: Well, I will say it for you. All the wealth and influence of the Charity Organisation Society was brought to bear upon Mr. Cox at that time. The learned counsel was engaged to conduct the case against him, and after every twist and every turn they could devise he was discharged. There are people who are uncharitable enough to say that the Charity Organisation Society is not altogether immaculate, and that it is high time there was an inquiry into the distribution of its funds; and there are people actually uncharitable enough to say that the Charity Organisation Society is nothing more nor less than a splendid feast for officials. The report of that case is in the Charity Organisation Society's paper written by their own officials. I will take a remand for a week, and then I will show—

Mr. D'Eyncourt: I think you ought to be a little careful. You are throwing dirty water upon the Charity Organisation Society, which stands very well in public esteem. You have been abusing your prerogative in doing so. You will probably bring more down upon your head than you are aware of, if you are not careful.

Mr. Sampson: My remarks are simply a reply to matters of prejudice introduced by the learned counsel.

Mr. D'Eyncourt: I have listened to you because a reflection has been cast upon the person for whom you appear. The evidence against him is really very slight, and amounts almost to nothing. It is apparently taken for a purpose, and there is nothing as yet to show fraud.

Mr. Jameson: On behalf of Mr. Cox I say he was honourably discharged. The Charity Organisation Society failed entirely to make out a case against him. I appear on behalf of the society of which Mr. Cox is secretary, and I say that he was honourably discharged by a magistrate.

Mr. Montagu Williams: I am bound to say you were not there. How on earth you can say he was honourably acquitted in my presence I cannot understand, because it was no such thing.

After some conversation between the magistrates and Mr. Montagu Williams, Mr. D'Eyncourt intimated that there was no evidence of fraud against the prisoner which would warrant his being remanded. The prisoner was accordingly discharged.

CONVALESCENT HOMES.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES which keep lists of convalescent homes may be glad to know of the following small homes*:

- (1.) Mrs. Wilder, Purley Hall, Reading, for women and children, Patients generally kept for a month, but the time may vary according to circumstances. A payment of 7s. 6d. is expected.
- (2.) Mrs. Newton, Western-road, St. Leonards; for children, £1. 1s. a month; girls over 17, £1. 10s.
- (3.) Mrs. Lodd, Ellington Cottage, Frant-road, Tunbridge Wells, for children only; 12s. a month.
- (4.) Female Convalescent Home in connection with the Tunbridge Wells Nurses' Institution, intended specially for biblewomen, nurses, domestic servants, and shopwomen; 10s. a week, or 5s. on a subscriber's letter.

* A list of Country and Seaside Homes is to be found at pp. 43 and 45 of the Classified Directory to the Metropolitan Charities. Longmans, Green, and Co., 1876. Price 1s.

(5.) Limpsfield, Surrey. Inmates are admitted on payment of 7s. per week, a subscription of one guinea thus providing for a residence for three weeks. For a small extra payment, persons of the class of teachers, dress-makers, &c., may have a separate sitting-room. Limpsfield may be reached from London by South-Eastern trains to Caterham. An omnibus meets the 5.13 p.m. train from Charing Cross. Applications for admission, accompanied by a medical certificate, must be made to Mrs. Paget, 28 Boltons, South Kensington, S.W., Treasurer; or to Mrs. E. R. Jones, Rectory, Limpsfield, by whom annual subscriptions or donations will be thankfully received.

(6.) Convalescent Home for Women, Ravensbourne, Beckenham, Kent. Payment, 4s. to 7s. weekly. Address, Miss Bonham-Carter, Ravensbourne, Kent.

(7.) Convalescent Home for Girls (address, Miss Martineau), Walsham-le-Willows, Bury St. Edmunds. Payment, 4s. weekly for girls under 12; over that age, 4s. 6d. a week.

(8.) Convalescent Home for Women, 80 High-street, Hastings. Address, Miss Kingsbury, Tanfield House, Hastings. Payment, 8s. a week.

N.B.—In all these Homes payment is required or permitted by the rules. All applications should be accompanied by a medical certificate stating the nature of the ailment of which the patient has been suffering.

Members and others are invited to inform the Secretary of any other small and good convalescent homes with which they may be acquainted.

ARNEWAY'S CHARITY: Office, 7 Great Queen Street, St. James's Park, S.W.—A fund vested in trustees to grant loans thereout, at interest, to poor occupiers or traders resident within the Bills of Mortality in the Metropolis, and the parishes of St. Marylebone and St. Pancras, preference given to those resident within the City and Liberty of Westminster. Loan not to be less than £50, nor to exceed £200, and repayment, with interest at 3 per cent., secured by bond of borrower, and two householders, at the discretion of the two trustees. Applicants for loans (on a form to be obtained at the office) to be made on or before the 23rd of each month. Clerk and Solicitor to the Trustees, Mr. Stephenson.—*Low's Handbook to the Charities of London*, 1875.

It will be seen from the following advertisement that appeared in *The Times* that the most important restrictions on the Charity have been removed:—

'Money on Loan at 3 per Cent. per Annum.—*Arneway's Loan Trust*.—The trustees, having had their powers enlarged by the Court of Chancery and Her Majesty's Charity Commissioners, are enabled to lend out the trust-moneys to poor occupiers or traders resident within the metropolitan district as defined by the Metropolis Local Management Act, 1855. The amount of each loan is not to be less than £50, nor to exceed £200, to bear interest at £3 per cent. per annum, and to be secured by the bond of the borrower, and two sureties who are householders, or one such surety for any amount not exceeding £100, at the discretion of the trustees, or upon real or long leasehold property. Printed forms and all necessary information may be obtained by applying personally, between the hours of 10 and 3, at the office of Mr. Stephenson, the Clerk and Solicitor to the Trustees, 7 Great Queen Street, St. James's Park, S.W. Applications for loans sent in before the 23rd of any month will be considered at a Board meeting of the trustees on the second Wednesday in the following month.'

Nearly Ready. Price 1s.

REPORT ON THE TRAINING OF THE BLIND.
By a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, with Appendix.

Will shortly be Published. Price 6d.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

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NOTICES.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, March 22nd, at 3 P.M.

Mr. J. Whitcombe has been appointed a Representative of the Kensington Committee, *vice* Mr. W. Bousfield, resigned.

The Reverend Harvey Brooks, Rector of St. Margaret's, Lothbury, has been appointed a Representative of the City Committee in the place of the Dean of St. Paul's.

Mr. G. Pritchard has resigned the joint Hon. Secretaryship of the Hackney Committee.

Mr. W. Bevan has been elected Representative of the Westminster Union Committee in the place of Mr. F. C. Mills, who has been acting as representative. Mr. G. Cavenish has resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of the Committee, and Mr. W. Bousfield has been elected Hon. Secretary, conjointly with Mr. J. T. Godfrey Faussett, *vice* Mr. T. P. Price.

The Reverend S. A. Thompson-Yates has been elected Hon. Secretary of the St. George's-in-the-East Committee.

A few sets of the *Reporter* for 1875 have been bound for sale. The Volume can be obtained at the Central Office, price 6s. 6d.

NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

Lists of the Almoners of the Society for the Relief of Distress, with the Districts in which they work, have been received. Copies will be sent to each Committee, and it is particularly requested that they may be placed within easy reach or reference.

The School Board cases dealt with by District Committees, in accordance with the arrangement made with Mr. F. Peek, in May last, should be entered in the Decision Book, under the head 'Recommended to Private Persons,' if they are considered suitable for pecuniary assistance out of the fund; and the amounts paid in aid of such cases should be entered in the accounts as Special Donations.

The Administrative Committee being desirous, in accordance with the resolutions of Council of the 24th January* and 4th February† last, to ascertain the probable charges on the District Committee Aid Fund for the year ending 30th September next, call attention to the following notices:—

(1.) **ESTIMATES.**—District Committees likely to require grants from the present time to the 30th of September next are requested to send in, at their earliest convenience, estimates of their receipts and expenditure up to that date.

* *Reporter*, p. 18, Vol. v., 26th January 1876

† *Reporter*, p. 32, Vol. v., 16th February 1876.

(2.) **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS.**—District Committees on making applications for grants will, after furnishing the above estimates, have to forward balance-sheets only, made up to date since their last application or the beginning of the financial year as the case may be.

(3.) **FORMS.**—District Committees are requested to apply for the necessary forms.

There are at the Central Office eight admission tickets for the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, 315 Oxford Street; and an offer has been made to nominate a suitable applicant recommended by a District Committee as an in-patient for a bed at present vacant.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); J. Whitcombe, Esq., F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., Dr. Anderson, *Kensington Committee*; C. J. Stevens, Esq., *Fulham*; Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lord Claud Hamilton, H. Dundas, Esq., Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Major Prendergast, *St. George's*; W. Bevan, Esq., W. Bousfield, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)*; Miss Octavia Hill, *St. Marlebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; Hon. W. Warren Vernon, W. F. Lawrence, Esq., *St. Giles'*; H. H. Hill, Esq., Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; G. Barrington Baker, Esq., *Holborn*; H. N. Hoare, Esq., Rev. Harvey Brookes, Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; Rev. H. P. Kelly, *Shoreditch*; C. Lavers Smith, Esq., C. L. Corkran, Esq., *Whitechapel*; Russell Barrington, Esq., *St. George's-in-the-East*; E. L. O'Malley, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Rev. W. H. Langhorne, *Mile End*; Rev. W. F. H. Burchell-Herne, Ralph Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; F. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; R. M. Hensley, Esq., *Wandsworth*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; G. Parker, Esq., *Lewisham*; C. A. Barry, Esq., *Sydenham*; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-Presidents*; A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 50. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. J. R. Hollond asked whether District Committees were in the habit of applying to the magistrates for grants out of the poor-box for special cases. Mr. W. Bousfield stated that the magistrates of the Hammersmith Police Court had applied to the Fulham Committee for reports on cases, and had relieved those recommended by the Committee.

Rev. H. P. Kelly alluded to the assistance the Shoreditch Committee had received from the magistrates at Worship Street; and Mr. F. Du Pré Thornton added that the magistrates at Newington subscribed £30 a year to the Committee, both sending cases for investigation, and assisting adequately those referred to them by the Committee.*

* The following are some of the Committees that have received assistance from the Police Magistrates during the past year:—

Lambeth Committee, from Lambeth Police Court, £50. Wandsworth Committee, from Wandsworth Police Court, £20. Shoreditch Committee, from Worship Street Police Court, £5 for General Account, and £5 for Loan Fund. Whitechapel Committee, from Thames Police Court, per J. Lushington, Esq., £30. Poplar Committee, from Thames Police Court, £30. Battersea Committee, from Wandsworth Police Court, £30. Fulham and Hammersmith Committee, from Hammersmith Police Court, £30. Islington Committee, from Clerkenwell Police Court, £15. Newington Committee, from Lambeth Police Court, £20.

Mr. Seton-Karr asked if any member had been applied to by Henrietta Rendell, *alias* Fraser; he wished to warn members against such a person. The case appeared to be well known.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending February 26 the receipts had been £49. 16s. 3d. for the General Fund, and £5 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £537. 17s. 8d. and £44. 7s. 5d. respectively.

A grant of £30 on account had been made to the St. Olave's Committee.

Directions had been given to publish in the *Reporter* an important correspondence communicated by the St. George's Union Committee, proposing a plan of co-operation between the Trustees of Charitable Endowments, the Guardians of the Poor, and the District Committees of the Society.*

THE REPORT OF THE QUARTERLY FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE AND BUDGET ESTIMATE.

The Report was read by the Secretary. The estimated receipts for the year were £3,509, as against £3,565 estimated expenditure, the latter sum including £500 paid to the City Committee in accordance with the resolution of Council of the 28th of November last.† No estimate of the contributions to the District Committee Aid Fund, &c. had been drawn up. A larger estimate had been made under the head 'Printing,' in consequence of the expenses connected with the publication of the Report on the Welfare and Training of the Blind. There was also a large increase in the estimate for legal expenses. The Report further stated that the total estimate for the year 1875 had been £2,868, while the total actual expenditure for that year had been £2,872, excluding grants to District Committees,‡ for which no estimate had been made. The total receipts, including a balance of £808, had been £3,672, as against an estimate of £3,670. The large increase in the subscriptions in the past year had led the Committee to increase their estimate under that head for the year 1876.

Mr. J. R. Hollond moved the adoption of the report. Comparing the office expenses with those of the year 1875, he found the increase to be very slight. It was for Council to consider not merely how much they could reduce expenditure, but whether they received their money's worth for the money they expended. The work of the Council was not like that of a District Committee. Council had to enunciate new principles and give them a practical shape. It was slowly founding a systematic basis for charity by promulgating views concerning Provident Dispensaries and the like. The difficulties and expense of changing people's minds were doubtless great, yet the weekly meeting of a parliament on charity was an expensive mode of operation, and it might be advisable to make the *Reporter* more valuable, and at the same time less costly, by giving it the form of a paper as well as making use of it as a permanent record of the work of the Society.

Mr. Russell Barrington seconded the motion. A Committee had been sitting for a long period during the past year to consider whether the expenses of the Council might be reduced without a reduction of the efficiency of the office. The Committee had decided in the negative. As more work comes in, the expenses must become greater. The expenses of the Society would compare favourably with those of bodies engaged in similar work, *e.g.* the expenses of Boards of Guardians in the salaries to their officers.

* See p. 51.

† *Vide Reporter*, December 1, 1875, p. 145, Vol. iv.

‡ *Reporter*, February 16, 1876, p. 35, vol. v.

Mr. R. Dundas moved the following amendment—

That the report be referred back to the Administrative Committee, and that their attention be drawn to the large and increasing office expenditure of the Council, with a view to its reduction.

He said that the expenditure had reached the excessively large sum of £3,000. If the expenses of the Council were reduced, the subscriptions to District Committees would probably increase.

Mr. Seton-Karr seconded the amendment. He considered that the expense was occasioned by the Council taking its stand too far ahead of public opinion.

Mr. Willis-Bund considered the estimate hardly high enough. The work of the Society could not be carried on without payment. It was a feeble policy to starve the head to which the members should look for support.

Mr. W. Bousfield gave notice of an amendment, that the discussion on the estimates be deferred until they have been printed at length in the *Reporter*. It was difficult to pass such an array of figures in the block.

Mr. C. A. Miner said that those members who objected to the estimates had not attended the Administrative Committee or taken the trouble to understand the details on which the conclusions of the Sub-committee were based. The Committee would only be too happy to reduce expenditure, and would be grateful for any hints.

Mr. A. H. Hill compared the salaries of Government officials with those paid to the officers of the Society.

Mr. E. L. O'Malley was of opinion that the money received by Council was received for purposes of organisation: if large sums were spent they were well spent in doing work for which the public was ready to pay. Machinery was required for our work, and it was only adequate machinery that could accomplish the work effectually: the expenditure on this should be considered in its proportion to the millions spent annually in London on charity.

After a few words from Mr. J. Whitcombe and Mr. S. Fuller, Mr. Dundas explained that he had two practical suggestions to make with a view to reduction—less frequent meetings of Council* and, as a necessary consequence, a less frequent issue of the *Reporter*. His amendment was put and lost. Mr. Bousfield's amendment was then seconded, put, and lost; and the motion for the adoption of the Report was carried.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

Mr. Russell Barrington then moved the following motion, which, with the permission of Council, he had slightly altered, viz.:

That it is most desirable that the Council should be a *purely* representative body; that it therefore be resolved that no more additional members be elected, and that the present additional members be requested to try and qualify themselves, if possible, as Chairmen of Committees, Hon. Secretaries, or representatives.

He said that the constitution of the Council, if it could be described in one word, must be defined as *representative*. Though the work of each Committee was distinct and independent in its own district, each was bound to adopt without jealousy certain well-understood principles enunciated by Council: and if the Council was recognised as *purely* representative the allegiance of District Committees to it would be strengthened. He did not wish the present additional members to cease to be members. Several East End districts found it difficult to secure the services of representatives who had the leisure to attend Council regularly; while additional members had been appointed, because it appeared to be desirable to have as members those who had an interest in the work of the Society, but were unable to attend the meetings of District Com-

* *Vide Reporter*, January 26, 1876, p. 18, Vol. v.

mittees. If they now became representatives, it would not be necessary to require their frequent attendance at the District Committees, but they might be the means of bringing the work of the Council before them from time to time so as to give an interest to what was now often set aside on account of the large number of cases that had to be decided without delay.

Captain Boyce having seconded the motion, Mr. Willis-Bund said that, speaking as an additional member, he considered that the presence of such members at Council was to be justified on the ground that they brought outside opinion to bear upon the special and local interests and prejudices which those who acted strictly as representatives were likely to adopt. He had been a representative, but found that he was able to attend his District Committee so seldom that he could not honestly continue to act as one. The Council had a class of supporters distinct from those who worked on District Committees, and these should have their representatives also.

Rev. W. H. Langhorne considered that the present arrangement had worked satisfactorily.

Mr. Miner said that though he did not object to additional members, yet they should be conversant with the work of the Society, the Council and the Committees. He suggested an amendment, making their attendance at Council at certain intervals a condition of membership. Subsequently Mr. Barrington withdrew his motion.

The motion of which Mr. C. S. Miner had given notice was adjourned on the motion of Mr. S. F. Fuller.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, March 4, 1876:—*Donations*: W. H. Crane, Esq., £6; Lieut. R. F. G. Innes Lillington, R.N., £2; Rev. Lord O'Neill, £5; Philip Sancton, Esq., £5. *Annual*: J. Ball, Esq., £1. 1s.; E. Cayford, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. Franks, Esq., 10s.; W. R. Hardy, Esq., £1. 1s.; E. Hilton, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Lyell, £1. 1s.; Sir Richard Wilbraham, K.C.B., £1. 1s.

The following business stands for Monday, the 13th of March:—

1. To consider the report of the Joint Finance and Supervision Sub-Committee on the part of the report of the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee referred to their consideration by the Administrative Committee.

2. Mr. Hamilton N. Hoare to move:—

'That Mr. G. Howell be elected an additional member.'

3. Mr. A. H. Hill to call the attention of the Council to the relations of the Society to the industrial classes, and their co-operation in its work, with special reference to an article by Mr. C. E. Maurice in 'Macmillan's Magazine' for December 1875, and to move:—

'That a closer bond of union should be created between the representatives of organised charity and leaders of the working men's organisations.'

4. The adjourned motion by Mr. C. A. Miner, see *Reporter* of the 1st instant, p. 45.

QUESTIONS—ERRATUM.—*Reporter*, No. 168, p. 43, Vol. v., line 6, for 'week' read 'month.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of February 1876 was 37,464, and 51,592 received outdoor relief, making a total of 89,056. This was an increase of 127 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873 this was a decrease of 9,295, 19,489, and 29,722 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 536. This was an increase of 40 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 97 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

ST. GEORGE'S UNION.—The following letters from the Honorary Secretaries to the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, have been addressed to the Rector, Churchwardens, and other Trustees of the Dole Charities of St. Margaret's, Westminster:—

(I.)

'48 Buckingham Palace Road, June 10, 1875.

'It having been found that more precise information was desirable with regard to the charitable funds available for the poor of this district, a Sub-committee was appointed at a late meeting of the St. George's and West-

* *Reporter*, Dec. 15, 1875, p. 153 Vol. iv.

minster Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, held at Grosvenor House, to inquire and report as to the means of making provision, consistently with the promotion of habits of providence, for those chronic cases of destitution to which mere temporary aid is not applicable.

'With this object we have compiled, from information furnished to us by the Charity Commissioners, the accompanying statement* of the Dole Charities of the parish of St. Margaret's, Westminster, upon which we venture to observe:—

'1st. That so far as these doles in money or kind are intended for temporary relief, that object is now provided for in a more systematic manner by means of the Poor Law and the various Parochial Subscription Charities, supplemented, when necessary, by the funds at the disposal of the Charity Organisation Society;

'2nd. That the periodical distribution of small doles has a strong tendency to induce habits of dependence and pauperism; and

'3rd. That the intentions of the original donors would, under the altered circumstances of the present time, be more effectually answered if the amount distributed in doles were given in pensions to deserving old people who have done the best they could in life, and, through no fault or improvidence of their own, have been unable to make a sufficient provision for their old age.

'This principle has of late years been extensively acted upon by the Parochial Councils of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge; St. Barnabas, Pimlico; St. Peter's, Eaton Square; and St. Matthew's and St. Mary's, Westminster; and more lately it has been adopted by the St. George's and Westminster Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, under the regulations shown in the accompanying paper.†

'The practice of the Parochial Councils in this respect will be seen from an extract from the report of the St. Peter's, Eaton Square, Parochial Council for 1874.‡

'Upwards of a hundred aged and infirm persons have thus been provided for. After all the circumstances have been investigated and taken into account, a sufficient weekly rate of subsistence is fixed, and any return to former mendicant habits is visited by the withdrawal of the charitable allowance, and the transfer of the case to the Guardians. The only exception made is that, in real illness, any further necessary charitable assistance is allowed.

'It will be seen that the point towards which all these charitable agencies are working is that all poor persons who are considered deserving of being relieved at their own homes should be taken in hand by regulated enlightened charity, while the rest should be dealt with under the Poor Law, with its asylums and infirmaries for the aged and infirm, and its workhouses for the idle.

'Having now explained our motive in addressing you, and the principles upon which we desire to co-operate with you, we invite your serious attention to the subject, with a view to practical action upon it. We would gladly be informed to what extent you have funds at your command for providing for deserving aged and infirm persons (whether such funds were originally so appropriated, or have been obtained by converting into pensions sums hitherto distributed in doles); while, on our part, we are ready to give you the aid, in any way you may desire, of the extensive information we have collected relating to the poor of the district, as well as to place at your disposal our experienced Inquiry Agents. We could, from time to time, refer to you many cases deserving of being permanently relieved according to the principles which have been explained, but for which we are unable to obtain such relief.'

* There are twenty Dole Charities in the parish of St. Margaret's, Westminster, with an annual income amounting in 1870 to £374. 13s.

† *Vide Reporter*, Feb. 23, 1876, vol. v., p. 46.

‡ It has been our earnest desire to make a comfortable provision for such of the old and deserving poor of the parish as may, through no fault or improvidence of their own, have been unable to make a sufficient provision for their old age, that they may end their days among us in peace and quietness, without being subject to the demoralising effects which result from being ever on the look-out for tickets, or casual doles. Of this class of poor we have upon our books 48 cases, comprising (if we take in old married couples) 55 persons, whose qualifications have been rigidly tested on the three essential points of age, residence, and respectability. The total sum expended during the past year upon this especially deserving class of our poor amounts to £615. 6s. The limits which we originally prescribed to ourselves—of 65 years of age, and a continuous residence in the parish of seven years—we have been unable to relax; though we would gladly do so in some cases if our funds would permit; more especially as it would diminish the number of a most distressing class of cases which has caused us much difficulty,—cases which, though eminently respectable and deserving of relief, do yet fall so far short of our standard in the other necessary particulars, as to disqualify them for the permanent relief which would alone be of use to them. We shall be happy to recommend such cases for the private relief for which they are most fitting objects, though we do not feel justified in placing them as a permanent burden on our funds.'

(II.)

48 Buckingham Palace Road, March 1, 1876.

'In the letter addressed to you by their desire on the 10th June last, the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee of the Charity Organisation Society gave their reasons for thinking that the intentions of the original donors of the Westminster Dole Charities would, under the altered circumstances of the present time, be more effectually answered if the amount distributed in doles were given in pensions to deserving old people who had done the best they could in life, and, through no fault or improvidence of their own, had been unable to make a sufficient provision for their old age. It was also stated that this principle had of late years been extensively acted upon by this Committee and the Parochial Councils connected with it, and the Committee expressed their readiness to co-operate with you for the further extension of the practice.

'To this the Rector of St. Margaret's replied, on the 19th June, that the trustees were "desirous to apply in the way of pension to deserving persons any charities which may be regarded as not beneficially administered," and that a Committee of the Vestry had been appointed to consider the subject. "The greatest bar," Canon Conway added, "to the accomplishment of our wishes (and of yours, as expressed in your letter) seems to me to be the totally inadequate help afforded by the Parish to cases of old age and infirmity"; and he then gave a striking instance of the Guardians having stopped the allowance of a deserving old woman because she had received £5 from one of these charities, of which she had placed £4 in the Savings Bank to cover the expense of her funeral.

'In reply to this our Committee observed that the true solution of the difficulty arising out of the administration of the Poor Law was, that Charity and Poor Law should each take entire charge of their respective cases, and that there ought to be the freest interchange of information between the two administrations; to which the Rector rejoined: "I quite agree that the true solution of the difficulty as to the relief of the needy and deserving poor is to be found in a division of the cases—the parochial authorities giving adequate assistance to the one set, and charitable resources providing for the other set. But I do not see how any practical action is to be taken on such a solution, so long as the parochial authorities repudiate the obligation to supply such a measure of assistance as I suppose, the present law will hardly warrant them to afford."

'The actual position, therefore, is that the trustees of the Westminster Charities and this Committee are agreed as to the course which ought to be adopted, but that a difficulty is supposed to exist, arising out of the practice of the Guardians of the Poor and the state of the law under which they act.

'First, as to the state of the law, there can be no doubt that it is entirely in favour of the course of action proposed. The law simply requires that the relief given shall be "adequate," leaving the Guardians to apply this principle according to the circumstances of each case. Heretofore, such large numbers were placed on the outdoor relief list that the Guardians could only give trifling allowances in aid of other means of subsistence; but a more discriminating practice has now been established, and it has become possible for them to act up to the intention of the law by giving "adequate" relief to the much smaller number of urgent and deserving cases which are alone admitted on the list.

'The recent practice of the St. George's Guardians in regard to the scale of outdoor relief has not always been consistent, as might have been expected during a transition period; but, so far from depriving deserving persons of their allowances, they have on several occasions complied with recommendations to increase them. The Guardians have from the combined action of the Parochial Councils, in fully providing for the destitute persons, and in preventing others from falling into destitution, is so considerable that the Guardians have an obvious motive in cordially co-operating. If the case described by the rector of St. Margaret's had been duly represented to the Guardians, the Committee feel persuaded that it would have been rightly and liberally dealt with. They strongly recommend, for the future, a frank interchange of information both with the Guardians and with this Committee, on the understanding that each of the three administrations—the Guardians, the Trustees of the Charities, and this Committee, with its affiliated Parochial Councils—will, as far as possible, take entire charge of their respective cases, and that the point to be gradually worked up to is that all poor persons who are deserving of being relieved at their own homes should be taken in hand by regulated enlightened charity, leaving the rest to be dealt with under the Poor Law, with its asylums and infirmaries for the aged and sick, and its workhouses for the idle.'

The following is an extract from the last annual report of the St. Marylebone Committee:—'The subjoined extract of a letter to one of the Hon. Secretaries from the Rev. Henry Geary, Vicar of St. Thomas, might perhaps more correctly have found place under the head of "Co-operation;" but it forms so valuable a testimony to the action of the Society, and so admirably expresses its views and general principles, that no words the Committee might use would form a more suitable conclusion to their Annual Report:—

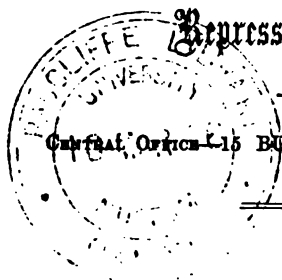
'In returning to parochial work in London, after ten years in the country the contrast is very striking: but the rise and rapid growth of the Charity Organisation Society, since my former experience of London work, has wonderfully tended to remove one whole set of its difficulties for those

clergymen who can make up their minds to accept its valuable co-operation heartily and entirely. The amount of knowledge of the circumstances and characters of the poor which the occasional visits of clergy and district visitors can give is far too little to enable us to know either where or how to give, so as to do real good. I well remember that when, as curate of a wealthy parish, I was in the old days one of its almoners, I was often sadly oppressed with the doubt whether the alms I was distributing with a lavish hand were not causing much more harm than good. It is now quite otherwise: every case that we relieve (with a few quite trifling exceptions) is investigated thoroughly by the agents of the Charity Organisation Society, and the facts so gleaned are carefully discussed by our Relief Committee, so that we at least know what we are about, and are often saved from unwittingly doing widespread harm by relieving those well known by their respectable but neglected neighbours to be worthless and vicious—and can apply definite principles to our delicate work of relief. But, perhaps, even more valuable than the direct assistance of investigation, is the education that we almoners are receiving from the wise rules and accumulated experience of the Charity Organisation Society's Committee. We are learning the folly of sapping the independence of the poor by a system of doles, for which they learn to be ever looking, instead of to their own providence and exertions. We learn how it is possible to spend the money that would have been frittered away in these doles upon adequately relieving (sometimes with comparatively large sums) those to whom a temporary assistance during illness or misfortune may be of lifelong benefit. We learn to endeavour so to bestow every gift as to call out exertion and providence on the part of the recipient, instead of teaching them to rush helplessly for external aid in the first difficulty; and, in a word, to keep steadily in view the permanent benefit of the distressed. These lessons are invaluable. We begin to see the results in individual cases again and again; and when, if ever, these lessons have been learnt, not by the few, but the many, by all the charitable, and above all by the clergy of every denomination, almsgiving will become a blessing, instead of (as so often) an unintended but gigantic evil, and the habits and thoughts of the poor of London will be insensibly but wonderfully raised.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on &c			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under-servicing	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
Kensington	4	4	12	2	2	2	2	2	2	16	10	10	2
Fulham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4	3	9
Paddington	3	1	6	10	3	1	4	4	2	24	14	4	1
Chelsea	3	1	4	1	3	4	2	3	2	7	13	..	1
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division.	1	3	4	..	..	..	3	..	3	13	11	1	..
Westminster do.	4	1	12	17	..	..	2	1	3	27	7	2	..
Westminster:—													
St. Marylebone	1	1	3	3	3	3	1	..	1	7	2	9	3
Hampstead	2	4	5	11	1	10	6	17	1	32	15	8	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	2	..	2	2
South St. Pancras	2	1	3	5	5	5	3	..	3	11	5	..	1
Islington	3	3	9	15	10	3	13	..	1	29	6	6	1
Hackney	1	4	5	16	16	16	2	1	3	24	12	1	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	2	3	5	3	3	3	1	..	1	9	3	9	..
Strand	2	1	3	2	2	2	9	1	10	13	2	10	..
Holborn	5	5	14	1	15	15	4	2	6	26	8	13	..
City	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	3	8	19	..
Shoreditch	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	..	3	11	3	12	..
Bethnal Green	2	2	2	..	..	..	1	1	3	5	4	9	..
Whitechapel	3	1	4	8	1	7	8	1	2	21	10	10	..
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	2	5	4	9	..	..	..	11	7	7	..
Stepney	1	3	4	8	2	1	3	..	..	11	7	5	..
Mill End Old Town	1	4	5	1	1	2	..	..	..	7	7	6	..
Poplar	2	2	2	3	3	3	1	..	2	7	1	8	..
St. Saviour's	1	2	3	6	5	5	1	1	2	13	6	9	..
Newington	1	3	4	2	2	2	2	..	2	8	13	7	..
St. Olave's	1	1	2	3	3	3	..	..	4	5	3	3	..
Lambeth:—													
North	1	1	1	3	..	..	4	..	4	9	3	4	..
South	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	2	2	..
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	2	4	2	2	..
Battersea	1	1	1	3	..	1	1	..	4	8	4	2	2
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	9
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	..	5	11	..	..	..
Peckham	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	3	..	4	..
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	..	..	1	6	2	9	12	3	13
Deptford	..	..	..	3	3	3	4	..	4	7	..	2	8
Woolwich	1	1	2	1	1	1	12	1	14	17	4	4	8
Lewisham	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	4	..	23
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..
Sydenham	1	1	2	..	..	..	3	..	3	5	..	12	..
Total	37	34	92	163	8	100	29	132	79	28	8	128	428
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Society for Organising Charitable Relief and
Repressing Mendicity.



Central Office - 15 BUCKINGHAM STREET ADELPHI

LONDON, W.C.: March 2, 1876.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society observing that you are a subscriber to the institution known as Miss Stride's Home, deem it a public duty to call your attention to the correspondence which has passed between the Solicitors of this Society and the Solicitors of Miss Stride, and also to the further correspondence between the Earl of Shaftesbury and the representatives of Miss Stride's Home, which has led to the Earl of Shaftesbury withdrawing his name as the Patron of the Institution.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society have made full inquiry into the circumstances narrated in the correspondence, and consider that they have given Miss Stride the fullest opportunity of explaining the matters to which her attention was then called; but as Miss Stride and her Solicitors have failed to make any answer to the grave statements made by the Society, the Council deem it imperative upon them to lay this correspondence before you, that you may have an opportunity of determining the further course that ought to be taken in the matter.

By order,

C. J. RIBTON-TURNER,

Organising Secretary.

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INDICITY.

PRICE 1d.

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'The recent practice of outdoor relief has not been expected during a transition period. The persons of their allowance are recommended to increase their combined action of this period.

The following is an extract from the Report of the Select Committee on the subject of the proposed new Bill:—

Printed by SPOTTY

these inquiries shows that up to the year 1866 or 1867 Miss Stride was engaged in various business houses at a salary, with the exception of a short period in 1862 and 1863, when she was engaged in business as a milliner. It is therefore obvious that she was in no way engaged in reclaiming the fallen up to 1867, which is only a period of eight years from this date, and not twenty; that Miss Stride was bankrupt in the year 1863, paying no dividend to her creditors; that in the year 1872 she filed a Petition in Bankruptcy, under which she liquidated her affairs, paying a composition of 1s. in the pound; that in the year 1873 she again proposed to her creditors to pay 1s. in the pound, which was refused, and that for some time past a number of judgments have been registered against her.

These facts seem therefore so directly to contradict the statements made in the Balance-sheets, and by Mr. Giffard and Superintendent Thomson, that we have been instructed to invite you in Miss Stride's interest to afford us any information which may serve to clear the matter up.

It appears that subsequent to the year 1867 and down to the year 1871, Miss Stride was employed at a salary by various charitable societies, and it was only in the year 1871 that she founded a home.

Will you be good enough to give this matter your early attention.

We are, dear Sirs, yours faithfully,

(Signed) LEWIS & LEWIS.

Messrs. Humphreys & Morgan, Solicitors,
Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

2. *Letter from Messrs. Humphreys & Morgan to Messrs. Lewis & Lewis, in answer to the foregoing and to a note of reminder.*

GILTSPUR CHAMBERS, HOLBORN VIADUCT,
LONDON, E.C.: July 9, 1875.

To Messrs. Lewis & Lewis,
10 Ely Place, Holborn.

Re Miss Stride.

DEAR SIRs,—As a matter of courtesy to yourselves, we have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letters of the 30th ult. and 8th inst. It does not appear to us that any further answer is necessary.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) HUMPHREYS & MORGAN.

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INDICITY.

PRICE 1d.

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'In returning to paro the contrast is, very strib Organisation Society, s wonderfully tended to

Printed by SPOTT

3. *Letter from Messrs. Lewis & Lewis to Messrs. Humphreys & Morgan.*

10 ELY PLACE, HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C.:

July 9, 1875.

Charity Organisation Society and Miss Stride.

DEAR SIRS,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of this date, acknowledging the receipt of our letters of the 30th ult. and 8th inst., in which you state that it does not appear necessary that any further answer should be given. We fully appreciate the fact that you are the sole judges of the course you shall adopt; but we may be permitted to say that, after having given you the fullest opportunity of offering any explanation of the matters brought to your notice, the responsibility of declining to do so, and the inferences that must arise therefrom, must rest with yourselves and your client.

We are, dear Sirs, yours faithfully,

(Signed) LEWIS & LEWIS.

Messrs. Humphreys & Morgan,
Holborn Viaduct.

THE FOREGOING CORRESPONDENCE WAS SENT ON BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY TO THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, THE PATRON OF MISS STRIDE'S HOME, WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:—

4. *Letter from the Earl of Shaftesbury to the Council of Miss Stride's Home.*

24 GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.: August 4, 1875.

Lord Shaftesbury presents his compliments to the Gentlemen composing the Council of Miss Stride's Home.

He has thought it his duty to lay the enclosed papers before them, and to request an explanation.

5. *Letter from the Rev. G. Hough to the Earl of Shaftesbury.*

HOUSE OF CORRECTION, WESTMINSTER:

August 9, 1875.

MY LORD,—On calling at Hart Street this morning, your letter, addressed to the Gentlemen composing Miss Stride's Committee, was handed to me.

I fear that a Council Meeting could not be called immediately, as almost every one of them are away from town just now, but it shall be done as soon as possible, and your wish be attended to.

I may as well add that I am told that Messrs. Humphreys and Morgan are in full possession of all particulars. I had heard something of the matter before ; but until quite lately, through a bad attack of illness, I have been obliged to refrain from any active business over and above my prison work.

I am, my Lord,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) GEORGE HOUGH, Chaplain.

(One of the Honorary Secretaries of
Miss Stride's Home.)

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.

6. *Letter from the Rev. G. Hough, in reply to a reminder from the Earl of Shaftesbury, that no explanation had hitherto been received by his Lordship.*

HOUSE OF CORRECTION, WESTMINSTER:
November 4, 1875.

Re Miss Stride's Home.

MY LORD,—Your letter, addressed to Hart Street, has just been forwarded to me.

I myself have been away from England until Monday last on "sick leave." No meeting has yet been held, and as the affair is in the hands of Miss Stride's solicitors, I think it advisable to forward your letter to them.

I am, my Lord,

Yours truly,

(Signed) GEORGE HOUGH, Chaplain.

(Hon. Sec. to Miss Stride's Home.)

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury.

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INDICITY.

PRICE 1d.

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7. Letter from Messrs. Humphreys & Morgan to the Earl of Shaftesbury.

To the Right Honourable,

The Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.,

24 Grosvenor Square, W.

GILTSPUR CHAMBERS, HOLBORN VIADUCT,

LONDON, E.C.: November 18, 1875.

YOUR LORDSHIP,—Miss Stride of 17 Hart Street, Bloomsbury Square, has placed in our hands a letter addressed by you to the Rev. G. Hough (which he handed to her), with instructions to inform your Lordship that her "Homes" and also her books are open to your inspection, or to any one else who has a right to see them; and she will be most happy if your Lordship could pay her a visit, if you could kindly find it convenient to do so.

Lest your mind should have been operated upon or poisoned by some of the evil-disposed persons who have been circulating slanders about Miss Stride, we think it right to inform your Lordship that Mr. Knox, the Metropolitan Police Magistrate, recently sent his own special messenger, Mr. Welch, to inspect the "Homes," and we have applied to Mr. Welch for a report of his visit, which we have the pleasure to enclose your Lordship. We also have the pleasure to enclose your Lordship a letter received by Mr. Knox from the matron of the House of Correction, Westminster, bearing upon the same subject, as it may interest you to read this letter.

Miss Stride wishes us to state that she is ready and willing to answer any question which your Lordship may wish to ask of her with reference to her "Homes," or her management of them, and we also shall be happy to give you any information in our power upon the same subject.

We believe Miss Stride, in following her present charitable occupation, is actuated by no other motive than that of doing good to her fellow creatures, and we sincerely trust her exertions may be fraught with success.

When your Lordship has read the enclosed, perhaps you will have the kindness to return them, as they are originals.

We have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's faithful Servants,

(Signed) HUMPHREYS & MORGAN.

8. *Letter from the Earl of Shaftesbury to Messrs
Humphreys & Morgan.*

GEOSVENOR SQUARE : November 21, 1875.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, with the enclosures, which I now return.

The enclosures relate simply to the internal management of Miss Stride's Home. This was not the subject of my communication to the Gentlemen who form the Lady's Council.

The papers contained some very serious statements in respect of financial matters, of which, in your reply, no explanation has been given. There is not indeed any allusion whatever to them.

I have not, I am sorry to say, any time to spare in controversy, and I must therefore request that my name be removed immediately from the place it occupies as Patron to the Institution.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) SHAFTESBURY.

Messrs. Humphreys & Morgan.

9. *Letter from Mr. H. N. Capel to the Earl of
Shaftesbury.*

16 UPPER WOBURN PLACE, W.C. : December 14, 1875.

MY LORD,—Your letter of the 21st November, and the correspondence connected therewith, has been duly laid before the Council of Miss Stride's Homes, and I am requested, as Chairman on their behalf, to state that, in compliance with your Lordship's request, your name has been removed as Patron of the Institution.

I am further requested to state that the Council having been most fully satisfied with every detail of the management of the Homes under Miss Stride's care, have deemed it most irrelevant to enter into a discussion or explanation of her private affairs, and especially into matters which occurred about 20 years ago, and I feel convinced, from your Lordship's extensive knowledge of public societies, that a due consideration of the facts cannot fail to lead your Lordship to the same conclusion.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(Signed) H. N. CAPEL.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury.

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INDICITY.

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many parts secured the support of the clergy, and through them the approval of many members of their congregations. Now, therefore, the Society should enlist in its cause many of those intelligent men and women who had both leisure and inclination to undertake the work of charity. In Edinburgh young medical men and lawyers had proved to be most efficient allies. The work of the Society was also work for which women were peculiarly fitted; many of them were now persistently pursuing their charitable labours under immense disadvantages, alone and without guidance, and in ignorance of the means by which their self-devotion might be turned to the best account. It was time that we should tell them that the Society required their co-operation, and that we should make a strong effort to secure it. Ten women working with each Committee would form a band large enough to exercise an immense influence in various ways, and would direct into proper channels the large sums at present improvidently spent in soup-kitchens and similar thriftless charities. No work could at this time be more important for District Committees than to obtain such assistance. The Council should not shut its eyes to the statements made in the Report of the Visits to Offices Sub-Committee, but it should avail itself of every means at its disposal for securing the co-operation of larger numbers both of men and women on the District Committees, in order that their own local work might be carried out more effectually, and that they might, by being duly represented at the Council, more systematically co-operate in the work of the whole Society.

With regard to the second part of the motion, he pleaded that most beneficial results had accrued from the practice, which was usual at the St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee, of appointing a member to fill the place of a representative, even during a short absence. By this means many members had attended the Council who would otherwise not have been able to do so, and the whole Committee had thus learnt to appreciate more fully the work of the Council. He would be glad to see a more general adoption of the plan.

Sir Charles Trevelyan seconded the motion. While so much was said of new work for women, it seemed to be forgotten that the work of charity, in all its endless ramifications, lay before them. A lady working with this Society would probably, by doing so, be drawn up from inferior work. Committees should be careful in obtaining fitting representatives.

Mr. A. H. Hill felt that it was as essential to obtain the support of the professional classes and of women as to secure that of the industrial classes. The adoption of the plan which Mr. Miner stated to be in force at St. George's, Hanover Square, was a question of experience. He was inclined to think that some inconvenience might possibly result from a Committee being represented at Council by a temporary and perhaps ill-informed representative.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe suggested that the only difficulty was the impossibility of getting representatives for the weaker Committees, which had only a slight hold on their District.

Mr. Russell Barrington, speaking on behalf of an East End Committee, said that it was very difficult to obtain members of a Committee in that part of London: there was no idle professional class there, while many ladies were giving the Society great assistance. Great interest was taken in the work of the Society, but members had not the leisure to attend Council as representatives.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta said there were many men in London who had not to work for their bread, and many ladies pining away for want of occupation—striving often most vigorously to amuse themselves, and continually failing to do so. It would be a charity to give them regular work, such as that of our District Committees, and thus confer happiness on them. Many were engaged in charitable work, but he doubted if the mass of human suffering was really much alleviated by their

devotion. If the higher classes could really be brought to recognise the duties of their position, while the clergy heartily advocated the necessity of wise exertion, much good would result to themselves, and an impetus would be given to such work as the Society had undertaken.

Rev. W. H. Langhorne proposed that a rider should be added to the motion, in order to ensure that it should have a more practical bearing. He suggested that it should be an instruction to District Committees to consider, at the next election of their representatives, the motion brought forward by Mr. A. Miner. He thought that the District Committee should be more systematically represented, but, on the other hand, there was beyond question a good deal of time wasted at Council. The debates of so large a body, composed of men of some ability, should as a rule be more effective and important.

Mr. C. A. Miner, in reply, said that steps had already been taken to make the meetings of Council more interesting and profitable. A greater portion of the executive work had recently been transferred to the Administrative Committee, leaving the time of the Council free for the discussion of the most important matters. He should be glad if more time were allowed for members to ask questions regarding common difficulties, and to impart information as to the best results of their work, thus giving the representatives of other Committees the benefit of their experiences. He sympathised with all that had been said as to the importance of inducing residents in wealthier districts to serve on Committees in poorer localities, and he considered that it was one of the best features of the Society, that it had the power of drawing together all classes for the furtherance of one common work, and he trusted that it might become a means of gradually bridging over that separation between class and class which was one of the greatest evils of our modern social life.

The motion was then put and carried.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, March 18, 1876:—*Donations*: Earl Granville, £20; E. Wright, Esq., £1. 1s. *Annual*: Col. Elliot, C.B., £1. 1s.; John Kirk, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss Loch, £2. 2s.; H. Ludlam, Esq., £2. 2s.; J. Spencer Phillips, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. Lehaque Routh, Esq., £5; Mrs. Venables, £2. 2s.; F. Buxton Whalley, Esq., £1. 1s.; Rev. J. B. White, £1. 1s.; Worsfold, Heyward, & Co., £1. 1s.

The following business stands for Monday, March 27:—

1. Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe to move—

'That, as far as practicable, notice be given in the *Reporter* of business which is to come before the Administrative Committee.'

2. Mr. A. H. Hill to move—

'That, for the more effectual working-out of the objects of the Society, it is desirable to establish Standing Committees of the Council, whose function it shall be, under the general direction of Council, to take special charge of certain branches of the Society's work.'

At the meeting of the Administrative Committee, on Thursday next, the 23rd instant, the question of further accommodation for the offices of the Council, either in the present premises or elsewhere, will be considered.

CONVALESCENT HOMES.

In reply to an invitation to members and others to send information to the Secretary respecting 'any small and good convalescent homes with which they may be acquainted,' notices of the following homes have been received:—

1. Convalescent Home for Women, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire.—No weekly charge. Payment of fares to and from Stroud, 9s. 0^d. each way, third class. The Home has been established expressly to help Londoners, and remains open from the 1st of April to the 31st October. Address Miss Frith, Highlands, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, who will be glad to receive any of the poorer cases recommended by the Charity Organisation Society: she has received several from the Whitechapel Committee, but could often accommodate more.

2. Private Convalescent Home for Men, Women, and Children, Beechwood Cottage Home, near Lyndhurst, New Forest. Payment, 7s. a week. Address: Mrs. Malcolm, Beechwood, Lyndhurst. Patients are conveyed by railway second-class, on payment of third-class fare.

For other Homes, see *Reporter*, March 1, 1876, vol. v. p. 48.

N.B.—All applications should be accompanied by a medical certificate, stating the nature of the ailment from which the patient has been suffering.

The following letter, with a list of the Poor-Law Dispensaries in the Metropolis, has been forwarded to the Administrative Committee by Mr. W. M. Wilkinson:—

'SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, and in compliance with your request, to transmit the accompanying List of Dispensaries which have been established in the Metropolis under the Regulations of the Board.

The Board desire me to state, in reply to your inquiry, that it is not probable that any considerable addition will be made to the number of Poor-Law Dispensaries in the Metropolis.

'I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
'THOMAS SALT,'
'Secretary.'

Union or Parish.	Situation.	Time open.	To what Relief District attached.
Pancras (St.) . . .	Leighton Road, King's Road, Compton Place,	9 to 6, 9 to 6, 10 to 6,	Nos. 1 and 2. Nos. 3, 4, and 5. Nos. 6, 7, and 8.
Poplar	High Street, Poplar, Grace Street, Bromley,	10 to 6, 10 to 6.	East, West, and Middle Districts. Bromley and Bow.
Saviour's (St.) . . .	55 Blackman Street, Workhouse, Westmoreland Road, Walworth,	9 to 1 and 3 to 6, Ditto,	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th.
Shoreditch, St. Leo- nards	204 Hoxton Street, N.	9 to 2 and 4 to 6,	Whole Parish.
Stepney	York Street, West Ratcliff.	10 to 1 and 2 to 6,	Whole Union.
Strand	6 Bow Street, Covent Garden,	10 to 1 and 2 to 5,	Whole Union.
Wandsworth and Clapham	St. John's Hill, New Wandsworth,	9 to 1 and 3 to 6.	West Battersea, Wandsworth.
Westminster . . .	Poland Street, Oxford Street,	10 to 2 and 5 to 7,	Whole Union.
Whitechapel . . .	Thomas Street, Whitechapel.	9 to 7, Except Sunday.	Whole Union.
Woolwich	Rectory Place, Woolwich. Workhouse, Plumstead,	9 to 12, 2 to 3, 5 to 6. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 to 10.30, 2 to 3, Other days, except Sundays, 10 to 10.30, 4 to 4.30.	Charlton, West Woolwich, and East Woolwich. Plumstead.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with	
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for Hospital, &c.
Kensington	4	6	7	17	5	1	6	6	1	11	18	41	16	6
Fulham	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	3	3	3	8
Paddington	3	1	5	9	3	..	3	6	1	8	17	29	14	6
Chelsea	3	..	3	6	..	..	2	5	..	..	5	13	16	5
St. George's:—														
St. George's Division.	2	1	4	7	..	..	..	3	1	..	4	31	13	5
Westminster do.	1	..	6	7	1	6	..	4	2	..	6	12	2	..
Westminster:—														
St. James & St. Anne's	2	..	2	..	3	1	4	1	..	1	7	2	5	11
St. Marylebone	2	..	4	6	..	2	8	1	3	1	2	21	4	9
Hampstead	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	7	2	5
North St. Pancras and														
Highgate	2	..	..	2	..	6	1	7	..	..	..	9	1	4
South St. Pancras	1	4	9	14	..	9	6	15	..	..	..	29	1	14
Jalington	..	..	..	..	13	1	14	1	..	1	2	16	11	9
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	..	1	2	..	4	1	5	1	..	2	8	..	5
Strand	..	..	..	..	4	1	5	6	1	7	12	12	6	6
Holborn	..	..	4	4	17	1	18	1	..	1	23	7	8	1
City	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	5	14
Shoreditch	..	..	7	7	2	..	2	2	..	..	2	11	2	6
Bethnal Green	1	2	1	4	1	..	1	2	3	..	2	11	4	11
Whitechapel	2	1	3	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	6	6	6
St. George's-in-the-East.	3	1	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	4
Stepney	1	2	4	7	..	1	1	..	1	1	2	10	15	7
Mill End Old Town	..	..	4	4	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	6	8	18
Poplar	1	1	1	3	..	1	1	..	1	1	2	6	2	3
St. Saviour's	3	3	3	9	3	..	3	1	..	2	3	15	6	16
Newington	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	6
St. Olave's	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	..	..	1	4	2	3
Lambeth:— { North	1	2	5	8	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	11	4	3
{ South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	8
Battersea	..	..	1</											

NURSES FOR THE SICK POOR.

The following is an extract from the Report of the Sub-Committee of Reference and Inquiry of the Metropolitan and National Association for Providing Trained Nurses for the Sick Poor, dated June 1875:—

'The great fault and the great difficulty of District Nursing is its tendency to lapse or degenerate into mere charitable relief—*giving to* the sick poor instead of *doing for* them. The danger is obvious; the evil does undoubtedly exist. How can it be otherwise unless, indeed, the nurses had nothing to give? First, as to defective, insufficient nursing, or neglect of nursing proper. It is, of course, impossible that a District Nurse can nurse as if in a hospital ward. She has too large a number of patients; and many of them do not require that kind of nursing. But grant that some do, she cannot give it. She cannot remain for hours within reach of a single patient, and visit him several times in the day. She has not the appliances of the hospital, nor its arrangements. The utmost she can do for a single patient must generally be limited to one visit a day of an hour's duration, during which she can and ought to do, in the graver cases, all the most important and delicate duties of the nurse that admit of being done once for all—washing, dressing sores, changing the linen, and making the bed of a sufferer who cannot move, etc. Even if she did her duty thoroughly, she would be apt to fall under the censure of a visitor judging her by a hospital standard. But it must be confessed that in too many instances she falls short of that duty. Her visits fail to reach the minimum of an hour required in grave cases; she has too much to do that is not nursing to nurse properly. Where she is entrusted with large means to give away, she is apt to give most of her time and attention to this easiest and pleasantest of her functions, if only for the reason that it is one of the most essential. The greatest need of the sick poor, in their own homes, is nourishment suited to their feeble state and precarious appetite; and a person who gave this and did nothing else would probably effect more cures than a nurse who did everything else but was unable to do this.

'It is, therefore, obvious that even the best nurses have a tendency to degenerate into almsgivers, and almsgivers at other people's expense: and that this is a danger against which vigilant precaution must be taken. It seems a sound rule that the distribution of "medical comforts" should never be under the control of the nurse in person; that if possible the Lady Superintendent of her district, as the guardian and often the provider of the funds required for that purpose, or in her absence some other independent authority, should herself, with the advice of the medical man, assign what is needed. But too often the lady in question has not the leisure to visit all the cases herself so often as would be necessary to prevent waste and misapplication—certain to occur if considerable supplies were given at once—while ensuring promptitude in relieving pressing and immediate wants; and as very frequently the nurse must herself make the arrowroot, sago, or gruel, or administer the wine, it is difficult to enforce a rule so stringent. Still, at this or some other mode of separating the nurse from the reliever we ought unquestionably to aim.

'And we must go a step further, and take care that proper discrimination is used in the granting of relief. There must be effective inquiry into the circumstances of each patient.'

The following is taken from a letter of the Rev. Septimus Hansard, dated August 24, 1874, addressed to the above Sub-Committee:—

'I venture to suggest to the Committee that qualified nurses should be certified by the medical authorities of the nearest hospital, or dispensary, if such dispensary can be relied on, and that the names and addresses of such nurses, and the terms of their engagement, should be kept at the hospital or dispensary, to be had on application. I am decidedly against the establishment of an institution for supplying nurses gratuitously to anyone who pleads poverty. There is a class of poor not actually and legally paupers, but whom I don't want to make legally paupers, to whom alms for all purposes must be given, from the midwife and maternity bag of linen to the funeral. All we can do is to deal with these poor people in the least degrading way, and with all the judgment of which we are capable. But the difficulty of your proposed institution is, that if you give gratuitous aid of the kind suggested to these poor, how can you avoid giving it to those immediately above them—the class who struggle on with noble independence, many of whom do drop into the class of paupers by well-meant and foolish almsgiving? Then comes the difficulty, that, as with medical so with nursing skill, it is all too high in price for the independent and struggling man I describe to purchase. In medical cases, a man who, after paying his medical practitioner, finds he wants further the skill of the best surgeons or physicians, and cannot pay his guinea fee, gets it gratuitously at the hospital. Lately much has been said about this; and however difficult it is to put even a small fee on existing hospital aid to these members of the working-class, I think there is great evil in establishing another institution to supply a great necessity on the entirely gratuitous system for all but the acknowledged rich. Therefore I should suggest that a small fee should be paid by every applicant, exceptions being made only in cases which had been properly investigated. The result would be that the mass of men and women would get the aid by paying their small fee, and not

be or feel degraded, nor lose their sense of independence and self-reliance, though they might be sure that that fee went but really only a small way towards the payment of the good they get.

'As an instance, let me tell you this: there is in the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, a society of working-men to obtain medical aid from the Victoria Park Hospital for Diseases of the Chest by a small weekly payment of 1d. With the money life-governorships are bought, and entrusted to the society for the dispensation of letters. There are in the society 23 life-governors, each governorship costing £10. There is a similar society in Mile End with 10 life-governors, and in Stepney parish one with 5 life-governors. You will see the poorest parish, my own, has the most, and you may easily reckon up the whole sum subscribed by the number of letters distributed. There is a smaller society in my parish connected with the London Hospital.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of March 1876 was 37,064, and 50,580 received outdoor relief, making a total of 87,644. This was a decrease of 892 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 10,833, 20,590 and 32,844 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 617. This was a decrease of 23 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 108 on the corresponding day of last year.

ST. GEORGE'S EAST: MEDICAL RELIEF.—At the meeting of the Board of Guardians on the 10th inst., the Clerk reported that the Dispensary Committee had held a special meeting, to inquire into the practice of issuing orders for medical relief, and found that certain practices might be amended. They therefore agreed to recommend that each relieving-officer keep a separate application and report book, in which shall be entered the applications for general medical relief, &c., and that such books be presented at each weekly sitting of the Board. Further, that the relieving officers be instructed to offer on loan all relief under the several heads until the next meeting of the Board, a discretionary power being left to them in dealing with special cases; that each application be entered with a report upon the case, and that each applicant to whom relief is granted be informed that such relief is only given provisionally, and that some one representing the recipient is required to attend the next meeting of the Board, upon pain of discontinuance of all further relief; that the district medical officers be instructed to supply patients with provisional orders, and with sufficient medicine only to last until the next meeting of the Board; that the medical officers of the infirmary and the master of the workhouse inform the relieving officers, in writing, of any special case admitted into the infirmary without an order from the relieving-officers, with a view to such cases being inquired into, and entered with a report in the application book, to be brought before the Guardians at their next meeting.—Mr. Peters moved the adoption of the report, explaining that it was hoped the scheme would prevent fraud.—Mr. Walker said the report was most practical in its character, and tended in the direction of beneficial reform of the relief regulations.—The report was then adopted.—*Metropolitan.*

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REPORT ON THE TRAINING OF THE BLIND.
By a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society; with Appendix.

A STRONG CASE for HALF-BINDING the NUMBERS of the *Reporter* for 1875 has been prepared by Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., New-street Square, Farringdon Street, E.C.; and can be obtained from them through all newsagents, price 1s. 4d. If the numbers for the year be sent to Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., they will be bound for 2s. 10d.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 29, 1876.

DOUBLE NUMBER. PRICE 1d.

EFFECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor: bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities. securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases. granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be expected for, and which are not met by existing sources. repressing mendicity.

and, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those availing themselves to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, to mind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies existing to help them.

any of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

Committees are reminded that a fresh election of members at the Council has to be made (under Rule 1) in one month after the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M. Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); J. Whitcombe, Esq., Bt., *Kensington*; J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; R. Dundas, Esq., *Major Fitz-Roy, St. George's*; W. Bousfield, Esq., *Westminster and St. Anne's, Soho*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hon. W. Warren Vernon, H. N. Hoare, Esq., St. Giles's*; Simpson, *Strand*; Capt. Fortescue, G. Barrington Baker, Esq., *Harvey Brooks, City*; Russell Barrington, Esq., *St. George's*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; F. Montgomerie, Esq., *A. D. W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *H. Warl, Esq., Battersea*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; G. A. Annesley, Esq., *Lewisham*; C. A. Barry, Esq., *Sydenham*; son, Esq., *Vice-President*; J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., *Stephen George Howell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., Additional Members*; S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Secretaries*.

QUESTIONS.

Seton-Karr asked if members had received papers 'Caution to the Benevolent,' advertising a pamphlet 'Inquiry into that Scourge to Humanity, Phantom and National Calamity, the Soulless, Heartless, Immorality Organisation Society,' written by R. Logsdon, reprinting a letter addressed to the Editor of the *Standard* on the 11th of September 1875, to which it was answered that no answer had been given.*

letter referred to and the correspondence that followed, see *Standard*, October 30, 1875, vol. iv. p. 123.

The Organising Secretary stated that his attention had been drawn to the circular in question. The letter referred to in it was written by a person named Pannell, who was one of the auditors of Miss Stride's Home. The statement that this letter had not been answered was, as the Council were probably aware, entirely untrue, as, immediately after its appearance in the *Standard*, several letters exposing the misconceptions of the writer with regard to the Society were inserted in that paper.

With regard to the pamphlet to which allusion was made in the circular, the Organising Secretary expressed his belief that the extreme scurrility of its tone would elicit sympathy for the Society from anyone to whom it was sent; it had, in fact, already had that effect in several instances.

The author of the pamphlet, who appeared to be a man named Logsdon, had formerly been assisted by one of the Committees of the Society with a view to enabling him to obtain a situation. This situation he afterwards lost through his own misconduct.

It was asked on behalf of Major-General Blunt whether anything was known of Dr. Louis Straymele, who represented himself as an exiled patriot from Alsace, and appeared to have studied the homœopathic directories to some purpose. Homœopathic and other medical practitioners should be cautioned against him by District Committees, and no assistance should be given before making inquiry at the Marylebone Committee.

A REPRESENTATIVE WANTED.

Mr. C. E. Maurice asked if any member of the Society would join the North St. Pancras Committee, with the intention of acting as representative of the Committee at the Council.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending March 18 the receipts had been £39. 0s. 2d. for the General Fund, and £11 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balance of the General Fund on that day had been £564. 3s. 2d. Also that the sum of £19. 12s. 7d. appeared as a deficit against the District Committee Aid Fund, there being no available balance on that account.

GRANTS.—Grants of £60, £20, and £20 had been made to the South St. Pancras, Stepney, and Newington Committees respectively.

BUSINESS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe moved—

That, as far as possible, notice be given in the *Reporter* of business which is to come before the Administrative Committee.

He said that, in consequence of the great change that had been effected in the position of the Administrative Committee by the resolution of Council of the 24th of January last,* it was

* *Vide Reporter*, January 26, 1876, vol. v. p. 18.

necessary that members should have notice of the important questions likely to be discussed by that Committee.

Mr. S. Fuller, in seconding the motion, said it would have been better if the method by which notice should be given had not been limited. He therefore proposed that the motion should be modified thus:—

That it be a recommendation to the Administrative Committee that, as far as practicable, notice of business of special interest which is to come before the Administrative Committee be given either in the *Reporter* or in such other way as may seem most expedient.

Mr. Edgecombe agreed to the motion in its altered form.

Mr. J. R. Hollond, Major FitzRoy, and Mr. Seton-Karr pointed out some of the difficulties which such a resolution might involve, and Mr. Russell Barrington, seconded by Mr. Hollond, moved the previous question. After some words from Mr. C. A. Miner, Mr. Bousfield, and Mr. Willis-Bund, the previous question having been put and negatived, the motion was carried.

The motion respecting Standing Committees,* of which Mr. A. H. Hill had given notice, was adjourned.

The Council then adjourned.

The following business stands for Monday, April 3:—

1. The annual election of additional members, in accordance with Rules X. and XI. of the Society.

The following are the present additional members:—Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., George Blount, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., T. Hawksley, Esq., M.D., G. M. Hicks, Esq., G. Howell, Esq., T. Hughes, Esq., Q.C., T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., W. Wightman Wood, Esq.

2. Mr. J. R. Hollond to move—

‘That the Council would recommend that, where no standard of eligibility for the admission of patients to their out-patient departments has been adopted by the hospitals, reports on cases sent by them to the Committees of the Society for investigation should be limited to giving information as to the position and circumstances of the person inquired into, the suitability of the case for relief from the out-patient department being left to the hospital authorities to determine.

3. Mr. A. H. Hill to move—

That, for the more effectual working out of the objects of the Society, it is desirable to establish Standing Committees of the Council, whose function it shall be, under the general direction of Council, to take special charge of certain branches of the Society's work.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The question of obtaining adequate assistance in exceptional cases, referred by District Committees to the Administrative Committee, will be considered at the meeting of the Committee on Thursday next.

The following contributions were received during the week ending March 25. *Donation*: T. Godolphin Rooper, Esq., £5. *Annual*: Miss F. M. Cross, £1. 1s.; G. F. Duncombe, Esq., £2; C. F. Fellows, Esq., £1; Mrs. Curtis Hayward, £1; W. Jones Loyd, Esq., £10; E. Waller, Esq., £2.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Kensington, Hackney, Holborn, St. George's, East, Poplar, and Battersea Committees.

Fourth Annual Report of the Chester Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity.

Fourth Annual Report of the Leeds Social Improvement Society.

Third Annual Report of the Tenby Charity Organisation Society.

Seventeenth Annual Report of the Board of Guardians for the Relief of the Jewish Poor.

Mission Life in London, being a Sequel to the ‘Charitable Administration of an East End District.’ Hayes. 6d.

Journals of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, for December 1875, and February 1876.

Handbook of the Benevolent Institutions and Charities of New York for 1876. Prepared and Issued under the Direction of the Board of United Charities.

* *Vide Reporter*, January 7, 1874, vol. iii. p. 183.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vacants dealt with			
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for Hospital, &c.	Class total	
Kensington	5	4	5	14	..	10	1	11	5	1	1	7	32	17	4	3	
Fulham	3	2	3	7	..	3	1	4	3	1	2	6	17	13	6	3	
Paddington	3	2	5	2	..	1	3	3	2	2	1	6	14	9	3	3	
Chelsea	1	1	5	7	..	1	1	1	5	..	..	5	32	9	6	1	
St. George's:— St. George's Division	3	2	5	2	..	12	14	2	..	1	3	32	13	3	3	3	
Westminster do.	2	2	2	2	..	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	7	17	1	
Westminster:— St. James & St. Anne's	4	6	19	9	8	12	3	4	1	8	20	20	10	7	1	1	
St. Marylebone	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	2	1	4	1	1	
Hampstead	3	3	3	4	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	2	1	1	
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	3	11	17	8	7	15	..	1	1	3	35	4	3	3	3	
South St. Pancras	1	1	1	13	3	16	..	..	..	..	..	17	10	6	2	2	
Islington	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	1	1	..	4	8	2	4	1	1	
Hackney	1	1	2	4	4	4	4	1	1	..	2	10	2	10	1	1	
St. Giles & Bloomsbury Strand	2	5	7	8	1	9	5	5	5	..	5	21	6	16	1	1	
Holborn	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	..	4	6	13	21	1	1	
City	2	1	3	6	3	3	3	3	3	..	4	9	3	5	1	1	
Shoreditch	1	1	2	3	2	1	3	6	1	..	4	10	4	6	1	1	
Bethnal Green	1	1	3	4	..	6	6	1	1	..	1	11	3	13	1	1	
Whitechapel	1	2	7	10	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	13	2	1	1	1	
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	4	5	4	4	4	2	1	1	4	13	6	4	1	1	
Stepney	1	1	4	5	2	3	5	..	..	..	..	8	1	6	1	1	
Mile End Old Town	2	1	1	3	2	3	5	..	..	..	..	8	1	6	1	1	
Poplar	2	3	3	8	4	2	6	2	3	3	8	22	4	4	1	1	
St. Saviour's	1	3	6	10	6	2	8	5	5	5	5	23	7	11	3	3	
Newington	1	1	3	5	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	7	11	3	3	3	
St. Olave's	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	..	4	6	1	2	4	1	
Lambeth:—North	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	
South	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	
* Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Battersea	1	3	2	5	..	..	..	4	..	..	4	9	1	1	2	2	
Clapham	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	10	1	1	
Camberwell:— Grove Lane	1	1	1	5	..	5	1	..	1	..	1	8	..	3	..	..	
Peckham	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	
Greenwich	1	1	1	2	..	2	1	..	1	..	1	4	5	1	19	1	
Deptford	1	1	1	3	..	3	3	..	3	..	3	6	1	5	2	2	
Woolwich	1	1	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	2	2	
Lewisham	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	2	3	4	4	1	18	1	1	
Ritham	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	17	1	1	
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	1	
Totals	36	35	86	157	8	97	52	132	61	15	6	14	96	400	163	124	122

* No return received from this Committee at the time of going to press.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Seventh Annual Meeting was held in Willis's Rooms, St. James's, on the 22nd inst., the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury presiding. Notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather the attendance was unusually large, and amongst those on the platform were the Earl of Lichfield, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Lord Claud Hamilton, Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., Sir Thomas Chambers, M.P., Q.C., Sir John Kennaway, Bart., M.P., Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Sir Richard Wilbraham, K.C.B., Lieutenant-General Cavenagh, J. G. Talbot, Esq., M.P., Hon. W. Warren-Vernon, C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., C. J. Freake, Esq., F. D. Mocatta, Esq., Rev. R. J. Simpson, W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., and Alsager Hay Hill, Esq.

The Secretary stated that a letter had been received from the Duke of Argyll, saying that being out of town he could not attend, and Earl Granville's non-attendance was accounted for by the like cause, but his lordship remitted £20. (Cheers.) Lord Rosebery, the Bishop of Manchester, Lord Nelson, Earl Percy, M.P., Mr. Goschen, M.P., Mr. Bart, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Hannah, of Brighton, the Rev. Septimus Harnard, and Captain Amyatt Brown had also written to express their regret at not being able to attend.

The Chairman said he would take the report as read, for it was in everybody's hands, and he would at once call upon Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., to move its adoption.

Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., who rose amid cheers, said he always felt it was the first rule of a public meeting that the chairman's word was law, and he therefore hastened to obey the call made upon himself; but at the same time he thought that there was considerable advantage in the usual practice of public meetings—that the chairman should first address the assemblage—and he thought that this meeting would be disappointed if the

d in the chair did not, before the meeting ended, give them the of his support to this valuable institution. The fact of Lord ry's appearance in the chair, however, might be taken as one of proofs of the value of the Society (cheers), for his name was not only through England, but through the whole world, as one given more time and labour to the work of charity than perhaps living person (cheers); and therefore, when his lordship's name in connection with the Society—when he was seen, moreover, g it in the prominent way he was that day, by presiding over its eeting—it might be taken for certain that there were very strong pon public support for the work the Society did on the grounds ch it was based. (Hear, hear.) Charity was one of the marks of an community; and in saying this he did not desire that they fer that he meant to say that none but Christians were charitable l Christians were unselfish; but what he desired to put was that if the one thing which characterised Christianity and distinguished l other systems, it was that charity which was opposed to selfish-heers.) Charity was one of the best things in the world, but n of charity was one of the worst things; as the old Latin proverb l as the ladies were now learned in the dead languages, they would im for the quotation—*Corruptio optimi pessima*. (Hear.) Now he thout fear of contradiction, say that there is in this country great n of charity; and the fact of that great room being filled on that day of snow and sleet was the best possible proof that the public sympathised with the efforts which this Society was contend with that corruption, and to turn charity into the means good and not harm. (Cheers.) This was a large subject, and he d the heads of branches of the subject, upon each of which much said. He had before him a paper, drawn up under the auspices society, as to the 'Effect of existing Legislation upon the for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, Lame, Deformed, Idiotic, Insane, Sick, and other classes of the Poor, and as to the nce and Education of Poor Children generally; also as to , Dispensaries, and Surgical Charities, Reformatories, Industrial ed Schools, Orphanages, Free Dormitories, &c.' The mere fact eing such a list as that of objects of charity was enough to show tic work which was before the Society for whose support he was

(Hear, hear.) The mere enumeration was a great glory to our or it showed that there was no branch of suffering, be it what it it it was cared for; but, at the same time, it showed what a great f loopholes there must be for imposture, and it impressed upon a general the necessity, while advocating the claims of true f being guarded against the impostors who corrupted that true (Cheers.) He asked leave to direct attention to the following words report:—'The Council, considering the suppression of imposture duty no less than the propagation of right principles in charitable ; determined, as far as possible, to warn the public as to those which have been ascertained to be unworthy of public support, s found it essential to make arrangements for thorough investiga- when necessary, for the prosecution, of those whom it has ascer- be dealing fraudulently with charitable funds. The work of the n this direction has not only led to the punishment of many but constantly serves to keep in check a host of skilled impostors, eeking to prey upon the benevolent.' This showed not only that y sought to organise individual charity, but that its work, already y great if only confined to dealing with the various charities for es which he had enumerated, had the additional arduous labour g effectually with those pseudo-charities which, unless checked oyed, would dry up the streams of public and private charities, g tended to check true charity so much as to see the money given elp of the deserving poor and needy wasted upon the unworthy.

Rational and logical people would not be turned from their purposes by the consideration that their charity was at times d; but all persons were not logical, and when some saw that ey did not only not relieve suffering, but that they were deceived g alms which did harm and not good, then they shut their purses hearts, and said they would have nothing to do with the work of

This Society stepped in to stop this deception in the name of y prosecuting the deceivers, and thus left the money which went o bad channels to be turned to good channels. (Hear.) There e forms of benevolence, it could not be denied, which were of a aracter; but if it was true that real charity must be unselfish, l claim for this Society that its work was truly anti-selfish.

It was easy, for instance, to pull out a coin and give it without hought to one who asked, but that was not charity deserving of , and it cost no pains or labour such as would the investigation and the giving of relief adequate to its necessities or obtaining for lief. This investigation required much care and took much time, as therefore the most anti-selfish charity, embodying the true of that Christian charity which had for so long been the light and England. He thought it most fortunate that a Society like this prevent as far as possible this glory of our country being defaced

by pernicious impostors. (Loud cheers.) He moved the adoption of the report.

Sir Thomas Chambers seconded the motion, saying at the commencement of his address that there was one great distinction between this Society and most others set up for a charitable object, that while few others needed their objects to be explained, the purposes of the Charity Organisation Society did not appear to be well understood. The need of a hospital was at once understood, and so with regard to nearly all charitable and philanthropic institutions—their purposes were obvious upon the face of them. This Society, in this respect, stood separate and distinct from all others, for its object and constitution required to be explained, for there were still large numbers of persons, some of whom were connected with the best institutions, too, who did not know what the Charity Organisation was set up to accomplish, and it would take some time before the whole mass of the benevolent community would look upon the Society with that gratitude and confidence it deserved; therefore there was more than common usefulness in a public meeting where its principles could be discussed and information could be afforded as to its operations. (Hear, hear.) There was no other country in the world where charities were so abundant as in this country; nor did it appear that these resources were diminishing. He hoped that they were increasing; but if the streams and rivulets into which they were distributed were looked into, if there were investigation and inquiry into these matters, one had now come to the melancholy conclusion that a large proportion of the charitable funds thus distributed fell into the hands not of worthy persons, but of unworthy, and had been used in a manner which rendered them worse than wasted. (Hear, hear.) To give to persons who were not deserving was to withdraw the amounts thus given from the deserving and needy: that was the first result of the misapplication of charity, and the worthy poor were really losers; for, large as the sum was which was given as charity, there was not sufficient, even if it all should be well applied, to overtake the necessities of the country, and therefore, when unworthy persons walked away with charitable funds, they walked away with that which was taken from the deserving. (Hear, hear.) But there was a worse phase than that even, for the person who received the donations of the charitable to which he was not entitled was either not in a condition to fall within the category of those who required relief, or his condition was owing to his own immoral or improvident habits. In the second of these two cases the bestowal of charity was actually an encouragement and help to persons to go on in the dissolute career which had brought them to the position in which they found themselves; and in such cases charity was not only misplaced but perverted to evil—turned, indeed, to corruption of the worst character in such hands. This was no overdrawn or exceptional state of things, for it was not seldom found, indeed, that large numbers of those who were receiving support from the charitable were receiving it on account of circumstances which had arisen through their own misconduct. Then there were large numbers of persons who ought not to be pensioners upon the bounty of the charitable, because there was legal provision made for them in the rates, and this provision being ample and properly applicable to their cases, it was not right that they should be pressed upon the bounty of the philanthropic. The object of all private benevolence should be not to relieve the rates—except in this indirect way—by helping those who, being overtaken by sudden needs, were prevented, by the timely exercise of private benevolence, from falling into the lower abyss of public dependence. There was obviously a very great reason why some agency should exist to inquire into the merits and positions of persons who were making claims for public bounty. (Hear.) That was admitted by all—even by those who often questioned the need of the existence of this Society. (Hear.) Nobody pretended to deny that it was necessary and right to inquire before giving, or to assert that it was right to give unquestioning. (Hear.) Well, then, if this was admitted—that giving should not precede inquiry—the only question left was, How can that inquiry best be made? (Hear.) Could it be made best by the separate agencies themselves which received and distributed charity? Could it be made by committees which were not specially fitted for the work? Could it be made by visitors who went merely to ask and to give? Could it be made by persons who had not the means of inquiring and investigating? Or, was not a better means than all this one which had been set up to insure that investigation and inquiry should not be a mere pretence of investigation, but should be a true means of ascertaining the position of each person who sought relief? (Cheers.) This was a great step in the argument—if it was allowed that inquiry was needful, then the agency which made this thoroughly and well, and which set up a more perfect system than had hitherto existed, must be held as more worthy of support. (Hear, hear.) Then in regard to the necessity of inquiry, was it not an admitted fact—for it was a fact which could not be denied—that many persons who received charity were not objects of charity. Even in the forms of charity in which it was thought little abuse existed—those institutions which existed for the medical aid of the poor—these abuses existed. It was impossible to ask of the hospitals if all the recipients were worthy without receiving the answer—a most melancholy admission from those who administered these charities—that they did not believe in the necessity and worthiness of those who received the relief thus given.

(Hear, hear.) Well, this gave additional strength for the argument as to the necessity for the existence of this Society. We had it that inquiry was necessary—that investigation was more or less sure to detect the fraudulent applicants for public bounty, and that the present agencies were inadequate to meet the demands for such thorough investigation. If these were the facts, then the necessary inference was that the existence of this Society was most urgently called for. This was, by inference, admitted by the strongest opponents of the Society, and no argument rested against it unless it could be proved that the Society was not doing its work satisfactorily. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, unless the opponents of the Charity Organisation Society brought this objection to bear, there was none other which would lie against it. (Cheers.) Now, what were the facts as regarded the work of the Society for the last year? It would be seen that the Society inquired into 15,000 cases, representing 60,000 persons; it investigated the whole of these; and 6,000 of these, representing more than 20,000 persons, were reported against as being truly unworthy.* If that was the result of one year's experience in London alone, then it could be seen at a glance that no one could measure the magnitude of the resources which were withdrawn from the pockets of the benevolent and from the worthy poor, and went into the pockets of the unworthy, who made the worst possible uses of the money thus obtained. (Hear, hear.) After a short conference with Mr. Ribton-Turner, the learned and hon. member said that his argument could be strengthened by the fact that he had just received—that the 15,000 cases inquired into represented 60,000 persons, and therefore the 6,000 cases of those who were proved to be unworthy represented 24,000 persons. When this tremendous amount of deceit was strained out from among those who had had the temerity to apply for aid in particular channels, it would be at once apparent that persons might well tremble at the mischiefs and perils caused by the thoughtlessness of the philanthropist. (Hear, hear.) It would at once be seen that those who passed along giving with the right hand and with the left hand were doing a very large proportion of harm to their country and to their fellow-creatures. Under these circumstances, the question only remained—Does this Society do its work? The facts he had pointed out were a sure sign that it was doing its work, and the proof of it was seen in the fact that the more the Organisation was known to those who were associated with the work of true charity, the more they were desirous of having the assistance which the Society could give as an investigating agency, to insure that charitable funds should do good and not harm. (Hear, hear.) This being so, he thought the Society should stand upon very high ground indeed. The time had come when economy in all things was found necessary. This was acknowledged in every enterprise, whether of commerce, of manufacture, or of agriculture; and if economy was necessary in these concerns of life, *à fortiori* it was right in the distribution of charitable funds. It was a cruelty and an injustice to those who, by making a sacrifice of their needs or comforts, were able to support charitable institutions, that the funds of those institutions, raised by Christian self-denial, should add to the gratifications of the drunken and the vicious. (Cheers.) It was to prevent such a misapplication of charitable funds, and from turning persons aside from the cause of charity which the discovery of such impostures led to, that this Society existed, and it was doing this work with an efficiency never devised before. (Cheers.) If the contributions withdrawn from the unworthy were given to the worthy and to do a permanent good, the work of charity was enhanced, and that was what this Society did. It urged the public not to give doles which left the recipient the next day in the same position in which he was on the day he received it—that was, no better off, but still in a state of dependence; but, by multiplying the dole by twenty, the worthy man was raised up with his family out of the ranks of penury, and was placed upon a platform where he could achieve a future career. So what was given this way was doubly blessed—it blessed him who gave and him who received—it had a benefit not only for the present, but it made brighter the whole future life of the recipients, teaching the lower class that which laid at the bottom of all social improvement—that they must acquire habits of prudence and providence so as to work out their own independence. If they were encouraged in this by having thorough inquiry into all cases which came forward for relief, and improvidence were discouraged by adequate help being given to those only who helped themselves, then the charitable would raise the poor out of the ranks they had been in so long, and society would be healed of the moral sore which was weakening and degrading the whole social system. (Loud cheers.)

The resolution for the adoption of the Report was then put and carried *nem. con.*

Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet said: Lord Lichfield says, much to my regret, that I am to take his place in moving the next resolution. I must obey orders; and my regret has no reference to the subject-matter of the resolution itself, for no resolution could have been put into my hands which I could

have more pleasure in moving or supporting. I well know the importance of all the points involved in this resolution, which I will now read. It is—'That in order to extend the operations of the Society in reducing pauperism, and in improving the condition of the poor, it is essential that both increased help should be given to its District Committees, and liberal support accorded to its funds, by the general public.' The first part of this resolution speaks of the need of increased personal support being given to the Society. We have a very considerable amount of volunteer personal support. Nothing has more surprised those of us who have worked at this Society from the beginning, than the spirit of perseverance with which ladies and gentlemen have stuck to their work in it; and we have both women and men who are working in our Committees with as much energy and regularity as they could display if they were working in a profession. We have these still. We have had others on our Committees who worked until their health broke down, and they had to leave upon that account. We have many efficient helpers of this sort, but we have need for more—we have need for a vast number more, that we may undertake the immense amount of work which has to be done in London. I wish to make my appeal to your sense of duty. I do not say that it is altogether pleasant work. When a person is called upon to take up any public work, such as the duty of a magistrate or guardian, he takes it up because he believes he can be useful, not because it is pleasant. The work of charity would no doubt be very pleasant, if it only consisted in finding out a case of real distress and giving money or food or clothes, and hearing words of thankfulness. That would be exceedingly pleasant, to do that and nothing more, and many of us have found it so. But that is not enough, and the man or woman who does that, and that only, soon finds that it is unsatisfactory. (Hear, hear.) You have over-lapping of relief and pauperisation. You have dissatisfaction among the poor themselves. You have no permanent result from what you have done. (Hear.) Hence the Charity Organisation Society. Now as to our work in this Society, allow me to say that I do not lay so much stress upon the negative as upon the positive side of our work—that is, I do not look so much upon impostures we have detected as upon the number of cases in which we have set up families. But it takes a long experience for a man or a woman to learn how to help others adequately and well. All our best workers are men and women who have gone through the various experiences of this work. They have tried to do it in their own way, till they have come to another way of doing the work, namely, by adherence to certain principles which have proved effective. Assuming that I am speaking to some young man who is anxious to give help among the poor, I should not expect him to take another's experience altogether, for all who enter upon this work must, to some extent, earn their own experience, and therefore I should not say 'Come and work with us,' but should urge him to use his own judgment, and make a beginning. I should say 'Work among your fellow-creatures, work perseveringly, and watch the results of what you are doing. If you consider you are called to work in a spiritual way among the poor, that is the highest kind of work, and has the most lasting results; but be careful how you mix that up with material relief.' (Hear, hear.) 'If you take up material relief among the poor, do the best you can in your judgment to raise the people, keep your eyes open to what others are doing, and, above all, watch the results of what you are doing. Watch and see the difficulty you will have in permanently raising one family. You may help them to tide over one winter, but they will be in the same position the next winter. Make what use of our offices you like, and I think that you will ultimately find it best to come and work with us, and for us.' (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I would rather that a man would not come and work for us until his experience has proved to him the necessity of adopting our principles of action. There is no doubt that there is much more care required in the giving of relief than would at first sight appear to most persons. It must not be supposed that the many cases dismissed by the Charity Organisation Society were all undeserving. On the one hand, the Society was prepared to help a case which was not altogether deserving if permanent good could be done, and it might not be able to help a deserving case if, by the help, no permanent good could be effected. (Hear, hear.) We want to make relief remedial, and to raise, as far as we can, the whole mass of the poor. (Cheers.) Anyone who wishes to know more of this work in its details, should get the reports of some of the District Committees, by which will be seen the positive side of our operations. Let those who wish to see this work take up, for instance, the report of the St. Saviour's Committee; they will see a graphic sketch by the honorary secretary, who tells how he stands in his office waiting for persons to come in, how a poor woman comes in who wants to know where her son is, he being 'somewhere' in the country; and yet even in this despairing case the honorary secretary, by setting his wife to work, gets news of the son and brings him into communication with the mother. Then there arises a case in which a son is lost 'somewhere in London,' and he is discovered in a night refuge, and means are found for his being sent home. But the cases are really innumerable in which, by pains and thought, we are able to give persons a fresh start in life; and this is the principle of our work, to give this fresh start instead of sending them away with a dole of a few shillings. (Cheers.) To give this fresh start often entails the expenditure of a good

* Rather, cases unsuitable for charitable assistance. The figures in Class I. of the Annual Returns are as follows:—Dismissed or unfavourably reported on, as not requiring relief, 1,525; undeserving, 1,186; cases for Poor-Law, or otherwise ineligible, 3,047; class total, 5,758. See Appendix I., *Seventh Annual Report, 1876*.—Ed.

round sum, and requires also the assistance of men and women who will give thought and care to these cases. (Hear, hear.) If those who desire to work in the cause of the poor are willing to accept our principles, then I would say to them, Go to one of our committees, either to an East-End committee, where assistance is most wanted, or to the committee of the district in which you live. See the hon. secretary, and say what you can do, what time you can give, and so on. He will ask you to join the committee, and I venture to say that, if you go in that way, you must not take a refusal or be put off. You can urge that the Society is one for promoting a division of labour; that though you can only offer a limited amount of work, yet that you expect to have a niche found for you. I know that there are difficulties in starting; but when a man really means work he can be useful to us, and we are bound to give him the opportunity of making himself useful. (Hear, hear.) Then as to the second part of the resolution—that which asks for liberal support to the Society's funds from the general public, I desire to appeal to the same sense of duty. At Christmas the Society is always well supplied with funds; but the public seem to forget that from the very nature of our Society its work and expenses must go on all the year round. Distress in London does not end with the winter, and indeed some of the worst cases of the year are found by us in the summer. One cause of this is that some relief agencies close their doors in the summer, and another is that many people go out of town when the season is over, while the poor are left worse off in consequence. Our District offices—37 in number—are open all the year round, and are always ready to hear any case, and to give attention to any case. (Hear.) With regard to our expenditure—if you have an idea that we spend too much money, I ask, in reply, to consider the size of London. I do not think one person in a thousand realises the size of London and the difficulties of dealing with it for any defined purpose as a whole. I do not know how to shake the vastness of this work out before you; but you will see at once that this population of three and a half millions would form the populations of thirty-seven large towns, if not many more. To deal with this population, we want all our district committees; and if that system is to be kept up we must have a large sum to support all this machinery. (Hear.) It may be worth mentioning that if a time of exceptional distress should arise, we should be in a position to give as much relief as might be required without much more expenditure upon machinery, and that all other agencies are free to use our machinery without charge. We bear the cost of inquiring for all—and we are quite ready to give the results of our work to others—to lend our machinery, in fact; and it is better that we should bear the heavy expenses of this work, while others do the pleasanter work of giving relief. In saying this I do not lose sight of the danger that, unless the public look into this matter sufficiently, and are guided by a sense of duty, they will be inclined to send all their money to the relief agency and not to the inquiring agency. (Hear, hear.) Then I should mention that, though a London Society, we have a deal of work to do for the whole country. Our Council in Buckingham Street is an agency for propagating knowledge throughout Great Britain, and even beyond it. We have a large correspondence, foreign and domestic, and we have been the means of starting other agencies in different parts of England, so that we can appeal for aid in return to the country as well as to London. We have now a great system established—a system far greater than we six years ago could have expected to see. It has spread all over London, and we have to ask the public for increased personal help, which is the life-blood of the Society—for fresh men and women coming in are its life-blood—and also for the 'sinews of war,' that this great system may be kept up. (Loud cheers.)

Sir John Kennaway, M.P., in seconding the motion, said it was very true that the detailed work of the Society did not at first sight explain its mode of operation, but all would agree that the very lucid way in which this work had been explained by Mr. Bosanquet, whose life for some years had been devoted to it, had placed its operations in a clear light before the assemblage, and rendered it unnecessary for a seconder to detain them. Having, however, been asked to speak on the Society's behalf, he without hesitation gave it his hearty support, as a Society which sought to propagate the knowledge of right principles in the distribution of charity. There were right and there were wrong principles even in charity, and this could not be too strongly insisted upon, for there was no doubt that actions performed with the best of all possible motives, and from the warmest feelings of charity, had done little good but rather harm, and had tended to make paupers of those whom it was only sought to help. (Hear, hear.) Harm had been done through the need of painstaking inquiry such as this Society instituted, and that being admitted, the need of such a society as this was amply evident. Mr. Bosanquet had spoken of the large size and of the great increase of London, and no one who had reflected upon the growth of this metropolis in population, in wealth, and in poverty, but must have been painfully impressed with the difficulties of dealing with its poor at all adequately. He could speak with an experience acquired in the work, for ten years ago he worked in St. Giles's in connection with the Society for the Relief of Distress, and he came to the conclusion that giving money thus was like pouring water into a sieve, and that the good one was able to do by such modes of relief was infinitesimal.

Now, however, that this Society had sprung into life, and had worked itself into the vigorous action of having united agencies all through London, each agency calling out the best energies of men and women who were devoted to the work of assisting the poor in the truest and best sense of the word 'assisting'; having, too, the advantage of working with and in conjunction with legal and other relief agencies; having the advantage, moreover, of advice from the Central Committee—advice given with all the weight of experience—it could not be doubted that the work which was being done must be of the greatest good, not only to the poor themselves, but to the public generally. (Cheers.) He trusted that the appeal for workers would be warmly responded to, and he was sure that men and women who had leisure—and even those who were busy might make some leisure to help their fellow-creatures—could not do better than join the Society in its work. Without personal help and money the Society could not work, and it must have both. The Society had strong claims upon the support of the public, for it relieved distress and attacked imposture, and so it took away the excuse often given by persons who did not give in charity—that there was 'so much imposture.' For the Society took care to find out that a case was worthy of relief, and it discriminated between the good and the mistaken giver of charity, for in charity-giving great mistakes were made. (Hear.) The Society had not limited itself to private questions, but had entered upon public ones with the best effect. All must rejoice that it had the courage to face the great questions bound up with the dwellings of the working classes in the Metropolis. (Cheers.) It was unnecessary to describe the terrible conditions under which thousands of our fellow-citizens lived in this great aggregation of cities, and the Society grappled so well with this question and with its surroundings, that the Home Secretary publicly acknowledged in the House of Commons the services which the inquiries of the Society had rendered him in his endeavours to remedy these great evils. (Cheers.) This year the Society had taken up another great question—that of dealing with the blind. For a very long time endeavours had been made to deal with this unfortunate class, various ways having been suggested; but now this society recommended the right principles upon which relief should be given to the necessitous blind. (Hear.) There is one thing that must not be forgotten in dealing with the poor; it must not be thought that a person's duty ended with giving a guinea to this Society, and people had to guard themselves against the idea that all duty ended with what they gave. There was, and there would be, much work beyond the province of this Society. Cases were continually arising which needed thought and care upon the part of someone, and those who were earnest in the cause of charity ought not to shrink from helping in this work. (Cheers.) He could not do better, as showing the grounds upon which support was claimed for the Society as doing a special work of its own, and a work not attempted by others, than by reading the concluding words of the report as set forth from the words of the St. Saviour's Committee:—The object of the Society is neither to check benevolence, nor yet to dictate to the public the form that benevolence should take; but, in obedience to the necessities created by a dense population and a complex social system, to offer the advantages of organisation to those who labour for the poor, to give to each such worker the experience of all, and to furnish a machinery which shall tend to protect Charity from the idle, improvident, and undeserving, and at the same time to render its action in proper cases more beneficent and more strong.' (Cheers.)

The Right Hon. the Earl of Lichfield, who was received with warm cheers, said: I think I did a very wise thing in asking Mr. Bosanquet to propose this resolution. (Hear.) He is very well known to most present as having worked at this Society from its outset, and he has devoted his time and energies to it in a manner which is beyond praise (cheers), and I knew perfectly well that his experience in the work would enable him to put, in far more forcible terms than I could, the requirements of this Society, both in respect of volunteer help and also of funds. I have the honour of being intimately connected with the Council of this Society, but I cannot claim anything like Mr. Bosanquet's knowledge of its working, as I have not had the same opportunities of acquiring that knowledge because I am in London but a short time in the course of the year. I think, however, it is desirable, upon the present occasion, that someone who has taken as prominent a part as I have upon the Council of the Society ever since its establishment should say a few words upon the work which we have actually done, and that we are endeavouring to do. (Hear, hear.) I think, in supporting a resolution which asks for increased support both in the way of volunteer help and of funds, it is right that we should ask ourselves—Has this society, up to the present time, done as much as might have been expected of it, with the means it has had at its disposal? (Hear, hear.) With regard to that I may say that the work undertaken by the Society has proved to be much larger and much more difficult than was contemplated by the original promoters of Charity Organisation. (Hear.) I do not think that any one who joined this Society at the outset had any idea of the gigantic work which was set on foot; and not only has the work been greater than was contemplated, but the difficulties in carrying it out have been vastly greater than were expected, from the fact that from the first the Society has been unable to command that help from the charitable societies and charitable agencies which it relied upon

in the starting of its work. (Hear, hear.) In saying this I refer to that which was the original intention of the Society, namely, that its District Committees should be formed in the first place entirely of the representatives of the various charitable agencies at work in each district of London. Now, as a fact, these representatives of the various charitable agencies in each district, partly I suppose from not understanding the aim and objects of this Society, did not come forward to do that work of organising charitable relief which we thought, and the public thought, it was necessary should be done. (Hear, hear.) The consequence has been that the Society has had to seek for volunteers to come forward and do the work, and these volunteers upon our District Committees have been obliged to give up the greater part of their time in trying to bring about that co-operation between the various charitable agencies at work in each district and themselves, which was absolutely necessary before the work we undertook to do could be done. (Hear, hear.) The very first work which we pointed out as necessary to grapple with the frightful evils of pauperism was a thorough co-operation between the charitable agencies, by these combining and concentrating their efforts to reduce this pauperism; and the first step to this was to co-operate with those who were doing the work of legal relief in the metropolis. Without that co-operation of the charitable agencies and of the Poor Law we knew that our own efforts would be unavailing to achieve this good purpose, but instead of being able to command, as we expected at the outset we should, the assistance of the charitable agencies in co-operation with the Poor Law, we have had to form committees, whose main work has been to bring their influence to bear upon the different charitable agencies, with a view to securing their co-operation and support to work out the purposes for which this Society was established. (Cheers.) I merely point to these facts to account for the delay there has been in bringing about this co-operation, and the consequent disappointment to those who have been actually engaged in this work—a disappointment which is more felt by ourselves than by the public generally. (Hear.) But I do not wish the public to think that we in any way shut our eyes to the shortcomings and deficiencies in the work of this Society. It is important that we should not only feel that these shortcomings and deficiencies exist, but that the public should know that we are thoroughly alive to them. (Hear, hear.) And what is more, I am certain that these deficiencies will never disappear from the Society unless we get more hearty support than we have had from the public. I do not mean to say that we have not had a great deal of support; but I do say that the support we have had has not been equal to the amount of work which has been done, and which is to be done. (Hear.) I do not speak so much of the money aid as I do of the want of volunteers. We want more volunteer help upon our District Committees. We who are acting in the work of this Society have no desire that it should be set down to our credit that we spend large sums in relief. (Hear, hear.) We would far rather that the public in general knew little or nothing of our work in the shape of bringing relief to those who are distressed. We do not want that this relief should be given out of our funds. (A voice, loudly, (Hear, hear.)) We think that this relief should be given by those who, we believe, can give it very effectually and in a more efficient manner than we possibly could do it ourselves. (Cheers.) We know that there are plenty of agencies at work in this metropolis, and that if we could only secure their co-operation in spending money given for relief upon those principles of right to the public and right to the poor, which we should like to see exercised in the dispensing of relief, then there would be no need for us to spend money in relief, nor feel ourselves enforced to spend any of this Society's funds in work which other agencies exist to perform. (Cheers.) But I know that there are objections to the work of this Society—(A voice, (Hear, hear.))—and I shall be glad to meet some of these objections. (Cheers.) Let me say that we are here to-day anxious to hear what can be said for and against this Society. (Cheers.) We know that, although arrangements are necessary for speakers to be called upon by the chairman to speak to the various resolutions, that there is every opportunity for any person to rise and make remarks upon the subject of the work carried on by the Society; but I, for my part, prefer that the public should learn from our own lips that we are alive to all these objections; and I will refer to one or two of them. (Cheers.) One consists in what at first sight appears to be something like hardship in the minuteness and closeness to which investigations are carried by the Society. (Hear.) I know that this is felt—I have felt it myself; and it is only upon fully weighing the facts that I have come to the conclusion that this as a hardship does not exist, for it is necessary to make minute investigations in order to ascertain accurately the manner in which a case should be dealt with. (Hear.) I am convinced that if you are to have investigations at all, they must be thorough. If there is one principle which is recognised as sound, it is that some inquiry is necessary before assistance is given, and this being so, I reiterate that it is absolutely necessary that this inquiry shall be complete, for I maintain, if it is not thorough and exhaustive, in many cases great injustice must be done; whereas, if it is complete and thorough, it enables those who are able to form an opinion to decide how a case can be best relieved. (Hear, hear.) On the other hand, when the inquiry is not exhaustive, persons will not be able to ascertain the facts which would guide them in relieving a case, and the applicant would perhaps be debarred

from receiving the form of aid he most requires. These are the reasons why I think that investigations should be thorough. (Cheers.) It is thought too, by some, that this Society has acted harshly in its dealings with the poor. (A voice, loudly, (Hear, hear.)) Now, if there is one thing which this Society would desire to disabuse the public mind of, it is of that idea. I must say that I have never met in my life any body of men and women more thoroughly in earnest, more kindly hearted, or more desirous of devoting themselves to the real help of the poor than the ladies and gentlemen with whom I have found myself working in this Society, and I utterly disbelieve that there is one of the members of the District Committees or of the Council who cannot lay claim to as kind a heart and as benevolent a disposition as anyone need to possess in working for the poor. (Loud cheers.) I am sure that if there is anything to complain of in our Society it is of the amount of work which remains to be done, and the remedy for this can only be found in our obtaining the assistance of the public in clearing off the work left undone. (Hear.) Then as to the treatment of those which are called 'chronic cases'—the cases of persons permanently afflicted, and who cannot be effectually relieved without considerable outlay. There is a general impression in the public mind that persons who are permanently afflicted and cannot be effectually relieved, except by pensions, are altogether set on one side by the principles of this Society. (Hear, hear.) Now that is not the case. (Cheers.) All the Society says with regard to these cases is that if we cannot relieve them effectually we will not touch them, but that we will do our best to obtain for these cases effectual and permanent relief, which is the only relief fitted for them, and this is done by the Committees inducing benevolent individuals to take them up. It is in that fact that you have an explanation of the reason why comparatively small sums are set down as given in relief by our District Committees, for the amounts thus obtained through private individuals do not appear in the accounts of the Committees; and, indeed, it would be very difficult to estimate the amount of that relief which is given by persons who, from the confidence they feel in the investigations of the Committees, come forward in a much more liberal spirit than they would if they were in doubt as to the case being deserving or undeserving of relief. (Loud cheers.) It is through that confidence that these charitable persons spend their money freely in relief of the cases, and thus the worthy poor are benefited. (Cheers.) The points of objection to which I have referred are not the only objections which are made to the Society—(Hear)—and though I should like to hear the persons who make them state them openly—(Cheers)—I will in answer to them simply say this—that whatever may be these objections, and whatever may be their extent, I am quite sure that practical experience in the work we are doing will gradually enable us entirely to remove all these objections; and I believe, moreover, that with increased support—with the active support of those persons who take a real interest in the welfare of the poor of London—that if they will co-operate together and with us, and will concentrate their energies upon the work which we have put before them as work which is possible to be done, and which ought to be done—that we shall see in the next few years a very great improvement upon the state of things which hitherto has existed in this country as regards pauperism in general. (Loud cheers.)

The motion was carried amid acclamations.

Sir Rutherford Alcock said he was very glad it had fallen to the portion of those who had preceded him to enter upon the large matters the audience had heard, and more especially was he glad that the opportunity had been taken to speak freely of the objections urged against the work of the Society. He could not conceive a better service being done to the Society than by giving an answer to the objections which were constantly made, that the Society did harm and not good to the cause of charity. One of the easiest obtained luxuries in the world was to give money, and he who stepped between the indiscriminate giver and his pleasure, was sure to get small thanks for his pains. (Hear.) It was well known by those who had wives and daughters that the alms were always ready for the cry of distress, and when one stepped in with the warning, 'Don't be in a hurry—the cry may be the cry of an impostor—the penny you give to the woman with the child out in miserable weather, may be the cause of the child being kept out for hours more, and therefore a cruelty to the child,' the question was put, 'Am I to steel my heart?' To this he answered, 'You are not to steel your hearts; but you should exercise some self-denial in your giving, take trouble before you give, and give only when you are sure that you are doing good and not evil.' (Cheers.) If a person's distress was caused by drunkenness, was it likely that it would help him or her, to give the shilling for which he or she asked? Was it not certain that the shilling would go the way of previous shillings, and thus only add to the evil already existing? And inquiry would save this doing of harm. Inquiry into the capacity of a person for labour, and assisting him or her to live over a time of difficulty that the labour might be done when it was found, was a worthy way of giving charity, and he therefore said to the ladies, 'Take care, and do not throw your money away upon beggars in the streets; for this money, judiciously given and upon inquiry, will permanently benefit the worthy, while otherwise it will do additional evil in the hands of the unworthy.' It is said; 'Persons may die before your inquiries are completed,' and 'You may do them harm by inquiring about

perhaps they owe a little rent, and an inquiry may set the landlord on fire.' (Hear.) It might be that such extreme cases did occur,* and some cases have been pushed off so long that they are urgent; but must be remembered, these protests notwithstanding, that considerable means be given to the means of doing the greatest good to the greatest—the means to be adopted by which the least harm and the amount of good can be done. (Cheers.) He would say that he did not hear the objections stated, and he would not pretend to say that they were without foundation, for delays did occur, and some harm was done by inquiry. An objection of delay came from the School Board Divisional Committees in this way. A benevolent man, Mr. Peek, a member of this Society, and a representative of the London School Board, had placed at the disposal a large sum of money to find shoes for children whose parents were unable to find boots or shoes for the children to go to school. The Society had to investigate each case, and the School Officers said 'You ought to find out all the particulars of a case in four days.' Now, the District Committees were quite willing to grant as much as once, if the secretary of the Divisional Committee would certify that a case was a worthy one, otherwise the inquiries must be made, and he thought they were made with all possible speed. Sir Rutherford said he had some remarks in preface to a proposal that a vote of thanks should be given to the noble Earl for presiding. His lordship had not favoured the proposal with any remarks; but he doubtless would. (Cheers.) The noble lord was a tower of strength, for he had devoted his whole life to others, and the fact that he had taken an interest in this Society that it had strong claims on the support of the public. (Cheers.) Viscount H. Hill seconded the motion, and said the Society had not known a greater triumph in the vindication of the justness of its principles than it had that day in having the field-marshal of charity, who had been elected by universal acclamation, presiding over its annual meeting, claiming, at the end of a long fight, that in the principles of charity—charity—which might be called science applied to the relief of the suffering—there was nothing to damp the bloom or lessen the beauty of human charity. (Loud cheers.)

The motion was carried amid acclamation. The noble Chairman, who rose amid loud cheers, said: My Lords, Ladies, Gentlemen,—First allow me to thank you for the vote you have just passed and to say that I had no desire for any other expression of thanks than that which you have given me and around me have given to the proceedings of the Society. I have come here to-day in the discharge of a duty which I owe as representing the charitable public, as well as to myself. I have a few minutes to spare in which to address you, but you will think me that I took a wise course in not occupying your time at the commencement of the meeting, for, if I had done so, you would not have had the excellent addresses you had presented to you, for you will have the members of Parliament who were present have departed to their places. What I have to say with regard to this Society is, that I believe I saw that it was really engaged in an important, nay, in an essential work—the detection, among other things, of fraud in connection with charity. (Cheers.) This work I knew from a long experience—was really necessary, and that it was a work which, if rightly carried out, would tend to promote the cause of true charity. (Cheers.)

I venture to say, could have been mixed up with all the transactions of life in the London of to-day without seeing the enormous transactions in which we are living, and the impossibility for any one person to be the subject, possibly victim, of 10,000 applications for aid, the value of which he cannot by himself ascertain. I saw this very clearly in my career, and I supported the plan of the Charity Organisation because I knew that fraud and imposture were organised, I saw that it was that means should be organised for its detection—and when fraud and imposture were organised to impose upon the charitable, it was necessary a defence should be organised and rigorously set up to discern the means of those who traded upon the wants of the helpless. (Cheers.) For years many societies have been set up to detect fraud and imposture; but they did not cover the area, they did not go deep enough, they did not hunt the cases of fraud and imposture out as this Society does, but waited until the cases came, or were brought before them. I say that this Society has taken the very able and very unselfish course of ferreting out what is wrong and exposing it. (Cheers.) Therefore, this, the promoters of the Society must expose themselves to a great deal of obloquy and misrepresentation, on the one hand, from some persons and to a great deal of dislike from others, for the course the Society has taken in overhauling the affairs of some charities. Some people think

that cases of urgent distress such temporary relief as is absolutely necessary is obtained or given in the interval between the application and the completion of the inquiry: the adequate assistance given with a view to the raising of the condition of the applicant being reserved until the results of the completed investigation have been submitted to the Committee.

that they conduct the affairs of their Societies very well; but I say that every Society is the better for being looked up now and then. (Hear, hear.) It is a very good thing for individuals and for Societies to be found fault with and questioned as to their doings. They resent it at the time; but it makes them look into their actions, for unless Societies are pressed, they are liable, like men and women, to fall into habits of indolence, and inquiry and questioning prevents them from degenerating from their usefulness. It once happened to me to be placed in a very curious position with regard to two Societies. I was chairman of both, and they were not, in appearance, antagonistic, yet they were antagonistic in a way owing to each society seeking information with a view to control the doings of the other. Well, when I was at the meeting of the Society from whom information was sought, I took the views of its members. I could not see why they should have their affairs dealt with by the other, and as the chairman I resisted the other; but when I took the chair at the other I saw that the second was right. I directed the attack upon the other myself (laughter), and the result was that great amendment on both sides was made to the greatest advantage of the Societies and of the public. (Cheers.) Now the Charity Organisation Society has been the means of discovering a vast number of frauds; and, if I may be allowed to differ in opinion from so great an authority in all that concerns charity organisation—Mr. Bosanquet—I beg to say that I think the negative part of your work—a part which he passed over—is of immense value. (Cheers.) Indeed, I think that if we do not take these negative results of your work we lose sight of two-thirds of the benefits we have received, and we ought to look at the negative as well as at the positive results of any work. (Hear.) Now, for instance, some people, looking at the positive side, and overlooking the negative good which has resulted from your recommendations—results which are not enumerated—may be inclined to say that you have done nothing; but they cannot say you have done nothing if their attention is turned to the amount of sin and fraud and imposture you have saved the public from supporting in luxury, and this negative work will indicate the vast amount of positive good work you have done with but comparatively small means and in an amazingly short time. (Cheers.) A Society like this is of more than ordinary value in these times, and its value to the public generally cannot be over-estimated. At all times there have been great frauds; but at no time in our history has there ever been so many frauds of all kinds—frauds planned with such wonderful skill, and carried out so adroitly as to deceive the most wary. London itself affords, in its overgrowth, means of perpetrating fraud and imposture which it did not in times past, and education even has added to these means, as have the increase of wealth, the taste for luxury, and the passion for wealth. Education has enabled some impostors to draw up very insinuating and, indeed, very seductive addresses suitable to the minds of the recipients; and all in all, I think, the facilities and means of imposture and fraud are fifty-fold what they were twenty years ago; and it is therefore more than ever necessary that we should have an agency like this to combat the efforts of those who are thus plundering the public in the names of charity, philanthropy, and necessity. (Cheers.) I may here tell you that I am indebted to my friend Mr. Ribton-Turner, the Organising Secretary of this Society, for the exposure of an attempted fraud upon myself. I received a letter, written with such apparent simplicity and genuine distress and sorrow, asking for £30, that, if I had had the money at the moment I should have given it to the applicant; but, not having it, I placed the matter in the hands of Mr. Ribton-Turner. You would be perfectly aghast to see the result of the inquiries made by Mr. Ribton-Turner. The whole thing was a lie from the beginning, for the writer, not being able to get £30 from his father, who was a wealthy man, had written this lying letter in the thought that he would get it out of me. This will show you the necessity of inquiry into all cases, no matter how genuine they may appear. (Hear, hear.) I can tell you an incident—a case which occurred to a lady—which will show you how the persons who are trading upon the public enter into the feelings of those with whom they come into contact. This lady lost her 'ugly pug'—a very 'ugly pug' it was too—(laughter)—and she offered rewards in vain. At length she received an intimation that if she would pay down £12 she would have the dog. She agreed to it, and when the man who brought the dog had got the money, she said 'Pray tell me how it is that you put such a price upon the dog?' The man, with an insinuating leer and smile, replied 'We judge all these things, marm, by the affections.' (Loud laughter.) Now these letter-writers act upon a like principle—some of the ladies they will address with a little logic—for the charitable ladies and gentlemen are, most of them, well known to the begging-letter writers and the impostors who trade upon the public, and they seek to play upon some chord of love or vanity in those to whom they write, or upon some affection, and this in no few cases enables them to accomplish their miserable and deceitful ends. Another lady they will praise for her literary attainments—if they know that her taste lies that way—and their letters are addressed so as to deceive. This being so, I say that we are day by day more and more in a state of necessity and defencelessness against these attacks if we have not a Society like this to be upon the watch for our protection, on the one hand, and, while it exposes fraud, to

give a protection to the worthy poor—by lessening the chances of the fraudulent obtaining money which would go to the relief of the deserving, who would be thus permanently benefited. (Hear, hear.) The work of investigating cases is a very difficult one indeed. You must have those who are accustomed to the work, who have a certain amount of rigidity in them, and a great amount of discrimination. (Hear, hear.) I think I may say that the Society has got somewhat out of the groove in which it was at first. I remember that I was struck by the *doctrinaire* style in which certain principles were urged at first, and the manner in which these *doctrinaire* principles were pressed by some connected with the Society startled many excellent and charitable persons, who were not disposed to go so far as the Society did at first. (Hear, hear.) I do not think that the objects of the Society, as at present directed, are well or generally understood. (Hear, hear.) Let me say then that it is not only a society for the 'organisation of charity and the repression of mendicity,' the detection of fraud and imposture and the aid of the deserving; but that it is a society for the encouragement of thrift, and therefore a society which aims at raising the people who are down by the improvement of their habits—by teaching them self-dependence, by aiding them in regard to sanitary principles, and by the institution of everything which leads to economy morally, physically, and socially. (Cheers.) One instance of this is seen in the encouragement of loan funds. Now I believe that there is no form of help you can give the people at all equals the help from loan funds in the grants of small loans without interest. (Hear, hear.) I have myself seen the effects of these small loans upon different and very various sections of the poorer parts of our population. For instance, I have seen it in the case of the girl street-sellers of the East of London. These at one time trade in flowers, at another time with fruit; and though most of them are known as 'flower girls' they trade with other things bought in the London markets, and they even at times become vendors of hot coffee in the streets. Now there is a very large number of these girls—some 3,000 or 4,000. I had it brought before me by a friend four years ago, that the establishment of a loan fund would do a great deal of good to these girls, and we were able to start one. Now probably you would look upon these girls as untrustworthy citizens, but practical acquaintance with them 'in business' has proved the reverse. You must remember that, though the sum we have in this fund may not be enormous as a whole, yet as it comes in every week and goes out again and again in loans, in the whole an enormous amount has been lent—that is in the general issue. And what do you think has been the total loss? Nothing whatever has been lost through dishonesty, and what has been lost has not come in because the poor creatures have been ill, and this loss in the four years amounts only to the sum of £4 upon issues and re-issues amounting to thousands. (Cheers.) Now by these loans you not only improve the people financially by giving them the capital to work with, but you give them a sense of the dignity and self-respect which come from being trusted, and I shall never forget one girl coming in with pride and pleasure to pay her last instalment, saying, 'Now, didn't I tell you I would pay you?' (Cheers.) I for a certainty believe that in this system of loans you will go further to improve the condition of the working-class than by any other form of help, because it teaches them the value of character, the necessity of industry and thrift; it does not pauperise them, and it leads them on to maintain their independence. Give them money, and you take their independence from them; you take from them the incentive to industry; but help them with a loan which they will have to replace by industry, and you teach them lessons they will not soon forget. (Cheers.) Then the Society encourages the system of provident dispensaries, and this is another means of helping the people to maintain their independence. I am glad to see means to this end in such a Society as the Provident Surgical Aid Society, by which, with the payment of small sums, the afflicted may obtain the surgical instruments they need. All in all I congratulate you upon the establishment of a Society like this, which places its hands on so many means of helping the needy, and acts so promptly in exposing the impostor. The longer you work the better will your operations become adapted to the wants of the people, and I trust that you will put manifestly forward that you are not merely a Society for repression, looking into the abuses which wrong alike the givers and the poor; but that you are at the same time a Society for the help of the deserving and industrious, not by the distribution of doles, but by the help which will place them above necessity, and elevate them in all respects. (Cheers.) I give your Society all the support I can in its endeavours to repress the fraudulent 'charities' which exist amongst us, and I should like to see some law which would strengthen your hands in this work. (Cheers.) These fraudulent 'charities' not only absorb the vast amount of money which they extract from the charitable, and divert that money to the worst uses; but they check the hands of charity and furnish arguments to those who want excuses for bestowing no charity at all. (Hear.) Now, don't suppose that you alone have had to bear the abuse and obloquy which comes from various quarters upon this Society, for I can tell you that I have had a great number of letters of abuse for being so very wicked as to have anything to do with this Society. (Laughter.) One told me in

frightful terms that my past fame had gone to the dogs, and that I am 'a shrivelled specimen of bygone benevolence.' (Loud laughter.) All I can say is, that every letter I receive of this character, in my belief, represents at least twenty frauds discovered and exposed, and I say within myself, 'So much the more will I support the Charity Organisation Society.' (Loud cheers.)

The meeting then separated.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of March 1876 was 36,915, and 49,893 received outdoor relief, making a total of 86,808. This was a decrease of 836 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 12,152, 20,734 and 32,245 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 547. This was an increase of 30 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 135 on the corresponding day of last year.

IRISH SAVINGS BANKS.—A return compiled by Dr. Haneock gives some interesting facts respecting Irish savings. Last year they increased to the extent of £980,000, and in ten years the increase has amounted to £12,067,000. The aggregate of savings in the joint-stock banks, deposits in savings' banks, and Indian funds, is now £70,180,000. In the joint-stock banks there was an increase last year of £1,785,000, and of £14,900,000 in ten years. In post office savings banks the deposits increased £70,000. The investments in Government Funds and India Stock decreased, but this is owing to the larger interest allowed by railway companies for debenture stocks, and the transfer has been encouraged by the definition of securities which married women might invest as given in the Married Women's Property Act of 1870, and also by the greater number of investments in Russian and American bonds. The abundance of capital is shown by the fact that the 4 per cent. guaranteed stock of the Dublin and Drogheda and Northern Railway rose from an average price of £90 in 1865-69 to £99½ at the end of 1875, and the original stock advanced in price from an average of £89 in 1865-69 to £123½ at the end of last year. —*Times*.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.—A public meeting was held on Tuesday evening in the Town Hall, Woolwich, to consider the best means of effectually dealing with pauperism. The Hon. and Rev. Adalbert Anson, rector of the parish, condemned the system of out-door relief under the Poor Law as a gigantic mistake, and open to the gravest abuses, undermining men's ideas of independence, and increasing instead of diminishing poverty. In countries where there was no Poor Law, there was not one-hundredth part of the miserable poverty which was to be seen in England. He calculated that the poor paid no less a sum than £5,000,000 a year as interest on articles pledged, and that if they became their own pawnbrokers they would get £150,000 a year as interest from the Post Office. If the poor could pay £40,000,000 back to pawnbrokers, they could put away 1s. a week for old age, and if this were commenced early in life it would produce a yearly pension of £41 at the age of sixty.

BIRKENHEAD CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—The annual meeting was held on the 6th instant. Mr. J. B. Cooke was in the chair. Mr. B. Cooke, the Hon. Sec., reported that the Decision Committee had investigated 593 cases, against 572 last year. Of these 237 had been aided by the direct grants of the Society, 26 had had employment found for them, and 62 had been referred to other agencies or private persons. Of the rest, 134 had been found to be either undeserving or not requiring relief. £85. 19s. 4d. had been given in relief, generally in kind, against £66. 5s. 4d. last year, and £39. 4s. 1d. in 1873. The provident department was increasing in usefulness. During the twelve months £1,573. 16s. 10d. had been collected.

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NOTICES.

District Committees are reminded that a fresh election of representatives at the Council has to be made (under Rule VII.) within one month after the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

The Secretary will be glad to have the names of those members who have been elected as representatives as soon as possible.

Colonel Busk and Mr. R. M. Hensley have been elected representatives of the Wandsworth Committee.

Lord Dunsany and Mr. Russell Barrington have been elected representatives of the St. George's-in-the-East Committee.

Mr. H. Hoper has been elected Hon. Secretary of the St. Saviour's Committee, *vice* Mr. E. Villiers, resigned.

The Whitechapel Committee will meet at 3 o'clock on Wednesdays, instead of 3.30 P.M., as hitherto.

Copies of the *Classified Directory to the Metropolitan Charities* have been placed at the disposal of the Council, and can be had by Hon. Secretaries, for office use, at the Central Office.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; C. J. Stevens, Esq., *Fulham*; J. R. Holland, Esq., *Paddington*; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, R. Dundas, Esq., Lord Claud Hamilton, Major Prendergast, *St. George's*; W. Bevan, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Miss Octavia Hill, Major-General Blant, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Hon. W. Warren-Vernon, *St. Giles's*; H. Hay Hill, Esq., Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; J. Barrington Baker, Esq., *Holborn*; Rev. Harvey Brooks, Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; J. Sapsford, Esq., *Bethnal Green*; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. Lavers Smith, Esq., C. L. Corkran, Esq., *Whitechapel*; R. Barrington, Esq., Lord Dunsany, *St. George's-in-the-East*; Hon. H. R. Scott, *St. Marylebone*; F. B. Montgomery, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; J. H. Ward, Esq., *Battersea*; R. V. Tidman, Esq., *Lewisham*; Capt. Gardner, R.N., *Eltham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., F. D. Mocatta, Esq., *Vice-Presidents*; A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*. Total, 43. C. S. Loch, Esq., *Secretary*.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

The Secretary reported that the receipts on the General Fund during the past quarter had been £978. 19s. 11d., as compared with £967. 13s. received in the corresponding quarter of last year; that there had been at the commencement of the present year a balance in hand of £414, as compared with a balance of £774. 17s. on the 1st of January 1875. That, as regards the District Committee Aid Fund, there was a balance on the 1st of January 1876 of £100. 3s., as against a balance of £149. 8s. 9d. in 1875, while the receipts on this fund during the past quarter had been £270. 12s. (including a contribution of £100 from the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee), as against £367. 5s. contributed in the corresponding quarter of 1875, £100 of which was a donation from the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee.

As regards expenditure, it was pointed out that, while less had been received on the District Committee Aid Fund, and there had been a smaller balance on that fund at the commencement of the year, £689. 1s. 5d. had already been expended in assisting the Committees in poorer districts; and that £368. 18s. 10d. had been transferred from the General Fund to meet part of this expenditure, while £150 (making in all an expenditure of £839. 1s. 5d.) had been paid to the City Committee from the same funds, in accordance with the arrangement made in November last. In the corresponding quarter of last year the comparatively small sum, £317. 10s., was spent in assisting District Committees.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending March 25 the receipts had been £20. 1s. for the General Fund, and £20 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balance of the General Fund on that day had been £289. 17s. 3d. Also that the sum of £99. 13s. 7d. appeared as a deficit against the District Committee Aid Fund, there being no available balance on that account.

GRANTS.—Grants of £25 and £15 had been made to the St. Olave's and Mile End Committees respectively.

COLLECTION IN THE CITY.—A conference of members of the Administrative Committee and of the City Committee had been held at the office of the City Committee on Thursday morning last, and a Sub-Committee was subsequently appointed by the Administrative Committee to organise and conduct the collection of funds in the City.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.—The following circular had been approved by the Administrative Committee:—

'The Sub-Committee on District Work desire to call the attention of the Committees of the Society to the want of uniformity in the treatment of School Board cases, which is brought to light by an analysis of the returns published in the *Reporter* of the 19th February last. They have observed that the average amount of the grant made in each case is lower than the

ordinary average of sums granted by the Society. They believe that a cause of this is to be found in the "nature of assistance" for which application is made, and that many Committees are deterred from dealing with School Board cases in full accordance with the principles of the Society, in consequence of their considering them in their reference to the application only. But the Sub-Committee would point out that while it may be in some cases necessary to grant the boots or shoes so generally applied for, it is equally important that the attention of the Committee should not, in the discussion of School Board cases, be confined to this point. The Committee should be prepared to take "fitting action" in each case, and to deal with it in any of the various ways that may suggest themselves.

"The Sub-Committee would refer Committees to the arrangement made with Mr. Francis Peek in May 1875. Mr. Peek, it is there stated, is "anxious to increase the ability of the Committees in the poorer districts to deal with such cases as the Divisional Committees of the School Board may refer to them." . . . "The cases of these persons will be inquired into like those of persons applying under any other circumstances, and dealt with according to the principles of the Society, as set forth in the Manual." The Sub-Committee would therefore point out to District Committees the expediency of observing the following general rules:—

1. That each case should be considered, not in relation only to the child who is unable to attend school, and has indirectly been the cause of the application to the Committee, but in relation to the position of the parents and family.

2. That since each case has to be dealt with in its relation to the condition of the whole family, District Committees should consider the nature of assistance asked for (e.g. boots or shoes) only in the second place, and should strive, in the first place, to give or obtain such judicious and adequate relief as may permanently improve the condition of the family, and prevent, if possible, a second application to charity.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

The list of additional members having been read, the following members were re-elected:—Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.O.B., Mr. J. W. Willis-Bund, Mr. George Blount, Mr. S. Fuller, Dr. Hawksley, Mr. G. Howell, Mr. T. J. Phillips Jodrell, Mr. C. A. Miner, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., Mr. W. Wightman Wood.

After some discussion, in which Mr. J. R. Hollond, Mr. S. Fuller, Mr. R. Barrington, Rev. H. J. Cummins, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. F. D. Mocatta, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Lord Claud Hamilton, and Mr. R. Dundas took part,

Mr. R. Hollond gave notice of the following motion:—

That Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet be elected a Vice-President of the Society.

Sir Charles Trevelyan gave notice of a motion:—

That T. Hughes, Esq., be elected a Vice-President of the Society.

And, on the motion of Mr. A. H. Hill, the Secretary was instructed to ask Mr. G. M. Hicks whether he would be able to attend the meetings of Council. Mr. Hill gave notice that, if Mr. Hicks were unable to attend, he would move that he be elected a Vice-President.

INQUIRIES INTO HOSPITAL CASES.

Mr. J. R. Hollond then moved—

That the Council would recommend that, when no definite standard of eligibility for the admission of patients to their out-patient departments has been adopted by the hospitals, investigation into cases sent by them to the Committees of the Society should be limited to inquiries relative to the position and circumstances of the applicant; and that reports on such cases should contain the above information without giving an opinion (unless there is reason to believe the hospital requires it) as to the suitability of the case for medical relief.

He said that he had, with the permission of Council, altered in some measure the wording of his motion. There was a certain confusion, he feared, in District Committees as to the right method of investigating a hospital case: there was a danger lest they should inquire into them, as they would into other cases, with a view to finding out antecedents, &c.—information not required by and not always of service to the hospital. The system of inquiry, as applied to out-patient

departments, was in an inchoate state, and when there was no fixed standard of admission it would be well for Committees to avoid incurring an unjust unpopularity from the adoption of too scrupulous a method of investigation, and thus, perhaps, retard a more perfect co-operation with hospitals. Subscribers to hospitals sometimes objected to the intervention of the Society for the purposes of inquiry, and it was necessary that the hospitals should show them good cause for a change, and a satisfactory method for carrying it out.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe seconded the motion, believing it to be in its nature provisional. He hoped that eventually an exhaustive inquiry would be possible in hospital cases.

Mr. Seton-Karr said that at Chelsea the method adopted by the St. George's Hospital had been found to work well. A paper containing a series of definite questions respecting the circumstances of the applicant was forwarded to the Committee, and, as far as he knew, the opinions sometimes expressed by the Committee for or against the suitability of the applicant as an out-patient, were well received.

Mr. Russell-Barrington considered the suggestion a valuable one; but it would be better if hospitals made known in each case what they wished. Some committees had been in the habit of employing a slighter system of investigation in hospital cases long before any special arrangements with hospitals had been made.

Mr. C. L. Corkran considered a line of exclusion such as that of being in receipt of wages above 30s. a week inadvisable; it was necessary to modify the rule by the statement of many other facts. Character should be taken into account. Hospitals would in many cases be thankful, he thought, for a delicate expression of opinion on the part of a Committee: if questioned, the Committee could state the grounds of their decision.

After some words from the Rev. H. G. Henderson, Miss O. Hill, and Mr. H. H. Hill, Mr. R. Dundas said that it would be impossible to obtain the sanction of hospitals for exhaustive inquiries in hospital cases. A just and sufficient method of inquiry might be obtained, if all hospitals that availed themselves of the machinery of the Society, adopted a form similar to that made use of by the St. George's Hospital.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that since the Society had advocated the system of provident dispensaries and medical relief on the mutual assurance principle, the existence of so many hospitals with free out-patients' departments had been the first and greatest difficulty. But hospital authorities were becoming more and more sensible of the evil, and modifications were being gradually introduced. It was better, therefore, to make progress in the present unsystematic manner, than to lay down a hard-and-fast rule of any sort.

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in reply, said that an exhaustive inquiry in hospital cases would for some time at least be most prejudicial. It was most desirable that hospitals should have a proper paper of questions, and it might be necessary for the Society to fix on some form for use in all such cases. He proposed an *ad interim* arrangement merely, and one that could not stand in the way of any more perfect system.

The motion was then put and carried, 13 voting for it and 10 against it.

The motion respecting Standing Committees, of which Mr. A. H. Hill had given notice, was again adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, April 1, 1876:—*Donations*: The Duke of Bedford, £100; Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., £5. 2s. 6d. *Annual*: E. M. Stone, Esq., £5. 5s.; J. W. Wells, Esq., £5. *Quarterly*: Hon. W. Warren-Vernon, £5.

following business stands for Monday, the 10th inst. :—
consider the following recommendations of the Administrative

the Administrative Committee are prepared to consider exceptions, in which a District Committee may not be able to obtain so much as may be required to enable it to secure 'fitting action.'

the Administrative Committee will consider the advisability of the assistance required in such cases by advertisement or other-

such cases should only be referred to the Administrative Committee District Committees when they have exhausted every means in order to obtain the required assistance by private influence or by charities.

every such case will be carefully examined by the Organising Committee before being submitted to the Administrative Committee.

if the Administrative Committee decide to advertise, the decision of the advertisement will be left to the Administrative Committee, due consideration being given to any suggestions of the District

the Administrative Committee think it highly inexpedient that be advertised in any papers without the previous approval of Administrative Committee.

receive the Report of the Sub-Committee of the Council on the of Funds.

J. R. Hollond to propose members of the Administrative Committee the ensuing year.

J. R. Hollond to move :—

the Council, considering that it is imperatively required in the of the poor that the Poor-law should be administered with a ultimate abolition of outdoor relief, recommends its District to co-operate with Boards of Guardians in the following way :— recommending to them for relief only such cases as they consider indoor relief in its various forms.

asking off their hands as far as possible all such cases of tenement as are not suitable for indoor relief—e.g., cases of sickness ; not advisable to compel the patient to enter the infirmary.

referring to them only those School Board cases in which, from character or circumstances of the parents, it is advisable that the should be taken into the District Schools ; all other cases being within the jurisdiction of charity, to be dealt with on the principles of the Society.

A. H. Hill to move :—

Mr. Lionel Cohen, Chairman of the Jewish Board of Guardians, an additional member of Council.

J. R. Hollond to move :—

Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet be elected a Vice-President of the Society.

Mr. Charles Trevelyan to move :—

Mr. T. Hughes, Q.C., be elected a Vice-President of the Society.

Mr. A. H. Hill's motion respecting Standing Committees of the

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK ON CHARITY ORGANISATION.

On Monday, March 31st, His Grace the Archbishop of York presided over a meeting of the Charity Organisation Society, held in the Council Chamber of the Hall, Hull. In the course of his remarks, His Grace said that owing to important municipal affairs, which were being carried on in London at this moment, a good many of the gentlemen on this occasion happened to be absent from the meeting ; but no doubt the interest in the town in this new undertaking was as great as it deserved to be. He was very glad if the words he was uttering could be addressed to an audience. Those present all knew the object and importance of the organisation, whereas the outside public did not understand the it in all its bearings. (Hear, hear.) In the first place, they all he had no doubt, that almsgiving was an indispensable part of a duty ; yet the first time they discovered that out of a shilling in indiscriminate alms probably eleven pence were wasted, was a shock to their feelings. They really felt that it frustrated one of their notions, and one, as they thought, of their paramount duties. (Hear, hear.) That being so, were they to button up their pockets and give

They felt that their obligation remained precisely the same, but ; either cease from giving or endeavour to give so as to guard imposture or the encouragement of idleness. This Society was the purpose of proving to the good people of Hull that such an was perfectly possible. In the little document which had been the honorary secretary, it had been mentioned that there was no wish to prevent individuals who consulted the Society from giving to different cases with their own hands, so that their own loving might be exercised in so doing. He heartily agreed with this, that by degrees there would be more of that kind of almsgiving

But this Society simply undertook, as he understood it, to make into those cases which pretended to be on behalf of poor and

needy persons ; and having satisfied themselves as to the deserving character of each application, the Society dealt with them by means of this Committee, by relieving them or referring them back to the persons who had consulted it, as might be most expedient. (Applause.) That being so, he ventured to say there was not a Christian gentleman in all Hull who had anything to spare who was not absolutely bound to become a subscriber to the Society. (Applause.) Of course the alternative was that a man should give his money as he chose, and having a great deal of it, he might give a shilling for the purpose of having good done, though he might make up his mind that elevenpence out of the shilling would in all probability go to the indolent or the impostor. (Laughter and applause.) The objects of the Society being to direct benevolence into a proper channel, he did think they ought not to stop until every person who had anything to spare recognised the duty of giving to the poor in this town, as a subscriber of the Charity Organisation Society. It had the effect, no doubt, of getting rid of a vast amount of imposture, and preventing the trade of the sturdy beggar being a profitable vocation in this town. In that respect alone it was of immense benefit. But there were many other points in which, he considered, the Society might do a vast deal of good. Allusion had already been made to its influence in directing the steps of benevolence into the right way, and now it was proposed that the aid of the ladies should be called into requisition. The good ladies were always forward in works of this kind, and though the Committee did all they could in cases which came within their ken, yet it was thought desirable to have a Ladies' Committee, who should attend especially to such cases as were confided to them. This was an element in the Society without which the organisation would be by no means complete. (Hear, hear.) Then they had heard of a sanitary board, for which great need existed. He believed both these propositions would be admitted, and it was gratifying that the Society had secured the co-operation of the Municipality of Hull, who undertook to attend to the recommendations of the Society. (Applause.) The claims set forth in the report were excellent, and here was another which the Honorary Secretary was about to read, but he asked that gentleman to allow him (the speaker) to mention it, because it was a very important case. An American found himself stranded in Hull, and wanted to get back to his own country, but had not the means. He might have begged, but he did not choose to be a beggar ; therefore he applied to the Committee of this Society, that they would investigate his case, and that was precisely their function. He asked that they would represent his case to some shipowner, in order that he might get into some ship and work his passage home. Thereupon inquiry was duly made, and eventually Messrs. Wilson gave him a decided facility for getting home, and the man had gone. (Applause.) He had not been pauperised ; he had not begged ; but he had gone home himself by the assistance of the Society. Those present were all aware of the great good that the Society was doing, and he emphatically said, since the opportunity was given him, that this was not a hole-and-corner association, but a representation of the whole benevolence of the people of Hull ; and all those who wished to combine benevolence with good sense and proper calculation would come to their doors and give the Society their money. Until that consummation, so devoutly to be wished, was attained, they must meet together and make their appeals to the hearts of the philanthropic, and he was perfectly sure the Society would not collapse for want of support. (Applause.) The practical result of such an organisation would be in the long run, not to arrest the flow of benevolence, but to give the public a feeling of confidence. It would make everybody turn when asked for alms, and cause them to give one of those tickets for inquiry, and in the event of there being a real call upon their benevolence, all such cases would receive proper attention. At present everybody knows they had got into a sort of habit of treating the casual beggar in the light of an impostor, and would have nothing to do with him. But still, after all, after the man had gone away there remained the possibility of his having been a deserving person. When in a softer mood, and well accosted, they might be disposed to part with the shilling, and after the recipient had gone they might say to themselves in all probability the greater part of it, and perhaps the whole of it, had been wasted. This was a state of things that ought not to be encouraged, and this Charity Organisation Society by proper investigation took away from stinginess its last excuse, assuring the benevolent that the money they felt disposed to give would be quite well bestowed. (Applause.)

A Ladies' Committee was subsequently formed, and the town divided into districts, for the purpose of securing thorough and complete visitation and relief.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of March 1876 was 36,731, and 49,463 received outdoor relief, making a total of 86,194. This was a decrease of 614 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 11,960, 21,111, and 31,505 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 651. This was an increase of 4 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 139 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

SES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
Kensington	2	4	13	1	2	3	3	7	10	26	9	4	11
Fulham	1	1	1	1	3	4	1	1	4	9	4	5	3
Paddington	6	3	9	3	1	4	5	4	10	23	17	4	1
Chelsea	3	2	5	1	1	1	2	2	4	10	12	2	1
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	23	11	6	2
Westminster do.	2	9	11	3	3	3	3	1	4	23	11	5	1
Westminster:—													
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	1	1	4	2	6	1	1	1	8	4	7	7
St. Marylebone	2	3	6	8	2	10	1	2	3	24	9	6	1
Hampstead	1	1	2	4	4	4	2	1	3	9	2	2	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	4	1	5	6	6	6	1	1	2	13	4	2	1
South St. Pancras	2	8	12	8	8	8	1	2	3	20	3	9	2
Islington	2	5	7	15	1	16	3	3	3	26	5	3	1
Hackney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	8	1
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	8	1
Strand	1	1	1	3	3	6	1	1	1	12	8	8	1
Holborn	1	1	1	10	1	11	1	1	2	21	7	22	1
City	1	5	6	3	3	1	3	1	4	10	2	18	1
Shoreditch	1	5	5	1	1	2	2	1	3	10	4	13	2
Bethnal Green	1	3	4	4	4	4	4	1	5	13	7	9	1
Whitechapel	1	2	4	1	3	4	1	1	1	11	3	13	1
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	5	3	11	1
Stepney	2	1	4	3	1	4	1	1	1	8	6	8	1
Mile End Old Town	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	5	12	1
Poplar	1	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	1	7	2	8	1
St. Saviour's	1	4	5	6	6	5	2	3	10	21	4	4	1
Newington	2	4	6	7	1	8	1	1	2	16	7	7	1
St. Olave's	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	2	1	10	8	6	1
Lambeth:—													
North	1	1	2	4	3	5	2	2	2	14	1	7	1
South	1	1	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	8	2	4	1
Wandsworth & Putney	2	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	2	7	3	5	7
Battersea	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	2	1	1
Clapham	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	7	1	1	21
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	4	1	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	8	2	4	1
Peckham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	2	1
Greenwich	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	5	3	15	1
Deptford	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	3	8
Woolwich	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	9	1
Lewisham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	5	1	20
Eltham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	1	1
Totals	2733	97	157	7105	27139	5918	1515	107	403	186	224	147	

THE DISABLED FIREMEN'S RELIEF AND PENSION FUND.

On Friday, March 31, Joseph Kinsman, 32, surrendered before Mr. Benson, at Southwark Police Court, charged on remand with obtaining money from various individuals by representing himself as a member of the Fire Brigade, and collecting funds for the Disabled Firemen's Relief and Pension Fund, which it was alleged had no existence.—Mr. C. J. Ribton-Turner attended on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society.

The prisoner was charged on the 3rd of February by Detective-Sergeant Bell, M Division, who found him on the previous afternoon soliciting money for the Fire Brigade of Mr. Brockles, leather merchant and currier, 173 Bermondsey Street; and after the examination he was remanded to enable an action to be tried between Secombe and the Charity Organisation Society, Mr. Benson wishing to defer his adjudication until it had come off. The prisoner was accordingly remanded until Friday last.

As soon as the prisoner had taken his place in the dock,

Mr. Benson asked if the trial had taken place. A clerk from Messrs. Wontner's, who was present, informed his worship that it had not, owing to certain interrogatories not being completed.

Mr. Benson, to the prisoner: Have you anyone to defend you?—Prisoner: No, sir. I don't want anyone to defend me.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Wontner appeared for you on the last two occasions. Did you instruct him to defend you then?—Prisoner: No, I did not.

Mr. Benson: Then who instructed him to defend you?—Prisoner: Mr. S. S. Secombe, my master, I suppose. I am only his servant, and I wish him to speak for me.

Mr. Benson: If you call him I shall have to caution him, as he will be asked some very severe questions. I don't think, however, that anything can be done without the production of the books.—Prisoner: The books were here on the last occasion.

Mr. Benson: But they were not produced, although they were called for. Mr. Bailey, the clerk, had them, and declined to produce them.

Prisoner, to Bailey: Do you produce them?—No, I have not got them

now. On the last occasion I refused to produce them, as Mr. Wontner advised me not to do so.

Prisoner: I object to being brought here so many times, as it has done me so much injury by the reports in the newspapers.

Mr. Benson: I can't see that, as nothing has appeared in the newspapers but what has been said in evidence. I, however, don't think the prosecution should be so hard on you, as I believe you are only a servant.—To Mr. Bailey: Has he paid you all the money collected by him?—Bailey: He has, sir. I should like to remind you that the case of one of our pensioners was before the House of Commons yesterday. He was on our funds from 1872 to 1875.—Mr. Benson: No doubt you have some machinery at work; but if you receive large sums of money from the public, and do not account for it, it is a fraud. I think you are all keeping yourselves in a comfortable position with the funds so collected.—Bailey: I am receiving nothing.—Mr. Benson: You said you were a clerk at a stated salary. I feel it my duty to further adjourn the case, as it requires to be thoroughly investigated. I could not allow it to be mixed up with the civil action; therefore I shall again remand the prisoner.

Mr. Secombe: I think, sir, I should have received notice when the prisoner was taken into custody.—Mr. Benson: Do you wish to be called as a witness?—Secombe: Yes, I did, and I can explain everything satisfactorily.

Mr. Benson: Well, you can come next time; but I must remind you that you will be severely cross-examined.—Secombe: I will come, sir. I, however, wished to apologise to your Worship for what might have seemed to have been improper conduct on my part; but I was much excited, owing to the conduct of Mr. Ribton-Turner.

Mr. Benson: I have no wish to speak harshly to you, as you are not before me. You have an action pending, and when that is tried all your grievances can be brought before the public.—To the prisoner: Then you are remanded until the 28th of April at 12 o'clock.

CHARITY ORGANISATION AT NOTTINGHAM.—At the quarterly meeting of the Nottingham Social Guild, on the 22nd of March, reports were read from the several Committees of the Guild. The report of the Boarding-out Committee showed that an interview had been held with the Guardians, and the Board had agreed to grant 4s. 3d. per week, inclusive of clothing, for each child to the number of six, which the Committee intended taking into their hands as soon as the sanction of the Local Government Board was obtained.—Mr. Simon read an encouraging report from the Charity Organisation Committee, which was said to have justified the expectations formed by the subscribers; an officer was employed, and they were enabled to detect cases of imposition, and relieve the deserving.—The Chairman informed the meeting that this was a matter separate from the Guild as to subscriptions, &c.—The report was passed after some explanations.—The treasurer's account showed receipts £100. 15s. 6d., leaving a total indebtedness of £125.—A suggestion was thrown out that each member should subscribe £1 annually, and a resolution was carried to that effect, with a distinct understanding that that was not to be an absolute condition of membership, as several persons gave no money, but their help.

HALIFAX.—Mr. Stansfeld on Friendly Societies.—On Saturday, March 26th, Mr. Stansfeld addressed a meeting, at Halifax, of the Amalgamated Society of Joiners, Carpenters, and Ironmoulders, and presented the accident grant of £150 to Alfred Leech, ironfounder, and of £100 to John Foster Tetley, joiner. In making the presentations, Mr. Stansfeld said there were many reasons why working men should feel an interest in such associations. The first was one which naturally occurred to him from the part he had played in public life—the influence of such societies upon the burden of the rates, and upon the administration of the Poor Law. Every Friendly Society tended to relieve the rates—a good deal more so than all those local taxation committees of which they had heard so much of late in the agricultural districts, and whose only desire seemed to be to take the burden off the owners of land and place it on the shoulders of the ordinary taxpayer. These societies prevented poverty, and they prevented pauperism, which was worse than poverty. They also begat a spirit of independence, disinclined the population to go upon the rates, and were a far greater saving of the rates than the mere direct saving which followed from the assistance given to members in times of need.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 174.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 12, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Administrative Committee will not meet to-morrow.

The Central Office will be closed on Good Friday, and reopened on Easter Tuesday.

As the Council does not meet on Easter Monday, no *Reporter* will be issued next week.

In the absence of Miss Courtenay, Dr. B. Daniel has been elected representative of the Chelsea Committee, and Captain Boyce, R.N., the other representative, has been re-elected.

Lady Wilson has been re-elected representative of the South t. Pancras Committee.

Mr. W. G. Holloway and Mr. H. F. Cornish have been elected representatives of the Deptford Committee.

NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

District Committees which have not yet sent to the Central Office their returns of School Board cases for the past quarter are requested to do so as early as possible.

The attention of District Committees is called to a letter from the Dudley Stuart Home, on page 74.

And to the following resolution relating to inquiries into the social position of out-patients, which was adopted by the Council on the 3rd inst. :—

That the Council would recommend that, when no definite standard of eligibility for the admission of patients to their out-patient departments has been adopted by the hospitals, investigation into cases sent by them to the Committees of the Society should be limited to inquiries relative to the situation and circumstances of the applicant; and that reports on such cases should contain the above information without giving an opinion (unless there is reason to believe the hospital requires it) as to the suitability of a case for medical relief.

District Committees requiring for distribution copies of the

Reporter containing the account of the recent Annual Meeting of the Society, are requested to apply to the Secretary. Copies of the second (enlarged) edition of the Seventh Annual Report of the Council can also be had upon application.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., *Kensington Committee*; Major Yard, J. R. Holland, Esq., *Paddington*; Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Major Prendergast, R. Dundas, Esq., Major FitzRoy, *St. George's*; W. Bevan, Esq., H. Peto, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Miss Octavia Hill, Major-General Blunt, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; R. Smith, Esq., Hon. E. F. Kenyon, H. N. Hoare, Esq., *St. Giles's*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Sir Richard Wilbraham, Captain Fortescue, *Holborn*; Rev. Harvey Brooks, Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; John Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; R. Barrington, Esq., *St. George's-in-the-East*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; R. Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; B. R. Balfour, Esq., *St. Olave's*; Douglas Brown, Esq., *Lambeth*; F. Green, Esq., *Battersea*; H. F. Cornish, Esq., *Deptford*; A. Annesley, Esq., *Lewisham*; A. Barry, Esq., A. H. Hutchins, Esq., *Sydenham*; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., *Vice-President*; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairmen*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*. Total, 43. H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., *Assistant Secretary*. J. Barber, Esq., *Visitor*.

In the absence of the Secretary, through indisposition, the Assistant Secretary read a letter from Mr. G. M. Hicks, resigning his seat at the Council as an additional member.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. E. Peters asked how the District Committees would deal with a case in which the wife of an applicant was of drunken habits; the case being, on every other ground, eligible for relief.

Opinions were expressed that such cases must be dealt with each on its own merits. The Rev. R. J. Simpson thought that much would depend upon the form of relief required.

Mr. A. H. Hill asked whether any member of Council was acquainted with the proposed Maternity Home now advertised by the managers of St. John's Home, Norfolk Street, Strand? He doubted whether an additional charity for training nurses was required, and thought that a demand for such a class of labour could be better met by an institution conducted on a commercial basis.

Mr. Dundas stated that the want of a sufficient number of well-trained nurses was felt at St. George's Hospital, with which he was connected.

Major-General Blunt desired to draw the attention of members of Council to a sermon preached on behalf of the Society by the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Fremantle, of St. Mary's, Bryanston Square; and he laid a few copies of the sermon upon the table.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that

during the week ending April 1 the receipts had been £120. 7s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £200 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £233. 6s. 11d. and £60. 7s. 5d. respectively.

GRANTS.—Grants of £30, £40, £50, and £50 have been made to the Lambeth, Shoreditch, Newington, and Stepney Committees, respectively.

DUDLEY STUART HOME.—The Committee also reported that the following letter had been received from the Chaplain and Secretary of the Dudley Stuart Home:—

March 30th, 1876.

Dear Sir,—I am desired by the Committee of the Dudley Stuart Home to inform you that, for the future, men will not be received into this House.

I am also to inform you that the Committee of this Institution will be at all times ready, as far as their resources go, to admit for a limited period, free of expense, any female of good character recommended to them by a Committee of your Society. Any Committee recommending a case are requested to forward to the Committee of this Home the full result of their investigation.—I beg to remain, your faithful servant, H. HOUSEMAN.

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD CASE.—It also appeared that the Administrative Committee had been asked by a District Committee whether the case of a cripple, in which £12 was required to enable the applicant to enter a home, was eligible for assistance from Mr. F. Peek's gift. The case had been referred to the District Committee by the Divisional Committee of the School Board. The Administrative Committee had expressed an opinion that, failing other courses of procedure that were suggested, the case was eligible for assistance from the gift in question.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson said he would give notice of a motion on the subject.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

ASSISTANCE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CASES.

The Council then proceeded to consider the following Recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

1. That the Administrative Committee are prepared to consider exceptional cases, in which a District Committee may not be able to obtain so large a sum as may be required to enable it to secure 'fitting action.'
2. That the Administrative Committee will consider the advisability of obtaining the assistance required in such cases, by advertisement or otherwise.
3. That such cases should only be referred to the Administrative Committee by District Committees when they have exhausted every means in their power to obtain the required assistance by private influence or by reference to charities.
4. That every such case will be carefully examined by the Organising Secretary before being submitted to the Administrative Committee.
5. That, if the Administrative Committee decide to advertise, the decision as to the form of the advertisement will be left to the Administrative Committee, due consideration being given to any suggestions of the District Committees.
6. That the Administrative Committee think it highly inexpedient that such cases be advertised in any papers without the previous approval of the Administrative Committee.

The Assistant Secretary having read the Recommendations,

Mr. A. H. Hill said, that he thought the subject was one which would be very appropriately dealt with by one of the Standing Committees to which his intended motion referred. He was in favour of the question being postponed until his motion had been before the Council.

The Chairman pointed out that, if the principle were settled, the Council could afterwards take, in the direction Mr. Hill had indicated, such steps as might appear expedient.

Mr. C. E. Maurice thought that the fourth Recommendation was unnecessary. The cases would be thoroughly investigated by the District Committees, and it would be useless for the Organising Secretary to repeat the inquiries.

Mr. Russell Barrington, in urging the Council to adopt the Recommendations as they stood, alluded to the sense of discouragement under which the poorer Committees must labour in dealing with cases requiring exceptional assistance. He thought that they would gladly feel that they could, in the last resort, refer such cases to the Administrative Committee. The intention of the fourth Recommendation was, that the Organising Secretary should examine the cases before they were submitted to the Administrative Committee. The Central Office had facilities for making inquiries in foreign and other parts which were not possessed by the District Committees.

Sir C. E. Trevelyan, in supporting the Recommendations, mentioned that a case had recently been referred to the richer by one of the poorer Committees. This course, he felt, was open to objections, and some of these would be removed if all such cases were passed through a common centre. In the earliest days of the Society the principle that the District Committees should not make appeals by advertisement had been laid down, and the Recommendations in question would meet difficulties of this class.

Mr. Willis-Bund thought the question involved was too important to be disposed of at once. He feared that difficulties would arise in dealing with cases in the manner proposed. The Administrative Committee and the District Committee might take different views as to the mode in which a case should be dealt with, and the hopes of applicants might also be unduly raised. He was in favour of postponing the consideration of the question.

Mr. Seton-Karr said that the difficulty that beset the poorer Committees was not that of investigating certain cases, but of procuring adequate relief for them. He thought that referring the case to the Organising Secretary would cause unnecessary delay, and he would move as an amendment that the fourth Recommendation be omitted.

Mr. C. E. Maurice seconded the amendment.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta thought that great caution was necessary in dealing with cases of the class referred to. He approved highly of the Recommendations, for it was most important that the poorer Committees should not be hampered in their work; but he thought that as the Administrative Committee could always refer cases to the Organising Secretary for his opinion, the fourth Recommendation was scarcely necessary. He thought that the cases to which the Recommendations referred were not so likely to suffer by delay as were cases of a more ordinary description. They would, he imagined, be exceptional cases, requiring exceptionally large sums for their adequate assistance.

Lieut.-General Cavenagh explained that the Administrative Committee had inserted the fourth Recommendation for their own guidance and direction.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins said that, for that very reason, the Administrative Committee might have discretionary power to refer cases to the Organising Secretary, or not, as they saw fit. He would suggest that the words relating to the Organising Secretary be struck out.

Mr. J. R. Hollond reminded the Council that a case would not necessarily be re-investigated by the Organising Secretary, but that he would, before submitting it to the Administrative Committee in the ordinary course of business, thoroughly examine the documents, and, if necessary, see the applicant.

The Chairman pointed out, that so far from causing delay, the proposed reference to the Organising Secretary would expedite matters. If the case were examined by him in the first instance, the Administrative Committee might be able to deal with it at their next meeting; but if, on the other hand,

such reference to the Organising Secretary were only made after the case had been laid before the Administrative Committee, a delay of a week, or even nearly a fortnight, might ensue. He was in favour of retaining the fourth Recommendation.

After a few words from Major FitzRoy and Messrs. Edgcombe, Green, and Miner, Mr. Seton-Karr's amendment was put and carried.

The first, second, third, fifth and sixth Recommendations were then put and carried, two voting against them.

REPORT OF COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.

Major-General Blunt explained, as Chairman of the Sub-committee, that the Report, though already in proof, could not be submitted at present.

ADDITIONAL MEMBER.

Mr. A. H. Hill moved that Mr. Lionel Cohen, a member of the Jewish Board of Guardians, be asked whether he would consent to become an additional member of Council.

Mr. Cohen was well-known in connection with charitable work, and, could he give time to the work of the Society, would prove a valuable coadjutor.

After a few words of support from Mr. F. D. Mocatta and the Rev. H. I. Cummins, the motion was carried unanimously.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Mr. A. H. Hill moved that Mr. G. M. Hicks be elected a Vice-President of the Society.

The motion was carried unanimously.

On the motions of Mr. J. R. Hollond and Sir C. E. Trevelyan respectively, Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet and Mr. T. Hughes, Q.C., were elected Vice-Presidents.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. A. H. Hill then moved—

That, for the more effectual working out of the objects of the Society, it is desirable to establish Standing Committees of the Council, whose function it shall be, under the general direction of Council, to take special charge of certain branches of the Society's work.

Mr. Hill said that he had brought this subject before the Council in 1874. He felt that it was most important for the advancement of the objects the Society had in view that they should, like other similar bodies, from Parliament downwards, have Standing Committees for dealing with certain subjects. He would instance the motion of which Mr. J. R. Hollond had given notice. The question indicated by that motion was a very large one, and affected the poorer classes very materially. He would like to see Standing Committees for dealing with this and other large subjects; such as Vagrancy, Industrial Employment, and Medical Relief. These were all questions of the highest importance, the last, especially, requiring most careful treatment.

Mr. C. E. Maurice seconded the motion.

Sir C. E. Trevelyan, while recognising the importance of the subjects referred to by Mr. Hill, could not think that the establishment of Standing Committees was the best way of dealing with them. He was in favour of following the practice hitherto adopted by them, viz., that of Special Committees to inquire into and report upon the several questions as they came up. The question of employment, mentioned by Mr. Hill, had already been considered by such a Committee, and other subjects, such as Night Refuges and Soup-kitchens, had been dealt with by similar means. He would rather see the scope of the existing Sub-committees extended: the Inquiry Supervision Sub-committee might, he thought, take more of the Organising Secretary's work under their care. Sir Charles concluded by moving the previous question.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins, in seconding the motion made by the last speaker, expressed his disapproval of a number of

distinct, co-ordinate and independent Committees, and foresaw much difficulty in receiving reports and suggestions from such bodies. The Administrative Committee had power to appoint Sub-committees, and could exercise that power, from time to time, as required.

Mr. Dundas feared that the proposal of Mr. Hill would entail additional expenditure of time and money at the Central Office, as an increase of staff and larger premises would be required.

Mr. Russell Barrington, in rising to support Mr. Hill's motion, described the work of the existing Sub-committees, and pointed out that they did not deal with special but with current work. He thought it would be well if the initiative could be taken by Committees more actively than at present.

Miss O. Hill asked whether the Committees in question would be Sub-committees of Council, and whether they would include persons who were not members of the Society?

Major Prendergast begged the Council to pause before they committed themselves to a course necessarily involving a large increase of work at the Central Office.

Mr. Willis-Bund pointed out that it had been already determined that Honorary Secretaries should be appointed for special Sub-committees. He thought that it was important that these bodies should be permanent, in order that they might watch and carry out the work they had commenced.

Mr. A. H. Hill, in replying, explained that the Committees in question would, primarily, consist of members of Council, but they might be Sub-committees of the Administrative Committee.

Mr. Mocatta asked the Council to postpone this question, as it required careful consideration. He would mention that the Jewish Board of Guardians has several Committees; the Secretaries being honorary and the Committees including outsiders. He moved the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was carried, and the Council adjourned to Monday, the 24th inst.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, April 8, 1876:—*Donations*: 'A.B.' £2. 5s.; T. Allen, Esq., £1. 1s.; Bernard Bosanquet, Esq., £4; Miss Dearlove, £5; D. E. E., 5s.; Hon. Mrs. Denman, £1. 1s.; Lord Ebury, £10; Miss Gosset, 2s. 6d.; the Duke of Leeds, £10. *Annual*: James Bromfield, Esq., £1. *District Committee Aid Fund*: The Earl of Pembroke, £200; Miss Pomeroy, £5.

The following business stands for Monday, the 24th inst.:—

I. Adjourned discussion on Mr. A. H. Hill's motion, see *supra*.

II. General Cavenagh to move as an amendment:—

That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to re-arrange the business of its standing Committees, with a view to their being utilised to the utmost practicable extent.

III. To receive the Report of the Sub-committee of the Council on the Collection of Funds.

IV. Mr. J. R. Hollond to propose members of the Administrative Committee for the ensuing year.

V. Mr. J. R. Hollond to move:—

That this Council, considering that it is imperatively required, in the interests of the poor, that the Poor Law should be administered with a view to the ultimate abolition of outdoor relief, recommends its District Committees to co-operate with Boards of Guardians in the following way:—

1. By recommending to them for relief only such cases as they consider suitable for indoor relief in its various forms.

2. By taking off their hands, as far as possible, all such cases of temporary distress as are not suitable for indoor relief—*e.g.*, cases of sickness where it is not advisable to compel the patient to enter the infirmary.

3. By referring to them only those School Board cases in which, from the character or circumstances of the parents, it is advisable that the children should be taken into the District Schools; all other cases being considered within the jurisdiction of charity, to be dealt with on the and ordinary principles of the Society.

VI. Mr. Willis-Bund to call attention to the Poor Law Amendment Bill, and to move:—

That it be an instruction to the Administrative Committee to take such steps as may be deemed advisable to secure alteration in the proposed amendment in the laws as to removal and settlement proposed by that Bill.

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

75.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 26, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor: bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities. securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases. granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources. repressing mendicity. Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge on all who are willing to take part in the work to become members of District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies intended to help them. The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

Council, having been unable to comply with applications made to them, by District Committees, for letters of introduction to the Metropolitan Convalescent Institution, on the Thames, would be glad to receive such letters, and persons in a position to give them.

Rev. Alfred Scott has been elected a representative of the Ham Committee, vice Mr. Mussared, and Mr. C. J. has been re-elected.

Mr. Macdonald Stephenson and Major Yard have been elected representatives of the Paddington Committee.

W. Compton, Major Prendergast, Lieut.-Col. Sanford, W. Westby-Moore have been elected representatives of the George's (Hanover Square) Committee; but, during absence from town of Lord W. Compton, of Lieut.-Col. and of Mr. Westby-Moore, Lord Claud Hamilton, Dundas, and Mr. Meysey Clive will respectively take their places.

Mr. V. Bevan and H. Peto have been re-elected representatives of the Westminster Committee.

Mr. Wilbraham and Captain Fortescue have been re-elected representatives of the Holborn Committee.

Rev. Harvey Brooks has been re-elected a representative of the City Committee, and Mr. Norwood Earle is elected in the place of the Rev. M. S. A. Walrond.

G. Mainwaring has been elected a representative of the Central Green Committee, in the place of Bishop Beckles, J. Sapsford has been re-elected.

Mr. W. F. Beauford has been re-elected representative of the St. Olave's Committee.

Messrs. Huntly and Major have been re-elected representatives of the Greenwich Committee.

Messrs. George Parker and Arthur Annesley have been re-elected representatives of the Lewisham Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgecombe, Esq., Kensington Committee; C. J. Stevens, Esq., Fulham; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Paddington; Dr. B. Daniel, Chelsea; Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, St. George's; W. Bevan, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); Major-General Blunt, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; T. B. Spencer, Esq., Islington; Hamilton Hay Hill, Esq., Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; G. Barrington Baker, Esq., Holborn; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; J. G. Mainwaring, Esq., John Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Lord Dunsany, R. Barrington, Esq., St. George's-in-the-East; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Hon. H. R. Scott, Mile End; Rev. F. H. Burchell-Herne, R. Ellis, Esq., Poplar; F. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's; W. F. Beauford, Esq., St. Olave's; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; Colonel Busk, Wandsworth; J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersea; S. Etches, Esq., Clapham; Thos. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; H. F. Cornish, Esq., Deptford; George Parker, Esq., A. Annesley, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., Lewisham; Captain Gardner, R.N., Eltham; A. H. Hutchins, Esq., Sydenham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-President; Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, Alsager Hay Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Stephen Fuller, Esq., Additional Members. Total, 47. H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., Assistant Secretary. John Barber, Esq., J. E. Sapsford, Esq., jun., Visitors.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

A letter from Mr. G. M. Hicks was read, accepting the office of Vice-President, and stating that his interest in the work of the Society was undiminished.

ADDITIONAL MEMBER.

A letter was read from Mr. Lionel Cohen, in which he thanked the Council for electing him an Additional Member, and expressed his approval of the principles of the Society. He regretted, however, that the amount of leisure at his disposal was so limited that he must decline the appointment.

QUESTIONS.

Major FitzRoy asked if a man named McFadden had applied to any of the District Offices.

Major FitzRoy also asked whether any members of the Council would furnish his Committee with two letters for the Walton Convalescent Home. There were none at the Central Office.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the two weeks ending April 15 the receipts had been £61. 1s. 0d. for the General Fund, and £210 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £279. 7s. 10d. and £100. 7s. 5d. respectively.

GRANT.—A grant of £25 had been made to the North St. Pancras Committee.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COUNCIL.—Also that if all the ascertained claims, up to April 30, upon the General Fund were brought forward for payment next Thursday, a deficit of at least £86 would be shown; while, if applications for grants to District Committees already received were entertained, the deficit upon the District Committee Aid Fund would be £75.

Lieut.-General Cavenagh (as Chairman of the Administrative Committee) drew the attention of the Council specially to their financial position, which, he pointed out was entirely due to the wants of the poorer Committees. The District Committee Aid Fund had borrowed largely from the General Fund, and the embarrassed position of the latter was attributable to this cause alone. He would specially urge the consideration of this question upon members of Council representing the richer Committees.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS.—The Report of the Sub-committee was again postponed.

TANDING COMMITTEES.

The consideration of Mr. A. H. Hill's motion—

That, for the more effectual working out of the objects of the Society, it is desirable to establish Standing Committees of the Council, whose function it shall be, under the general direction of Council, to take special charge of certain branches of the Society's work,

was then resumed.

Sir C. E. Trevelyan asked leave to withdraw his motion (the previous question).

Lieut.-General Cavenagh's amendment—

That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to re-arrange the business of its standing Committees, with a view to their being utilised to the utmost practicable extent,

was then considered; and after a few words from Mr. A. H. Hill, the amendment, having been seconded by Sir Charles Trevelyan, was carried unanimously.

MOTIONS POSTPONED.

Letters having been received from Mr. J. R. Hollond and Mr. Willis-Bund, stating that they were prevented from being present, the motions standing in their names were, at their request, postponed.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the two weeks ending Saturday, April 22, 1876:—*Donations*: G. Bailey, Esq., £1; H. S. L., £5; Rathbone Brothers & Co., £1. 1s.; E. Richards, Esq., £2. 2s.; J. Willis & Sons, £2. 2s. *Annual*: Rev. C. T. Ackland, £1. 1s.; Miss Scott Douglas, £2; Rev. J. Martineau, £1. 1s.; Colonel Townley, £3. 3s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: Miss Scott Douglas, £5; R. S. Holford, Esq., £5. 5s.

The following business stands for Monday, May 1:—

I. Mr. J. R. Hollond to propose members of the Administrative Committee for the ensuing year.

II. Mr. J. R. Hollond to move:—

That this Council, considering that it is imperatively required, in the interests of the poor, that the Poor Law should be administered with a view to the ultimate abolition of outdoor relief, recommends its District Committees to co-operate with Boards of Guardians in the following way:—

1. By recommending to them for relief only such cases as they consider suitable for indoor relief in its various forms.

2. By taking off their hands, as far as possible, all such cases of temporary distress as are not suitable for indoor relief—e.g. cases of sickness where it is not advisable to compel the patient to enter the infirmary.

3. By referring to them only those School Board cases in which, from the character or circumstances of the parents, it is advisable that the children should be taken into the District Schools; all other cases being considered within the jurisdiction of charity, to be dealt with on the ordinary principles of the Society.

III. Mr. Willis-Bund to call attention to the Poor Law Amendment Bill, and to move:—

That it be an instruction to the Administrative Committee to take such

steps as may be deemed advisable to secure alteration in the proposed amendment in the laws as to removal and settlement proposed by that Bill.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

A tabulated statement of the returns of School Board cases dealt with by the District Committees during the quarter ending March 31, 1876, will be brought up for consideration at the meeting of the Committee tomorrow (Thursday, April 27).

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE TWO WEEKS ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Under Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment Letters for Hospital, &c.								
Kensington	8	6	10	23	10	5	2	17	5	2	12	19	59	20	5		
Fulham	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	8	14	8	10		
Paddington	4	2	4	10	9	1	10	5	1	6	8	15	35	25	3		
Chelsea	2	3	5	4	4	4	5	1	3	5	15	14	11	7	1		
St. George's:—																	
St. George's Division.	2	1	7	10	1	1	1	3	3	1	3	3	43	16	5		
Westminster do.	2	2	11	15	1	2	3	5	4	1	9	9	7	5	1		
Westminster:—																	
St. James & St. Anne's	5	1	6	6	8	1	9	2	1	3	2	2	17	5	4		
St. Marylebone	6	1	4	11	10	10	20	4	1	3	8	39	13	11	1		
Hampstead	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3		
North St. Pancras and Highgate	3	2	6	12	1	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	19	5	5		
South St. Pancras	6	3	6	15	21	5	26	1	1	2	4	43	3	9	1		
Islington	1	1	1	20	2	22	1	1	1	1	1	24	10	6	1		
Hackney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	1	2	9	9	9	2	2	1	5	16	1	7	1	1		
Strand	1	1	1	6	2	8	1	1	1	1	1	14	21	8	1		
Holborn	4	4	4	31	4	35	2	2	1	3	42	11	26	1	1		
City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	6	24	1		
Shoreditch	3	1	8	12	5	5	3	2	1	6	23	5	9	1	1		
Bethnal Green	2	3	5	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	9	2	1	2	1		
Whitechapel	1	1	2	4	1	1	3	5	1	1	2	11	9	27	1		
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5	3	5	1		
Stepney	1	1	3	4	1	2	2	5	3	1	3	12	15	2	1		
Mill End Old Town	1	7	8	3	1	4	1	1	2	2	2	14	8	15	1		
Poplar	4	1	1	6	3	3	3	1	1	2	11	16	10	1	1		
St. Saviour's	1	4	5	2	5	7	2	1	3	5	17	16	4	1	1		
Newington	5	2	2	9	1	2	3	4	1	1	17	6	5	1	1		
St. Olave's	1	2	3	9	6	15	3	3	2	8	26	13	5	3	1		
Lambeth:—																	
North	2	5	7	2	3	5	1	1	1	2	14	8	6	1	1		
South	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Battersea	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Clapham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Camberwell:—																	
Grove Lane	1	7	8	1	3	4	2	1	3	3	17	1	1	1	1		
Peckham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Greenwich	2	1	2	5	2	2	2	1	1	4	11	9	18	1	1		
Deptford	1	1	2	2	2	2	5	1	3	9	13	1	2	5	1		
Woolwich	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	5	9	4	5	1	1		
Lewisham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	7	2	11	1		
Eltham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Totals	62	28	108	198	16	172	63	267	74	33	20	30	167	606	294	251	139

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

WHITECHAPEL.—*Co-operation with the Clergy.*—The following is an extract from the Annual Report of this Committee for 1875:—

'It has been found a good plan to send monthly to the Clergy in the district (there are nine Church parishes) a list of the names and addresses of persons "resident in their parishes" who have come under the notice of the Committee.

'A few words explanatory of the nature of each case are added, and an intimation that fuller particulars will gladly be furnished on application to the Secretary.

'A clergyman coming newly to take charge of a parish is furnished with a list "alphabetically arranged" of all those of his parishioners whose cases have been before the Committee.

'By these and similar means the Committee hope to attain the object which they desire ever to keep in view both of themselves and the public—the Organisation of Charity.'

WOOLWICH.—*Meeting.*—A General Meeting of this Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 26, at 7.30 p.m., in the Masonic Hall. Mr. Shersby will take the chair and the Earl of Lichfield and others will address the meeting.

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, March 26, 1876:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Edin.	Glasgow	Horham	Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbleton	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	3	1	..	..	31	..	1	4	5	4	1	..
2. Undeserving	13	31	9	..	138	..	..	9	4	12	..	6
3. Cases for Poor Law, or otherwise ineligible	28	57	8	..	6	..	1	10	6	17	2	8
	44	89	17	..	175	..	2	23	15	33	3	14
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	21	..	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..
2. In-titutions or Local Agencies	15	1	1	3	57	2	..	10	..	..	..	..
3. Private Persons	8	6	6	3	56	..	2	4	..	2	1	..
	44	7	12	6	143	2	3	14	..	5	1	..
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	79	46	11	..	5	9	1	17	4	15	5	4
2. Loans	..	..	2	5	2	5	3	20	3	4	1	2
3. Employment	19	..	4	5	9	..	..	2	..	..	1	..
4. Letters for Hospitals, &c.	..	7	..	2	12	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
	98	53	17	12	28	14	4	40	7	19	7	6
	146	149	46	18	246	21	9	77	22	57	11	20
Reports sent out	14	86	42	..	156	..	5	37	..	..	15	..
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	5	17	1	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	..	..
Vagrants dealt with	2	829	30	847	..	..	327	216	30	22	311	..

DORSET MENDICITY SOCIETY.

(From the *Dorset County Chronicle and Somersetshire Gazette*.)

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Committee of this Society was held at the Shirshall, Dorchester, on the 4th inst. There were present the Hon. W. H. B. Portman, M.P. (Chairman), Mr. J. Floyer, M.P., Sir W. C. Medlycott, Bart., Colonel Cox, Mr. B. Littlehales, Mr. C. J. Parke, Mr. H. C. Goodlen, Rev. C. J. Glyn, Mr. J. H. Calcraft, Mr. Emson (Mayor of Dorchester), and Captain Amyatt Brown (Chief Constable of Dorset and Hon. Secretary of the Society).

The Hon. Secretary read the following report:—

Dorchester, 4th April, 1876.

'My Lords and Gentlemen,—In laying before you the Sixth Annual Report of the Dorset Mendicity Society I have much pleasure in being able to state that the great decrease in vagrancy, which has been noted in former reports, has not only been maintained during 1875, but the returns from the different Unions show a further reduction of 12 per cent. on those of 1874. The number of vagrants relieved in the casual wards of this county during the past twelve months amounted to 2,490, being a reduction of 78 per cent. as compared with the year previous to the adoption of this system; whilst the committals under the Vagrant Act have decreased in the same period by 80 per cent. As a further proof of the extent to which vagrancy has been reduced, it was found on taking the Annual Census of Tramps and Vagrants on the 9th of March that there were only eight such persons in Dorset on that night.

'During the past year 2,925 lbs. of bread have been supplied to wayfarers at the relief stations, and the total cost of the Society for 1875 has been a little under £40.'

The receipts and expenditure were then given in detail.

'Since the establishment of this Society it appears by the criminal returns that crime has decreased in Dorset by more than one-half; and, although there have been doubtless many other causes at work to bring about such a result, it may be safely said that some portion of this reduction is due to the county having been freed from the inroads of the vagrant class, who are ever ready to commit petty thefts and depredations, if not more serious offences. I beg to add that this system of dealing with vagrancy, which was first organised in this county in January 1870, is now in operation in Kent, Herefordshire, and West Sussex; and the statements which have been received from those counties are most favourable, the last report from Kent stating that since its adoption the number of casuals had been reduced by over two-thirds.

'Vagrancy is not a self-supporting institution; and if the public will continue to carry out the rules of this Society by giving nothing but bread-tickets it is evident that the mendicant must of necessity abandon his occupation.—I have the honour to be, my Lords and Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

AMYATT BROWN, Hon. Secretary.'

The Chairman begged to move the adoption of the report. He thought they might well congratulate Captain Amyatt Brown on the success of the system he had inaugurated—for he might be said to have been its originator, not only in this but also in the other counties which had followed the example of Dorset, and with the best possible results. (Applause.) The only difficulty which occurred to his (the Chairman's) mind was, what must become of the vagrants? (Laughter.) He had been requested to say a few words respecting the surplus now in the hands of the Committee; and he thought it might be a good thing to suggest some gratuity to the Clerk and the Superintendents of Police for the trouble they had taken in carrying out the arrangements of the Society. He would therefore, if the meeting saw no objection, propose that £15 be paid out of the surplus in hand to those officers.

Captain Amyatt Brown remarked that in other counties the Clerk had been paid for his services in respect to the mendicity work, but in Dorset there had been no such payments.

Mr. B. Littlehales begged to second the proposition moved by the Chairman. He had seen a great deal of the working of the Dorset mendicity system which had been instituted by Captain Amyatt Brown, and which had been apparently so successful in other counties. He was accustomed to look at the number of vagrants every week in his own Union, and he found whereas formerly it amounted to 40 or 50 it was now reduced to eight or nine, and occasionally to two, sometimes even being *nil*. (Hear, hear.) He was very glad to bear testimony, as one of the magistrates, to the efficacy of Captain Brown's system, and also to the efficiency with which it was carried out. (Applause.) The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. J. Floyer, M.P., moved a vote of thanks to Captain Amyatt Brown for the zeal with which he had carried out this very important work in the county. (Applause.) The Society certainly deserved all the support which was accorded it by the county magistrates. Looking at the fact of their having just voted a sum of money which reduced their balance at the bank considerably, the Society still stood in need of support and subscriptions, and everyone who felt an interest in this important work would, he hoped, continue their subscriptions, in order that the useful operations of the Society might be carried on. (Applause.)

Colonel Cox briefly seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation, and the proceedings terminated.

BRIGHTON CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

We take the following from the *Sussex Daily News*, April 19, 1876:—

The following cases were brought before the Committee during the week ending Saturday last, April 15:—

No. 1464: A woman, who married a man who had been imprisoned for deserting his first wife, applied for assistance. Her husband, a painter, has been away more than six months, and is supposed to be in a neighbouring county. The Guardians have given the woman an order for the workhouse, of which she refuses to take advantage. A parish case that ought not to be interfered with, and therefore ineligible.—No. 1465: A clerk, who left a good situation because of his wife's illness, came to Brighton in the hope of getting employment in a more salubrious locality. As yet he has not succeeded, and is in great distress. Grant of 10s. for pressing necessities, and inquiry to be made of his late employer.—No. 1466: Inquiry as to the character and circumstances of a woman for whom an appeal was made to the charitable in the *Times* newspaper by a lady now in Brighton. A gentleman has given 10s. Deferred for further information, that the Committee may ascertain whether they ought to recommend the case or not.—No. 1467: The friends of a woman of good character are anxious to raise a sum of money for her benefit. Reported to the inquirer, who immediately sent a donation of £2, to be laid out at the discretion of the Committee.

Recurrent Cases.—No. 228: A man and his wife, who might get a good living but for their want of energy and perseverance. Again declared ineligible.—No. 808: A very undeserving case, and reported as such again and again.—No. 1387: A respectable workman in want of temporary assistance. Grant of 5s., to which a member of the Committee added 2s. 6d.—No. 1426: The Bristol begging-letter impostor again. His appeals are written as if they came from respectable women in deplorable circumstances, and are generally addressed to military men or their wives. The Bristol Society to be written to, and full particulars forwarded to the parties who received the appeals, and who, instead of complying at once with the request contained in them, sent them to the office for investigation. If this plan were generally adopted, begging-letter writing would soon cease to be the profitable trade it now is.—No. 1462: In the hope of getting a more favourable report, this person sent a long list of references to the office, and requested that his case may be reconsidered. The request was granted, but the original decision was confirmed.

Sixty-three wayfarers, pleading hunger and in search of work, were relieved with bread, which was eaten in the office, 182 Edward Street.

. The benevolent are cautioned against the acts of the many professional impostors who are either personally or by letter infesting Brighton at the present time. Inquiry is the only safeguard, and with a Charity Organisation Society in the town, information can be procured with little trouble and at no cost by all who wish to give as they ought to give—intelligently, and with proper moral caution, to none but really deserving objects.

OXFORD PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—A Provident Dispensary has recently been established at Oxford, 'to prevent the abuses which are known so commonly to arise from an indiscriminate use of the out-patient system of hospitals and of free dispensary tickets: to promote a method by which those who are above the position of paupers, and yet are not able wholly to pay the expenses of medical attendance from their own earnings, may be encouraged and assisted to make provision against the time of sickness: to discountenance mendicancy and pauperism: and to prevent serious disease and mortality by meeting sickness in its earliest stages.' The Dispensary is open to labourers and artisans, and their wives, widows, and children, not receiving Poor Law relief, and to small shopkeepers, and others whose circumstances shall, in the opinion of the Committee, render them eligible. Domestic servants, when considered eligible by the Committee of Management, pay 5s. per annum, in not less than half-yearly payments. The Hon. W. Sackville-West is chairman of the Committee of Management.

BECKENHAM CHARITABLE SOCIETY.—The subscribers to the Beckenham Benevolent Fund, at a meeting at the Parish Schoolhouse—the Rev. W. Cator in the chair—appointed a Committee to administer charitable relief in Beckenham 'by the joint action of clergy and laity in a systematic and uniform manner, so as to meet most economically and efficiently deserving cases of distress.' The Committee propose to carry out the principle of the resolution by the observance of the following rules:—(1) To grant relief without regard to religious distinctions; (2) to keep a record of all cases of relief, and of the results of inquiries into them by the Committee; (3) to investigate all applications for relief brought before the Committee by the clergy, district visitors, and others, and to determine the nature of the relief to be given; (4) to afford such assistance by means of judicious loans, by procuring employment and otherwise, as will benefit the poor permanently, and enable them to help themselves, and, so far as possible, to discontinue the practice of giving small doles, which are apt to injure the self-respect and independence of the recipients; (5) to endeavour to establish and keep up a system of communication with the Poor Law Guardians, upon whose province the Committee do not intend to encroach, and to whom all cases properly coming under the Poor Law should be referred. The Beckenham Benevolent Fund is now incorporated with the Beckenham Charitable Society.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The Special Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles held their first and second meetings on April the 5th and 12th respectively, at the Central Office. There were present, at the first meeting, Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth, Bart. (in the chair), the Earl of Lichfield, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., Lieutenant-General Cavenagh; Drs. Bell Fletcher and Graham; Messrs. W. Millard, Danby P. Fry, Fletcher Beach, and C. S. Loch, Secretary.

The following resolution of Council of the 21st of June, 1875, was read:—That the Council, recognising the expediency of placing Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles on the most comprehensive and satisfactory footing, resolve that a Committee be formed to consider and report upon the whole subject, and that the resolutions now submitted by Sir Charles Trevelyan, together with the draft Bill submitted by Canon Hopkins, be referred to such Committee for their consideration.

Sir Charles then stated that since June last he had been led to modify the view taken in the six resolutions which he had submitted to the Council (see *Reporter*, vol. iv page 93). Those resolutions were based on the supposition that private charity was able to make adequate provision for Idiots and Imbeciles. Further study had convinced him that only 'through public administration' could comprehensive arrangements be made for those classes of the afflicted, and accordingly a summary of the existing legislative enactments for the care and education of imbeciles and idiots had been forwarded to each of the noblemen who had been asked to join the Committee. He had also drawn up a series of agenda, indicating the main points to which he thought the attention of the Committee should be directed.

The agenda were then read, and alterations and additions made, Sir Charles Trevelyan undertaking to submit an amended draft at the next meeting.

At the second meeting there were present: the Earl of Lichfield (in the

chair), Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., Hon. C. H. Strutt, Lieutenant-General Cavenagh, Dr. Graham; Messrs. F. D. Mocatta, W. Millard, Danby P. Fry, and Howgrave Graham, Assistant Secretary.

The amended agenda were then considered and further alterations made, Sir Charles Trevelyan undertaking to send copies, together with a circular drafted by him and approved by the Committee, to all the members of the Committee.

It was also agreed that a letter should be written to the Foreign and Colonial Offices, with a view to obtaining information with regard to institutions in other countries.

The Committee adjourned to Wednesday, May 3, at 11 a.m.

MEETING OF CLERGY AND DISTRICT VISITORS.—A meeting will be held at 3 o'clock on Thursday, May 4, at which Miss Octavia Hill will read a paper dealing with the question of enabling volunteer visitors among the poor to render their work more valuable in raising the temporal condition of the poor. The meeting will be a private one, held, by the kind permission of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol and Mrs. Ellicott, at 35 Great Cumberland Place, Portman Square; but as it is desired to secure the attendance of influential visitors, of the clergy, and of others connected with Visiting Societies, and representing as many districts in and near London as possible, invitations will, on application to Miss Octavia Hill, 14 Nottingham Place, W., be forwarded to those desirous of being present.

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE 'SYSTEM OF ELECTION FOR CHARITIES.'—It appears, from the *Medical Press and Circular*, that at the meeting held at the Mansion House, on behalf of Mrs. Gladstone's Convalescent Home at Woodford, Mr. Gladstone moved the following resolution:—'That, to render convalescent homes available to the poorer classes, the system of privileged tickets, entailing canvassing and delay, should be dispensed with; and he then went on to say: 'He belonged to that section of the community who believed that the system of election for charities, with the extensive operations it entails, is a most ingeniously contrived machine for intercepting on their way to other benevolent ends a large portion of the aims of the community.' 'These observations,' says the *Medical Press and Circular*, 'were received with cheers, for it has become more apparent of late that a grievous wrong must be done, more particularly with regard to convalescent homes, if applicants are compelled to exhaust their strength and means in a vain endeavour to obtain letters of admission to their benefits; and we believe, with Mr. Gladstone, that it is both wise and prudent that admission to hospitals, and indeed all institutions established for the afflicted classes, should be according to the urgency and need, and perfectly free—free in this way, that every man should be able for himself to put forward his claims to the benefit of the institution, and that there should be no competition as to coming within its doors, but the competition of the greatest merit—that is to say, of the greatest need.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of April 1876 was 35,821, and 47,426 received outdoor relief, making a total of 83,247. This was a decrease of 766 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 9,124, 18,628 and 27,234 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 556. This was an increase of 77 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 74 on the corresponding day of last year.

LADY GUARDIANS.—Miss Collett, an Hon. Secretary of the St. Pancras (South) Committee, has recently been elected a Guardian for one of the wards of St. Pancras, having been returned at the head of the poll.

A HANDY BOOK FOR GUARDIANS OF THE POOR:

being a Complete Manual of the Duties of the Office, the Treatment of Typical Cases, with Practical Examples, &c. &c. By GEORGE C. T. BARTLEY, Author of 'The Parish Net,' &c. 3s.

CHAPMAN & HALL, 103 Piccadilly.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 176.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 3, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Poplar Committee have elected Mr. A. L. Young as their representative, and re-elected the Rev. H. F. H. Burchell-Herne.

The Greenwich Committee have re-elected their representatives.

The Hon. and Rev. A. J. R. Anson, Rector of Woolwich, has been elected Chairman of the Woolwich Committee, and the Rev. J. Bond Hon. Secretary.

The Stepney Committee, in addition to their usual weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 4 P.M., will hold a second meeting on Wednesdays at 11 A.M.

The Newington Committee have removed their office to No. 230 Walworth Road, S.E.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair); Dr. F. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington; C. J. Stevens, Esq., Rev. A. Scott, Fulham; Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Dr. B. Daniel, W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Major Prendergast, St. George's; W. Bevan, Esq., W. Bousfield, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); Major-General Blunt, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Hon. E. F. Kenyon, St. Giles; G. Barrington Baker, Esq., Holborn; H. N. Hoare, Esq., Norwood Earle, Esq., City; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; C. Lavers Smith, Esq., Whitechapel; R. Barrington, Esq., Lord Dunsany, St. George's-in-the-East; E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Hon. H. R. Scott, Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mile End; Ralph Ellis, Esq., Poplar; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., A. D. Graham, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., Newington; W. F. Beauford, Esq., St. Olave's; D.

Brown, Esq., Lambeth; F. Green, Esq., Battersea; S. Etches, Esq., Clapham; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-Presidents; Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, A. H. Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairmen; Sir Charles Trevelyan, J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., G. Blount, Esq., S. Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members.—Total, 48. H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., Assistant Secretary. J. Johnstone, Esq., A. C. Mitchell, Esq., Visitors.

BOARDING-OUT IN SCOTLAND.

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented a copy of a treatise by Mr. Skelton, Secretary to the Poor Law Board in Scotland, on the boarding-out of pauper children; and remarked that the advantage of bringing up pauper orphans in family life was now going to have the force of law given to it by a clause in the Government Bill for amending the Poor-Law of Scotland, which provided that no orphan or deserted child, or child separated from its parents, being between three and twelve years of age, is to be detained in a poor-house longer than three months, unless the medical officer certifies that its health would suffer by removal; and that all such children are to be boarded, as far as possible, in rural districts, and with persons of their own religion, under rules to be approved by the Secretary of State. Sir C. Trevelyan also presented a short collection of papers on the comparative cost of district pauper schools and the boarding-out system, copies of which have been sent to all the Boards of Guardians in England and Wales. He advocated, in conclusion, the extension of the boarding-out system.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COUNCIL.

The Chairman drew the attention of the Council to their financial position. He pointed out that at this time last year the balance of the General Fund was £1,095, and that of the District Committee Aid Fund £264. At that time the larger outstanding claims on the General Fund had, in most cases, been met; whereas, at the present date, nearly the whole of the available balance of the General Fund would be required for present liabilities, whilst the balance of the District Committee Aid Fund was only £15. He estimated that during the next six months about £1,000 would be required for the poorer Committees, and about £1,800 for the general purposes of the Council, and he did not think that much more would be obtained by means of the appeal recently issued by the St. George's Committee. Lord Lichfield said, in conclusion, that he would recommend the financial position of the Society to the very serious consideration of those members of Council who felt satisfied with the present mode of collecting funds.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the two weeks ending April 22 the receipts had been £7. 1s. for the General Fund, and £5. 5s. for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £168. 4s. 9d. and £80. 12s. 5d. respectively.

GRANTS.—Grants of £30, £40, £15, £45, and £35 were

made to the Fulham, Whitechapel, Islington, Bethnal Green, and Mile End Committees respectively.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.*—The Returns of School Board Cases dealt with by the District Committees during the quarter ending March 31, had been referred to the Sub-Committee on District Work for their consideration.

ELECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

On the motion of Mr. J. R. Hollond, the following members of Council were elected members of the Administrative Committee for the present year:—

The Earl of Lichfield, Lady Wilson, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Lieut.-General Cavenagh, Major Fitz-Roy, Major Prendergast, Major Yard, Captain Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Miss Collett, Messrs. Douglas Brown, Q.C., F. J. S. Edgcombe, S. Fuller, J. R. Hollond, A. H. Hill, C. A. Miner, H. B. Praed, M. B. Praed, E. Peters, C. Stevens.

OUTDOOR RELIEF.

Mr. J. R. Hollond then moved:—

That this Council, considering that it is imperatively required, in the interests of the poor, that the Poor Law should be administered with a view to the ultimate abolition of outdoor relief, recommends its District Committees to co-operate with Boards of Guardians in the following way:—

1. By recommending to them for relief only such cases as they consider suitable for indoor relief in its various forms.
2. By taking off their hands, as far as possible, all such cases of temporary distress as are not suitable for indoor relief—e.g., cases of sickness where it is not advisable to compel the patient to enter the infirmary.
3. By referring to them only those School Board cases in which, from the character or circumstances of the parents, it is advisable that the children should be taken into the District Schools; all other cases being considered within the jurisdiction of charity, to be dealt with on the ordinary principles of the Society.

Mr. Hollond said he would in the first place, point out that there were two prevalent theories as to the duties of Guardians. One was that they should be pressed to do all that they legally can undertake in the way of outdoor relief; the other, that that they should be pressed in all cases to offer indoor relief, while outdoor relief should, as much as possible, be relegated to other agencies. The first theory tended unduly to increase outdoor relief—the second to substitute charitable for State relief. The District Committees were, of course, in constant communication and co-operation with the Boards of Guardians; it was therefore most important that this co-operation should assume the best possible form. It would be seen that his resolution was not an abstract proposition; its intention was to lay down certain definite principles for the guidance of the Committees. Mr. Hollond then stated the chief objections to the outdoor relief system. Outdoor relief is generally given to the sick, the aged, and to the children of able-bodied widows. He would say, with regard to the sick, that, owing to the circumstances of their homes, such of the sick poor as usually received outdoor relief would be much better off in the infirmary, and medical relief was but too often the first step to other relief. With regard to the aged, there existed in some Unions a half-recognised rule, that persons over 60 years of age were eligible for outdoor relief. He was in favour of offering the house more freely in cases of all kinds. In Wellington Union, where, in 647 cases, this had been done, in only 27 was the offer accepted. Relatives came forward, work was found, other agencies assisted, and the number of cases gradually dwindled. With regard to the children of able-bodied widows, he was strongly in favour of giving indoor relief to one or more of them, rather than of affording outdoor relief to the whole family. Mr. Hollond supported his views by quoting the opinions of Mr. Corbet, Poor-Law Inspector, and of Mr. Lyle and Mr. Jones, both relieving officers of large experience; and, lastly, he called attention to the enormous diminution of out-relief cases in Whitechapel,

* The usual quarterly return will appear in the next number of the Reporter.

and to the paper read on this subject by the Rev. S. A. Barnett at the Conference of London Guardians held last year. Mr. Barnett had stated that out of 167 cases in which outdoor relief had been stopped, 77 were no worse off for its withdrawal; 52 had been enabled to support themselves, only 10 had been admitted to the workhouse, and only 8 were 'not supposed to be doing well.' But even in these eight cases there were other causes of failure. On these and on other grounds, he maintained that the outdoor relief system was opposed to the true interests of the poor. It was, owing to the fluctuating policy of Boards of Guardians, uncertain, and therefore deceptive. If charity took its place, charity must perforce become organised, and lastly, as a matter of economy, very large sums would be saved to the ratepayers. He thought, therefore, that the Committees would do well to recommend cases to the Guardians for indoor, not for outdoor relief. In conclusion Mr. Hollond alluded to suggestions that had been made with reference to the best practical modes of abolishing out-relief, and pointed out that, while the out-relief system was strongly condemned by those who introduced the Amended Poor Laws of 1834, yet at that time a change would have been less advisable than at present.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in seconding the motion, would draw special attention to the way in which the labour market was overstocked with the very class to whom outdoor relief was most abundantly given. The wages given to widows engaged in various kinds of labour were quite inadequate to their support. He would remind members that the Parochial Councils in the district of St. George's, Hanover Square, and the Committee of the Society for the same district, had, by their pension-funds, already taken off the rates, after careful investigation, a large number of the most deserving and most provident outdoor paupers.

After a few words from Mr. A. H. Hill, in support of the motion, Mr. Edgcombe moved the following amendment:—

That this Council, considering that it is imperatively required, in the interests of the poor, that Poor Law Relief should be given only with a full knowledge of the character and circumstances of applicants and their families, recommends District Committees to offer every facility to Boards of Guardians for conducting the necessary inquiries.

He dwelt upon the success that would attend thorough investigation of cases, and thought that Mr. Hollond's objections applied to unwise administration of the outdoor relief system, not to the system itself.

Mr. Seton-Karr seconded the amendment.

Mr. Maurice supported the original motion; and Mr. Russell Barrington, while agreeing entirely with Mr. Hollond as to the spirit of his motion, was doubtful if the mode in which he proposed to carry it into effect was the safest. He thought, too, that 'pension charities' had a dangerous tendency, and he would rather see chronic cases taken charge of by private persons. Feeling that the right time for the line of action proposed was not yet come, he would conclude by moving the previous question.

This was seconded by Mr. Willis-Bund, who pointed out that Mr. Hollond's motion was totally opposed to the principles hitherto laid down by the Society.

Mr. W. Wightman Wood, Major Prendergast, the Rev. H. Mallet, and others supported the motion.

Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Fuller, and Mr. Mocatta thought the proposed action premature; and Mr. Lavers Smith dwelt upon the difficulty which the Whitechapel Committee had, for want of funds, felt in dealing with certain cases to which the Guardians had refused out-relief.

Mr. Hollond then replied. He explained that there was no intention of dictating any course to Boards of Guardians; he simply hoped that District Committees might be recommended not to urge the Guardians to give outdoor relief.

Some policy ought to be definitely laid down and followed, and, while recognising the difficulties which beset the Committees in many districts, he still thought that they could, at any rate, refrain from pressing upon the Guardians extensions of the out-relief system. He would point out that it was not to charity but to increased wages, and to more provident and independent habits among the poor, that he looked for the adequate maintenance of those who, under the present system, received outdoor relief. Nor did he advocate the immediate abolition of out-relief; such an advance must be made gradually. But he thought it the duty of the Society to give the movement all the help they could, and, at any rate, to see that their action was not in the wrong direction.

The previous question was put and lost by 9 votes against 10. Mr. Edgcombe's amendment was then put and lost.

Mr. Hollond's motion being put, 11 votes were given for and 11 against it. The Chairman then gave his casting-vote in favour of the motion, which was therefore carried.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions have been received during the week ending Saturday, April 29, 1876:—*Donations*: St. George's Committee, £250; Sir George R. Phillips, Bart., £50.—*Annual*: Rev. W. J. Pinckney, £1. 1s.; W. Sharlock, Esq., £1.; Col. Smith, R.E., £1. 1s.—*District Committees Aid Fund*: Francis Peek, Esq. (2nd instalment of £3,000), £300; Kensington Committee, £100; Sir Charles H. Lowther, Bart., £3.

The following business stands for Monday, May 8:—

Mr. Willis-Bund to call attention to the Poor Law Amendment Bill, and to move:—

'That it be an instruction to the Administrative Committee to take such steps as may be deemed advisable to secure alteration in the proposed amendment in the laws as to removal and settlement proposed by that Bill.'

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

At their meeting to-morrow (Thursday) the Administrative Committee will consider the general resolution of Council with regard to Fraudulent Charities (see *Reporter*, No. 168).

MEETING AT WOOLWICH.

A meeting of the Woolwich Committee of the Charity Organisation Society was held at the Masonic Hall, Woolwich, on Wednesday evening, Col. Oldfield, R.A., in the chair. The Earl of Lichfield, the Hon. and Rev. A. J. R. Anson (Rector), the Rev. W. H. Pritchett, Rev. J. White, Rev. J. Bond, Rev. H. R. Baker, Rev. T. Sissons, Col. Brackenbury, Col. Bruce, Messrs. G. White, J. Taylor, C. Curtoys, S. Topley, Howgrave Graham, and others were present.

The meeting was well attended.

The Chairman briefly opened the proceedings, alluding to the Society as one of the most useful in England.

The Rev. W. H. Pritchett, Rural Dean, said that the Woolwich Committee was started in the early part of 1872. During nine months of that year no less than 3,492 persons were received into the casual wards of the Woolwich Union. In the corresponding nine months of 1873, after the Committee had begun its work, the number was reduced by nearly 500. The effect of their operations was then so much appreciated by the Local Government Board, that they gave orders to the guardians to diminish by one-half the cost of the extra casual wards which they were then erecting. If this was all the Society had done they would have merited, in some degree, the confidence and support of the Union; but how had the work been carried on? He had made inquiries of the authorities, and found that they were still causing a diminution in the number of casuals received, although at not so great a rate. Last year the average number per week was 47, the year before 53, and the year before that 85. In the first three weeks of April 1873 there were 308 casuals received; in the corresponding period of 1874, 164; in 1875, 120; and in 1876, 102. From this he would venture to say that the Society, as judged from the reports of others, was doing a valuable work. If necessary, however, he might refer to their own reports, which showed equally satisfactory results. Soon after the committee was formed a large reduction took place in the number employed at the Arsenal, and the committee were then enabled to bear one-third of the cost of sending a number of the young women to work in mills in other parts. The results of the efforts of the Committee, if judged by the grants made, would not appear very extensive; but there were other parts of the work which ought to be

considered, and amongst the rest the most useful practice of granting loans. Under these circumstances it would be seen that they were still trying to do their duty, and that their machinery was in such order as to be ready for any emergency, provided only that they were supplied with the necessary lubricant—money. He would remark that, although there were about 40 members on the Committee, it was gradually becoming a body composed of clergymen of the Church of England. This, he thought, should not be, and they particularly wished the representatives of other congregations to take a part in the work. A sad vacancy had been caused in the Committee by the death of their chairman, the late Canon Brown, who had filled the office in the most kind, and at the same time efficient and businesslike manner. By the motion he was about to make he would now beg to nominate, as the successor of the late Chairman, the Hon. and Rev. A. J. R. Anson, their present excellent hardworking Rector. (Applause). The Rev. W. Pritchett concluded by moving the adoption of the Report, together with the reappointment of the members of Committee.

The Rev. T. Sissons, Rectory Place Congregational Chapel, seconded the motion, corroborating all that the previous speaker had said with regard to the late Canon Brown, and expressed the gratification it afforded him to see that they had one so highly qualified for the post to take his place. He excused his recent non-attendance at committee meetings by stating that he had the largest 'parish' of any minister present, with no helper; but he promised that for the future he would do his best to attend. He remarked that during a year before the establishment of the Committee about 1,800 persons called at his door for relief; but now he was not troubled with a caller more than once in a fortnight. The object of the Society was not, he pointed out, to limit relief, but to extend its sphere, to do away with mendicity, and not only to give in cases of known need, but to find out such cases. The deepest poverty was often that which would not ask for relief. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Earl of Lichfield said the object of that meeting was to obtain increased support for the local Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. As to the work which that Committee had done, they were probably the best judges; but if they would allow him, as one who had taken an active part in the movement from the first, he would say a few words on the subject generally, afterwards referring to one or two points in the report which he thought deserving of attention. He would begin by alluding to the reasons which induced the action of those who promoted the establishment of the Society. Few persons who had considered the difficult problem of the treatment of the poor could fail to be struck by the state of things existing in this huge metropolis and its suburbs, where we have a vast population and an enormous proportion of pauperism. Any person, too, who saw the state of things there—the number and variety of the means which were adopted by persons and charitable agencies for the treatment of the poor—could scarcely fail to notice that something like system and organisation was wanting in the art of dealing with the poor about London. It was this that induced those who first took an interest in the movement to establish what has since been called the Charity Organisation Society. The object of that Society was simply to bring about intercommunication and co-operation between all persons, of all sects and denominations, who were working in the true interests of the poor throughout London; for they felt sure that without that system of co-operation it was utterly impossible that any effective plan could be adopted for improving the condition of the poor generally and permanently. Perhaps the most important feature in this movement was the necessity for that co-operation being general, and entirely without any distinction of sect or denomination. At the meetings which took place upon this subject they were apt to hear too much about the suppression of mendicity, and too little about the higher objects of the Society. They were probably fully aware that without the suppression of mendicity and imposture it was impossible to deal effectually with the poor; but at the same time they had far higher and nobler objects in view than the mere getting rid of a nuisance. They wished to establish habits of self-reliance and providence amongst the poor, by the mode in which they dealt with the cases which were brought before them; they knew that there was nothing which was so much calculated to discourage these habits as to let people think they can have for the asking. (Hear, hear.) This state of things had arisen through people never having taken the trouble to make inquiries about those whom they relieved. It had been the case too long, and if the Society had only succeeded—as he believed it had—in calling the attention of the public to the necessity of this inquiry, with a view of effectually relieving where it was really deserving, then the Society had done a work well worth accomplishing. That, he believed it had done, and he thought he might say that the real principle at the root of the work which was to be done by them was to give as little as you possibly can without the fullest inquiry; to take care that you do not encourage, by a system of useless doles, a chronic state of pauperism on the part of the person relieved, which leads to utter demoralisation; and to give relief in such a way that it may be a real benefit to the person on whom it is bestowed. This latter might be done in various ways, one of the most effectual of which was the system of loans; for it often happened that people

were placed in such a position by misfortune that a few shillings would be of no use to them, whereas the loan of a sum which would enable them to tide over the difficulty would be of permanent benefit. By that system much might be effected, but still more might be done by directly promoting habits of providence among the people, and by encouraging institutions which were calculated to enable persons to put by for a rainy day. He had seen something of the working of Provident Dispensaries, and he believed that nothing could be more successful in raising the condition of the poor. He was of opinion that there was wanted in Woolwich an active working committee, who would undertake to visit the poor at their own homes, and in that way ascertain where the machinery of the Society might be really effectually applied. No doubt very few of the cases which would then be discovered would ever be found begging for money at people's doors. He noticed in their report that a large number of persons were merely relieved by being sent to the office with a ticket for bread. So large was this number, indeed, that there were only 138 other cases which had been dealt with. This being the case, and numbers of these being found undeserving, it might be remarked that the cost has been excessively large. No doubt it was, for the cost of the machinery of the Society here was nearly 16s. a head upon the cases dealt with. It was not, however, altogether fair to judge of the work of the Society by the statement given in the report, for there was a great deal more in what a society of that description prevented than there was in what it actually did. In various parts of London the Society now had branches which were doing a most excellent work, and not, as was sometimes supposed, interfering with the action of other charitable agencies. They desired to bring these institutions together, and to co-operate with them in every way in their power, but not to interfere with the work which they have made their own. The Society did not, for a moment, pretend to be a relief society, for it was an association for obtaining efficient relief from other sources. It could only be by bringing these other sources together that they could give effectual relief, for no one charitable institution could deal with these cases so as to be of any permanent benefit. It was only by co-operation and intercommunication, upon the broadest and most liberal principle, that they could secure the improvement they desired to see effected in the condition of the poor of London. He believed that the Society was deserving, not only of every support they could give it in the way of funds, but of their active co-operation and assistance in the work which they desired to do. In conclusion, he moved, 'That the Charity Organisation Society, having for its object the encouragement of habits of self-reliance and providence among the poor, is deserving of increased support in this neighbourhood.' (Loud applause.)

Lieut.-Colonel Brackenbury, C.B., R.A., seconded the motion. He especially urged upon the laymen present to do their parts in the work, for there were strong reasons why they should not leave the distribution of charity altogether in the hands of the clergy, for in this way there was a danger of promoting hypocrisy on the part of the recipients; and another reason why they should take some of the work out of the hands of the clergy was that it would leave that body more time for the nobler work which they had to do. (Hear, hear.) Beyond this there were urgent reasons why the laity should take this matter up, for the great question before them was the growing conflict between wealth and pauperism. No man could say that it was to the credit of the country that, while cloth and fabrics are being made in England for the whole world, we have millions of people in rags; that while coals have been dug up to a vast extent, people are left to perish with cold; and that, while the ships in our harbours are filled with the produce of every nation, many perish from hunger. (Applause.) Certain classes were fast coming to the understanding of these matters themselves. An intelligent force must be brought to bear upon them, and of all means of so grappling with the question none had so much commended itself to him as the Charity Organisation Society. (Applause.) It enabled them to find out—(1) that class of the aged, infirm, and permanently sick, who ought most unquestionably to be helped by the State; (2) those who were deserving of no help, and ought to be forced to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow; and (3) the deserving poor. The Society would, if accorded the support which it deserved, be enabled to extend its sphere in many ways, and he called upon all present to join them in this great work. (Applause.)

Mr. Howgrave Graham supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Hon. and Rev. A. J. R. Anson thanked the meeting for appointing him Chairman of the Committee, and said it would give him much pleasure to do what he could for its welfare. (Applause.) He also thanked Colonel Brackenbury for his advice to the laity, and added that in Woolwich there was required a greater co-operation between the different charitable agencies. If this were done, and Mr. Sissons and those connected with other places of worship would join in it, a far greater work might be carried on in the town generally. (Applause.) He concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Mr. G. Whale seconded the resolution, which was duly carried.

The Chairman, in replying, moved a vote of thanks to the Earl of Lich-

field for his excellent address. This was seconded by Mr. S. C. Harrington, and carried unanimously.

Lord Lichfield replied, and the proceedings then closed.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
Kensington	3	6	3	12	2	2	5	1	...	6	22	4	9
Fulham	1	3	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	1	5	2	3
Paddington	4	1	2	7	...	5	8	1	1	10	24	14	15
Chelsea	1	...	2	3	1	...	5	3	...	1	13	12	1
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division ..	2	...	1	3	...	2	3	...	...	3	10	14	...
Westminster do.	1	...	5	6	...	4	4	...	...	5	23	2	...
Westminster:—													
St. James & St. Anne's ..	2	...	...	2	1	8	1	...	...	1	12	6	6
St. Marylebone	1	1	7	9	3	10	3	1	...	5	33	9	12
Hampstead	1	...	...	1	...	4	1	...	3	2	11	2	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	...	...	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
South St. Pancras	2	3	5	10	...	12	4	16	...	2	28	2	2
Islington	5	1	2	8	...	27	...	...	...	...	35	15	4
Hackney	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Giles & Bloomsbury ..	2	1	...	3	...	3	2	...	...	2	...	4	...
Strand	1	...	1	...	4	4	1	...	1	2	7	7	6
Holborn	1	...	1	2	...	8	...	...	...	...	10	6	1
City	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	...	1	9	7	22
Shoreditch	...	...	5	...	4	4	1	1	...	2	11	2	...
Bethnal Green	4	3	7	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	16	2	...
Whitechapel	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. George's-in-the-East ..	2	1	5	8	...	6	...	...	2	2	16	2	1
Stepney	3	1	6	9	...	4	1	6	...	...	14	10	7
Mile End Old Town ..	2	...	5	7	...	1	...	1	1	1	7	3	8
Poplar	...	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	11	2	...
St. Saviour's	1	...	2	3	...	1	1	...	...	2	7	2	...
Newington	1	...	3	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	6	3	...
St. Olave's	3	2	5	...	7	1	8	...	...	1	14	...	6
Lambeth:—													
North	2	...	1	3	2	1	5	...	...	...	8	...	4
South	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wandsworth & Putney ..	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	7
Battersea	1	1	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	8	6	...
Clapham	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	18
Camden:—													
Grove Lane	...	...	...	1	2	3	2	...	...	2	8	...	2
Peckham	1	1	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Greenwich	1	...	2	3	1	...	1	1	...	2	6	4	13
Deptford	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	2	1	2
Woolwich	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	3	4	1	6
Lewisham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	4	...	18
Eltham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Sydenham	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	2	...	5
Totals	37	29	76	142	10	126	20	156	63	17	416	90	388
											151	153	98

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of April 1876 was 35,653, and 46,944 received outdoor relief, making a total of 82,597. This was a decrease of 650 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 9,200, 18,233, and 26,951 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 694. This was an increase of 138 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 220 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

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THE

85

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

7.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 10, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor: bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities. securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases. granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources. repressing mendicity. and, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge on as are willing to take part in the work to become members of Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies intended to help them. Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

Hampstead Committee have re-elected their representative.

B. Dickinson has been elected representative of the North Committee, *vice* the Rev. G. D. Bartlett V. F. Wills.

Copeman has been elected a representative of the Committee, *vice* Mr. Beedell.

In the absence of the Hon. W. Warren-Vernon, Mr. J. will take his place as a representative of the St. committee.

Arnett has been elected an Hon. Secretary of the Committee, jointly with Mr. E. Peters; Mrs. Barre as a representative having been taken by Mr. Mitchell Mr. O'Malley has been re-elected.

Mr. H. R. Scott has been re-elected a representative of the End Committee; and Major Denne Nares has been re-elected *vice* the Rev. A. J. Ross.

St. Paul's Committee have re-elected their representative and have elected Mr. J. Deane as Hon. Secretary, *vice* Mr. Simpson, deceased.

St. Andrew's Committee have re-elected their representative and the Rev. T. D. C. Morse has ceased to act as an honorary secretary.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The attention of the Committees in the poorer districts is drawn to the following recommendations of the Administrative Committee with regard to 'Exceptional Cases,' which were passed by Council on April 10:—

1. That the Administrative Committee are prepared to consider exceptional cases, in which a District Committee may not be able to obtain so large a sum as may be required to enable it to secure 'fitting action.'

2. That the Administrative Committee will consider the advisability of obtaining the assistance required in such cases, by advertisement or otherwise.

3. That such cases should only be referred to the Administrative Committee by District Committees when they have exhausted every means in their power to obtain the required assistance by private influence, or by reference to charities.

4. That if the Administrative Committee decide to advertise, the decision as to the form of the advertisement will be left to the Administrative Committee, due consideration being given to any suggestions of the District Committees.

5. That the Administrative Committee think it highly inexpedient that such cases be advertised in any papers without the previous approval of the Administrative Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the chair), Dr. Anderson, J. Whitcombe, Esq., *Kensington*; C. J. Stevens, Esq., *Fulham*; Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; Major Prendergast, Major Fitz-Roy, *St. George's*; W. Bevan, Esq., W. Bousfield, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)*; Major-General Blunt, *St. Marylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, *Hampstead*; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, *South St. Pancras*; T. B. Spencer, Esq., *Islington*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, *Strand*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; Lord Dunsany, *St. George's-in-the-East*; E. Peters, Esq., *Stepney*; Major E. Denne Nares, Hon. H. R. Scott, *Mile End*; W. F. Smith, Esq., *St. Saviour's*; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; A. Annealey, Esq., *Lewisham*; H. Reid, Esq., O. A. Barry, Esq., *Sydenham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Lieut.-General Cavenagh, A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairmen*; J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., George Blount, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 34. C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., *Organising Secretary*; H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., *Assistant Secretary*.

IMPROVED DWELLINGS.

Some papers were laid upon the table relating to the Metropolitan Artizans' and Labourers' Dwellings Association. They had been sent by Mr. H. B. Praed, who had wished to draw the attention of the members of Council to the merits of the scheme in question.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending April 29 the receipts had been £303. 2s. for the General Fund, and £603 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £211. 5s. 10d. and £18. 12s. 5d. respectively.

COLLECTIONS IN PLACES OF WORSHIP.

Mr. Du Pré Thornton moved for a return showing the

number of places of worship in which collections had, during the year ending September 30, 1875, been made on behalf of the District Committees.

The motion was agreed to.

THE LAW OF SETTLEMENT.*

Mr. Willis-Bund moved—

That it be an instruction to the Administrative Committee to take such steps as may be deemed advisable to secure alteration in the proposed amendment in the laws as to removal and settlement proposed by that Bill. He explained that the Bill proposed to abolish all 'derived' or secondary settlements, and to substitute for them settlement by birth. This was a most important change in the law, and must, he thought, inflict much hardship, if carried out. He cited, as an illustration, a case occurring in 1874, in which a journeyman tailor, who had resided for forty-five years in Birmingham, was admitted into the workhouse, and worked there at his trade, under the superintendence of the master-tailor. A few months later the pauper was authorised by him to accept an offer of employment made to him by a tailor residing in a neighbouring parish, and was assured that he might return to the house, if he and his employer did not agree. At the end of ten weeks he returned on that account, but having broken his residence, he was removed to Worcester, his place of birth. The removal was appealed against, but confirmed by the Court of Queen's Bench. This was an instance of the kind of hardship and suffering which might be inflicted by such an Act as the one in question. Persons were to be removed from places where they had friends, and had long been known, to parishes where they had no friends and were helpless and hopeless. Mr. Willis-Bund thought the new law would tend to an increase in the number of indoor paupers, and pointed out the complications that might arise in cases of migration, such as those undertaken by the Society.

Mr. A. H. Hill, in seconding the motion, said that he thought the total abolition of the law of settlement would, perhaps, be the most satisfactory solution of the question. Many of the relieving officers were, he knew, in favour of this plan.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson supported the view taken by Mr. Hill.

Mr. Bousfield thought that the Council should pause before coming to any decision on so important a point.

After a few words from the Chairman, Mr. Willis-Bund explained that his hope was that the full consideration of the question would be referred to the Administrative Committee. If permitted, he would, however, withdraw his present motion, and give notice of the following motions for next Monday:—

1. That, in the opinion of this Council, the law of renewal and settlement presses with great hardship upon the poor, and that it is desirable, instead of amending the same, to take steps for its total abolition at the earliest possible moment.

2. That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to take steps to bring this resolution before Her Majesty's Government.

The motion was then withdrawn, and the Council adjourned.

The following business stands for Monday, May 15:—

I. Mr. Willis-Bund to move—

'That no action be taken in carrying out Mr. Holland's resolution, passed on the 1st of May 1876, on Outdoor Relief, until after the first meeting of the Council in October.'

II. Mr. Willis-Bund to move—

(1.) 'That, in the opinion of this Council, the law of removal and settlement presses with great hardship upon the poor; and that it is desirable, instead of amending the same, to take steps for its total abolition at the earliest possible moment.'

(2.) 'That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to take steps to bring this resolution before Her Majesty's Government.'

* See Reporter, June 10, 1874.

III. Mr. Wilkinson to call the attention of the Council to the financial condition and prospects of the Society, as indicated in the statement of the Earl of Lichfield.*

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

At their meeting to-morrow (Thursday) the Administrative Committee will consider the following resolution of Council, passed on April 24:—

'That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to re-arrange the business of its Standing Committees, with a view to their being utilised to the utmost practicable extent.'

The following contributions were received during the week ending May 6:—*Donations*: J. Francis Austen, Esq., £21; Mrs. Greenwood, 10s. 6d.; Marquis of Lansdowne, £25; Duke of Norfolk, £100; Hon. Mrs. W. Tomline, £5.—*Annual*: A. P. Fletcher, Esq., £5. 6s.; Mrs. H. Gillson, £1; Lieut.-Col. Gillum, £1. 1s.; G. J. Graham, Esq., £2. 2s.; W. B. James, Esq., £1. 1s.; H. Long, Esq., £1. 6s. 6d.—*District Committee Aid Fund*: G. A. Birn, Esq., £100; 'C. J. C.', £5; Francis Peck, Esq., £300 (2nd instalment of £3,000); St. Marylebone Committee, £25.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Enquiries for other Committee	Vacancies dealt with		
	Not requiring relief	Under-seeing	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans					Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.
Kensington	2	5	2	9	3	2	5	1	1	11	13	27	6	3	3
Fulham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	4	4	8
Paddington	2	1	3	6	1	1	2	6	5	1	12	16	8	4	4
Chelsea	2	2	2	6	3	3	6	3	3	3	9	9	3	1	1
St. George's:—															
St. George's Division.	3	2	5	10	1	1	2	3	3	3	9	9	5	1	1
Westminster do.	2	5	7	14	6	6	12	4	4	4	12	28	5	1	1
Westminster:—															
St. James & St. Anne's ..	1	3	4	8	4	4	8	8	3	3	14	8	3	10	10
St. Marylebone	2	1	5	8	1	8	9	3	3	6	12	25	8	11	11
Hampstead	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	6	4	9
North St. Pancras and Highgate	3	1	4	8	4	4	8	8	10	1	19	8	10	1	1
South St. Pancras	7	3	9	19	22	6	28	1	1	1	3	48	4	6	1
Islington	3	1	5	9	24	1	25	1	1	1	3	30	8	3	1
Hackney	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1
St. Giles & Bloomsbury ..	1	3	4	8	7	7	14	1	1	1	3	12	1	7	1
Strand	2	2	4	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	22	4	4
Holborn	2	2	4	8	11	1	12	2	2	2	6	18	5	10	10
City	1	1	2	4	11	1	12	2	2	2	6	13	6	29	1
Shoreditch	2	2	4	8	3	3	6	2	2	2	6	10	2	3	1
Bethnal Green	6	6	12	24	1	1	2	3	3	3	9	11	3	1	1
Whitechapel	1	4	5	10	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	11	9	11	11
St. George's-in-the-East ..	1	2	3	6	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	11	4	5	1
Stepney	6	1	7	14	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	10	8	5	1
Mile End Old Town	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	8	1	9	1
Poplar	1	1	2	4	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	9	1	6	1
St. Saviour's	1	2	3	6	4	1	5	2	2	2	6	12	3	1	1
*Newington	2	1	3	6	3	3	6	2	1	1	4	11	1	4	1
St. Olave's	2	1	3	6	3	3	6	2	1	1	4	11	1	4	1
Lambeth:—															
North	1	2	3	6	2	2	4	2	2	2	6	9	2	5	6
South	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1
Battersea	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1
Clapham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1
Camberwell:—															
Grove Lane	1	1	2	4	5	1	6	1	1	1	3	12	2	1	1
Peckham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1
Greenwich	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	9	7	1	1
Deptford	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1
Woolwich	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1
Lewisham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	4	1	1
*Eitham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1
Totals	35	24	71	130	5	128	26	158	41	15	21	93	384	133	177

* No returns received from these Committees at the time of going to press.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of April, 1876, was 35,318, and 46,405 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,723. This was a decrease of 874 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 9,341, 18,721, and 26,355 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 631. This was a decrease of 63 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 166 on the corresponding day of last year.

* See Reporter, May 3, 1876.

RETURNS FOR APRIL.

Following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of Cases for the five ending Saturday, April 29, 1876, returned by the District Com-

DISTRICT	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total			
Division of London	22	21	22	65	11	11	6	28	14	4	19	37	130	40	14	26
St. George's	2	3	5	10	1	1	1	3	7	7	1	15	34	21	29	18
St. James's	14	4	12	20	1	21	4	26	24	1	13	7	52	74	27	4
St. Mary's	4	5	10	19	6	5	11	22	13	4	4	1	22	52	12	4
St. Martin's	6	2	14	22	1	3	1	5	15	1	1	1	18	120	32	3
St. Michael's	5	5	33	43	4	11	15	30	13	7	1	21	52	39	14	1
St. Paul's	9	3	15	27	1	23	5	29	8	1	1	1	11	32	26	14
St. Peter's	11	6	24	41	3	24	7	34	10	6	1	17	34	41	40	1
St. Vincent's	3	1	2	6	1	9	1	11	1	1	1	1	4	10	4	1
St. George's (Hanover Square)	10	1	4	15	1	35	4	40	1	1	1	3	54	20	17	1
Westminster (St. James's & St. Anne's)	11	13	30	54	49	13	62	122	2	2	4	6	134	14	26	2
Marylebone	6	6	8	20	88	3	91	4	115	43	23	2	160	43	23	2
Hampstead	1	4	6	11	16	16	11	43	3	16	43	3	62	3	20	1
North St. Pancras	1	4	5	10	16	5	21	1	4	1	5	11	41	47	32	1
South St. Pancras	5	15	30	50	65	5	70	4	1	2	8	98	31	73	3	3
Islington	1	1	5	7	1	1	1	3	6	13	1	20	27	18	86	1
Hackney	1	1	22	24	12	1	13	9	7	3	1	16	37	16	35	3
St. Giles's	9	3	16	28	4	5	9	18	7	1	1	9	19	15	19	8
Strand	4	7	14	25	1	2	6	9	1	1	2	4	12	22	52	4
Holborn	3	3	10	16	10	4	14	1	1	4	5	35	12	26	36	1
City	5	3	16	24	1	16	16	33	4	1	1	1	16	40	34	1
Shoreditch	5	2	10	17	3	11	3	17	3	3	1	6	24	23	26	1
Bethnal Green	4	14	18	36	19	8	27	8	3	7	18	36	57	27	14	1
Whitechapel	6	8	14	28	1	10	4	15	1	4	1	14	27	19	17	1
St. George's (East)	4	4	5	14	20	11	31	7	6	3	16	61	36	30	3	3
Stepney	6	1	9	16	7	11	1	19	3	1	1	5	20	4	22	7
Mile End	2	6	8	16	3	3	3	9	1	1	1	3	12	8	8	18
Poplar	1	3	4	8	2	1	3	5	14	27	37	4	78	6	4	78
St. Saviour's	2	7	9	18	1	11	5	17	7	1	1	8	41	1	9	1
Newington	1	1	3	5	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	4	17	32	20	56
St. Olave's	1	1	2	4	3	5	8	16	1	3	14	8	24	6	5	17
Lambeth (North)	1	1	3	5	1	2	2	5	2	1	1	5	13	7	7	20
Wandsworth	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	19	19	3	63
Battersea	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	11	2	2	30
Camberwell	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	11	2	2	30
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	11	2	2	30
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	11	2	2	30
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	11	2	2	30
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	11	2	2	30
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	11	2	2	30
Total	170	126	383	679	40	524	141	705	237	88	50	82	457	1,841	833	449

SOCIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

ocial Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles held its meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Office. There were present: Mr. Lichfield (in the chair), Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., Sir Rutherford B. C.B., the Hon. C. H. Strutt, Albert Pell, Esq., M.P., Dr. Cameron, J. Kay-Shuttleworth, Esq., M.P., Lieut.-General Cavenham, the Hon. J. Simpson, Drs. W. Brewer, J. Langdon Down, Bell Fletcher, Dr. H. Tuke, W. C. Cortis, Fletcher Beach; Messrs. H. J. Cropper, W. Millard, F. Purdy, Danby P. Fry, F. D. Mocatta, Mr. Wilkinson, and Mr. Howgrave Graham, Assistant Secretary. The section of the Agenda, as settled at the two previous meetings, 'General Statistics,' was considered. It was resolved, after discussion, that the inquiry of the Committee should be under the name of 'Harmless Lunatics,' to persons demented after infancy, and the title of the Committee was amended accordingly.

1 and 2, viz. 'Nature of Infirmity' and 'Number of Idiots and Imbeciles,' were discussed in detail. Under the 3rd head, 'Where Placed,' the Committee, after considering statistics at their disposal, found it impossible to arrive at any conclusion. Under the 4th head, 'Idiocy and Imbecility, how far preventable or capable of improvement,' was discussed. The Committee considered the 5th head, 'How far capable of improvement,' and the following resolution was agreed to:—
That a small proportion may be made self-supporting; that a further proportion may be trained to do some useful work; and that, as a rule, the habits of the remainder can be improved so as to make them happier to themselves and less burdensome to others.

RETURNS OF SCHOOL BOARD CASES, FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 1876.

Three District Committees had no cases:—

Lambeth (South)
Clapham
Eltham.

Four District Committees had cases, but expended no money on relief:—

Paddington
Hampstead
Marylebone
Lewisham.

Thirty-two District Committees expended money on the relief of cases:—

No money expended	Money expended	Total number of cases	Amounts expended. £ s. d.
9	3	12	Kensington 3 10 6
2	12	14	Fulham 33 7 8
3	0	3	Paddington Nil.
0	1	1	Chelsea 1 0 0
9	2	11	St. George's (Hanover Square) 3 0 0
3	8	11	Westminster (St. James's & St. Anne's) 7 17 6
12	0	12	Marylebone Nil.
4	0	4	Hampstead Nil.
7	7	14	North St. Pancras 2 18 10
16	19	35	South St. Pancras 70 6 2
3	2	5	Islington 4 0 6
7	21	28	Hackney 14 0 3
2	2	4	St. Giles's 1 7 0
7	29	36	Strand 32 12 0
10	16	26	Holborn 6 0 0
9	11	20	City 15 2 10
10	21	31	Shoreditch 16 0 0
25	15	40	Bethnal Green 7 8 4
3	4	7	Whitechapel 5 16 2
6	1	7	St. George's (East) 2 18 0
6	5	10	Stepney 13 10 1
7	12	19	Mile End 16 4 4
13	9	22	Poplar 12 7 0
19	10	29	St. Saviour's 8 15 10
15	10	25	Newington 6 7 8
19	12	31	St. Olave's 12 17 3
5	9	14	Lambeth (North) 7 7 0
1	1	2	Wandsworth 0 6 0
4	4	8	Battersea 1 16 0
5	14	19	Camberwell { Grove Lane 8 1 9 Peckham 2 5 0
4	9	13	Greenwich 3 3 0
5	14	19	Deptford 5 8 11
4	19	23	Woolwich 7 18 11
1	0	1	Lewisham Nil.
0	2	2	Sydenham 0 16 9
254*	308	562	Total £333 5 3

April 28, 1876.

H. HOWGRAVE GRAHAM, Assistant Sec.

* Of these:—

50 were Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on as 'Not requiring relief'
72 do. do. do. 'Undeserving'
105 do. do. do. 'Ineligible'
5 were Recommended to the Guardians
18 do. Institutions or Local Agencies
2 were Assisted by Loans
1 do. Employment
1 do. Letters for Hospital.

Total 254, being the number of cases upon which no money was expended.

HOME FOR WORKING BOYS.—The Committee of the Dudley-Stuart Home have arranged to use a part of their premises as a Home for Working Boys. The following classes of boys are stated to be eligible for admission: 'Orphans; sons of parents living in the country, and having no friends in London; sons of parents where, owing to poverty, the family is overcrowded; sons with bad homes.' The boys must, as a rule, be between 12 and 16. The minimum charge for board, lodging, and washing will be 6s. 6d. a week, subject to a deduction of 5d. a day in the case of such boys as are unable to dine at the Home. The boys will provide themselves with their own clothing, and will be encouraged to make weekly deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank.

MENDICANCY AND THRIFT.—The following cases are taken from the *Times* and the *Daily Telegraph*:—

Fanny Martin, 45, was charged with begging in Fleet Street. She was described as a seamstress, and had a somewhat haggard appearance. The constable who took her into custody said she stopped several little children in Fleet Street as if she was begging. He also saw her accost gentlemen and stretch out her hands. At the station 9s. 5d. in silver and copper was found upon her, with a banking book. Sir Robert Carden, on examining the book, said it was a new book. The amount brought forward from the old book was £114. 8s. 8d., and the amount to her credit at present was £120. 14s. 5d. Why, then, did she go about begging? How did she earn all this money? The prisoner said she got it from her employers and worked hard for it. She had lost her husband four years ago. Sir Robert thought she must have been a very industrious woman, and if she went on like that she would soon have money enough to buy another husband. The prisoner said she did not want another husband. She had trouble enough with the deceased. Sir Robert Carden—reference to the directory having shown that she had given a correct address—discharged the prisoner, and ordered her money and bank book to be given up to her.—*Times*, March 24, 1876.

At Marylebone, a woman, about 28 years of age, who refused to give her name and address, was charged, on remand, with begging. It appeared that on the afternoon of the 30th ult. a constable on duty in the Euston Road had his attention called to the prisoner, whom he saw accost several ladies and gentlemen and receive money. When taken into custody she became very violent and abusive. At the first hearing she answered the questions put to her in such a manner that it was believed she was insane, and the magistrate sent her, under remand, to the House of Detention, in order that the surgeon might examine her. On Saturday, when she was again placed in the dock, it was stated that £6 odd in English silver money, ten gold foreign pieces, 77 silver foreign coins, and 84 American notes had been found in her possession. Mr. Smiles, the surgeon, reported that he had examined the prisoner and could detect no symptoms of insanity. During the hearing of the case the prisoner pretended she did not understand what was being said, but it was stated by the constable that she abused him partly in English, and she perfectly well knew what was going on. Nothing being known of the prisoner by the officers of the court, she was discharged.—*Times*, April 10, 1876.

James Branchford, a notorious beggar, has been sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment by the magistrates at Farnham. Twelve months ago he was sent to prison by the Aldershot magistrates for a year, for a similar offence. He is the owner of several houses and other property at Headley, Hants. When apprehended about 20s. in copper and silver was found on him, together with a banking book showing £14 to his credit in the Post-office Savings Bank at Aldershot. The magistrates ordered the forfeiture of these sums for defraying his keep in gaol. It has been ascertained that all his property has been acquired by begging.—*Daily Telegraph*, May 8, 1876.

METROPOLITAN ENDOWED CHARITIES.

SUPPLEMENTARY RETURN BY THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS.—A return of the 'general charities' mentioned in the Fourteenth Report of the Commissioners has been obtained by Parliament. From a summary given at the end of the return it appears that the total gross income of these charities is £616,556. 5s. 5d. The 'objects of foundation, or purposes to which the income is applicable' are as follows:—Education, £147,839. 11s. 8d.; apprenticeship and advancement, £24,334. 9s. 9d.; endowment of clergy, lecturers, and for sermons, £35,215. 14s. 6d.; Church purposes, £1,551. 17s.; maintenance of Dissenting places of worship and their ministers, £23,913. 2s. 11d.; education of Dissenters, £9,281. 0s. 6d.; public uses, £2,901. 16s. 3d.; support of almshouses, their inmates, and pensioners, £140,345. 14s. 9d.; distribution of articles in kind, £804. 4s. 7d.; distribution of money, £16,566. 5s. 3d.; general uses of the poor, £26,954. 14s. 1d.; medical, £180,055. 6s. 6d.; loans, £886. 10s. The same return gives the total gross incomes of the London endowed hospitals and other institutions as follows:—St. Bartholomew's Hospital, £46,658. 3s. 4d., and the Samaritan Fund, £397. 14s. 6d.; the Charterhouse, £30,656. 0s. 11d.; Christ's Hospital, £53,110. 19s. 3d. (exclusive of several charities under the management of the Governors); King Edward's School, formerly the Bridewell Hospital, £8,634. 5s.; Bethlehem Hospital, £16,818. 7s. 4d.; and foundation for incurable patients, £7,314. 5s. 4d.; St. Thomas's Hospital, £39,832. 2s. 6d.; the Foundling Hospital, £11,465. 9s. 11d. (exclusive of the Benevolent Fund, £148. 4s. 8d.; and the Whately Fund, £22. 17s.); Guy's Hospital, £50,662. 5s. 10d.; St. Katherine's Hospital, £6,331. 10s. 4d.; St. Paul's Schools, £11,264. 16s. 10d.; St. Luke's Hospital, £4,476. 4s. 7d. There is also in the return a list of about forty charities under the Corporation of London.—*Daily News*, April 14, 1876.

RAINE'S CHARITY.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* gave, a short time since, an account of the original purpose of this charity, and of its reorganisation

by the Charity Commissioners. It appears that in 1736 Henry Raine built upon his own land in Rawdon Fields, St. George's-in-the-East, two schools for the free education, with clothing, of 50 boys and 50 girls, together with residences for a master and mistress. The endowment, from additions, and from the increased value of property, has now become worth about £1,350, having nearly doubled itself during the last fifty years. The scheme of the Commissioners comprises a mixed preparatory day-school, a boys' day-school, and a day and boarding school for girls; and, in addition to the existing boys' day-school, buildings are to be provided for at least 100 day-scholars. The sum of £210 may still, under the founder's bequest, be annually expended on marriage portions and entertainments when required, but the old system of apprenticeship is abolished. Two sums of £150 and two of £60 are set aside for scholarships for boys and girls, and for exhibitions of £15 a year each, tenable at any place of higher education. Religious instruction, in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England, will be given, and the girls will also learn machine-needlework and cookery.

GOOD FRIDAY GIFTS AT CITY CHURCHES.—The singular custom was observed on Good Friday, at St. Bartholomew-the Great, West Smithfield, of throwing down 21 sixpences on a stone in the churchyard, where the old women of the parish pick them up. The money is said to be the gift of a lady who was buried there, but the bequest is so ancient that no will can be traced, and even the exact place of her grave is not known. The custom is, however, well handed down by tradition, many people assembling each year to witness the ceremony. A number of street Arabs came on the scene, attracted by the report that 'tanners was to be given away,' but went away crestfallen when they found the bequest was limited to old women. The distribution was made by the Rev. J. Abbiss, Rector, and the Rev. G. A. Marshall, Curate.—The annual Good Friday sermon provided for by one Peter Symonds in his will, bearing date 1587, was preached at Allhallows, Lombard Street, by the Rev. Prebendary Mackenzie, who, taking for his text Hebrews ix. 22, 'Without shedding of blood is no remission,' delivered a short but able discourse appropriate to the day. At the close of the service the special provision made nearly three hundred years ago by the testator was duly carried out, some sixty or so of the younger boys of Christ's Hospital, the choir-boys of the church, and a few of the Sunday-school children being duly marshalled near the vestry-door, where, under the superintendence of Mr. Churchwarden Howden, each child received a new penny and a small packet of raisins, the representatives of the Sunday-school having a bun apiece in addition. Several of the poorer parishioners who were present were presented with a shilling each and a loaf.—*City Press*.

'STATION-HOUSE LODGERS' IN NEW YORK.—Writing, on the 10th ultimo, to the *New York Tribune*, Mr. Henry E. Pellw, of the New York Bureau of Charities, draws attention to the increase, during the last four years, in the number of vagrants to whom free lodging is given by the police, under conditions which, it appears, are far too easy. Mr. Pellw questions 'the expediency of providing free lodgings, under any but certain very exceptional cases, to those who are able, but unwilling, to work.' . . . A labour-test for these persons would, he suggests, 'immediately diminish their numbers, and, among other advantages, would give some chance of extending help and comfort to the few worthy cases occasionally to be found among them.' Mr. Pellw states that the average number of 'station-house lodgers' during the first three months of 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876 has been 614, 637, 978, 864, and 866 respectively, showing an increase of 41 per cent. in four years.

PAUPERISM AND ENDOWED CHARITIES.—The Vicar of a large town in Somersetshire says, in a recent letter: 'In this place very abundant endowments for charities, and a very large, though decreasing, expenditure on outdoor relief, go hand-in-hand.'

POOR LAW CONFERENCE IN THE EASTERN COUNTIES.—The *English Labourer* states that it has been arranged that a Poor Law Conference for the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, and Essex shall be held at Whitsuntide in Ipswich—Lord Stradbroke to preside.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 178.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 17, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is
the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Kensington Committee have re-elected their representatives.

The General Meetings of the Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's) Committee will be held in future on Tuesday, at 5 p.m. A Decision-meeting will be held at the same hour on Friday and after the General Meeting on Tuesday.

In the absence of Major-Gen. Blunt, Mr. W. H. Birley has been elected a representative of the Marylebone Committee.

The Strand Committee have re-elected their representatives.

PADDINGTON COMMITTEE.—A Public Meeting in promotion of the objects of the Society was held this day (Wednesday, May 17), at 5 p.m., at the Lecture Hall, Gloucester Place; Chairman, the Right Hon. Russell Gurney, M.P., Recorder of London. The Earl of Lichfield, Mr. Arthur Mills, M.P., Mr. F. D. Mocatta, and others addressed the meeting.

Copies of the Notice with regard to Charitable Appeals from individuals and Institutions have been sent, according to their request, to 24 Committees for the purpose of being exhibited in Clubs, Hotels, Post Offices, and other places of public resort.

Members of Council desiring information with regard to Charities or to special cases are recommended, before asking questions at Council, to ascertain from the Organising Secretary what is already on record on the subject in the office.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The attention of District Committees is drawn to the fol-

lowing resolution of Council, passed on October 12, 1874, and to the discussion at that and at the previous meeting:—

That inasmuch as relief is not the primary work of the Society, the Council adheres to its plan of making the establishment expenses the primary objects of its subsidies, but does not therefore intend to prevent Committees giving grants of money out of the subsidies so granted, in the last resort, in conformity with the principles of the Society.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 p.m.

Present: Alsager Hay Hill, Esq. (in the chair); J. Whitcombe, Esq., Miss Merington, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington; Dr. Daniel, C. J. Stevens, Esq., Fulham; J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Major Prendergast, R. Dundas, Esq., W. W. Moore, Esq., Major Fitz-Roy, St. George's; W. Bousfield, Esq., W. Bevan, Esq., H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); The Earl of Lichfield, Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; W. Brough, Esq., St. Giles's; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; G. Barrington Baker, Esq., Holborn; Rev. Harvey Brooks, Norwood Earle, Esq., City; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; J. G. Mainwaring, Esq., J. Sapsford, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran, Esq., Whitechapel; Lord Dunsany, St. George's-in-the-East; A. C. Mitchell, Esq., E. Peters, Esq., Stepney; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major E. Denne Nares, Mile End; Ralph Ellis, Esq., Poplar; F. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., Newington; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; Col. A. Busk, Wandsworth; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; H. F. Cornish, Esq., Deptford; C. A. Barry, Esq., A. R. Hutchins, Esq., Sydenham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., F. D. Mocatta, Esq., Vice-Presidents; Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, Vice-Chairman; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., S. Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. W. Wood, Esq., Additional Members.—Total, 61. C. J. Ribton Turner, Esq., H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., Secretaries; W. M. Norton, Esq., Visitor.

LETTERS FOR CONVALESCENT HOMES.

The Assistant Secretary stated that he had recently received, from the Poplar and from other Committees, requests for letters for Convalescent Homes, and that he had been unable to supply them, the stock at the Central Office being exhausted.

It was suggested that District Committees would do well to apply to Subscribers to such Institutions who reside in their districts.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending May 6 the receipts had been £163. 16s. for the General Fund, and £130 for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £242. 18s. 7d. and £151. 4s. 1d. respectively.

GRANTS.—Grants of £40 and £30 had been made to the Islington and St. George's East Committees respectively.

CHAIRMANSHIP.—The Administrative Committee reported that they had elected Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh and Mr. J. R. Hollond their Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

QUARTERLY FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.—The Finance Sub-Committee had held their quarterly meeting. It appeared from their Report that, while there had been an increase

of £138 in the receipts of the General Fund, as compared with the receipts for the corresponding quarter of 1875, there had been a decrease of £93 in the receipts of the District Committee Aid Fund. None of the amount advanced in former quarters from the General Fund to the District Committee Aid Fund had been repaid; but, on the contrary, a further loan of £231, and a grant of £188 (making together £419), had been made to this Fund from the General Fund. The Report pointed out that 'the unsatisfactory financial position of the Council may be attributed entirely to the continued drain upon its resources by the increasing demands of the subsidised District Committees,' and urged upon the Administrative Committee the necessity of putting the District Committee Aid Fund in a more satisfactory position. It was also stated that during the current quarter the condition of the General Fund would not enable it to respond, as it had hitherto done, to the claims made upon it by the District Committee Aid Fund. The Finance Sub-Committee drew attention to the matter, not with a view to the diminution of the amounts to be granted to the subsidised Committees, but in order to direct attention to the urgent necessity of immediate steps being taken to improve the financial position of the Society.

STANDING COMMITTEES.—The Administrative Committee had considered the resolution of Council on this subject, passed on April 24, and had determined to retain the present Sub-Committees, and to add to them a Sub-Committee on co-operation with Charities. Their scheme was, however, not yet completed as to details.

OUTDOOR RELIEF.

A letter from Mr. Willis-Bund was read, in which he stated that he was unavoidably prevented from being present, and expressed a hope that some member would take up the first resolution standing in his name, and that the Council would allow him to postpone his other motions to the next meeting.

Major Prendergast said that in Mr. Willis-Bund's absence he should have much pleasure in moving—

That no action be taken in carrying out Mr. Hollond's resolutions, passed on the 1st of May 1876, on Outdoor Relief, until after the first meeting of the Council in October.

He felt that the matter was of such importance that the Society should use the greatest deliberation in approaching it. The plan of the Society had always hitherto been to use the Poor Law as it is, and to co-operate in every way with the Guardians. He deprecated any but a gradual change.

Dr. Daniel seconded the motion.

Sir C. E. Trevelyan urged that a decision having been arrived at after a full discussion, and the motion being a general one, there was no reason for delaying such action as might prove expedient. He concluded by moving the previous question, which was seconded by Mr. Maurice.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson was in favour of delay. The strongest reason was that the resolutions of Mr. Hollond were only carried by a casting-vote, and passed at a time when few members were present. Under such circumstances it behoved the Council to pause before putting into practice a principle only rescued from rejection by a majority of one.

After some discussion, in which the Rev. J. D. McGachen, Mr. Mocatta, and others joined,

Mr. Hollond urged that to carry out his resolutions the Committees would not have to make such an alteration in their practice as some members supposed. He pointed out that his first resolution was practically negative. According to its terms the Committees were in future to abstain from 'recommending to the Guardians' cases for out-relief. He would

point out that very few such cases appeared under this head in the returns of the Committees. His next resolution, he maintained, applying only to cases of temporary distress, pointed clearly to a class of cases suitable for charitable relief, which ought to be saved, if possible, from making their first application to the relieving officer. In drafting his third resolution he had in view the gift of Mr. Peek, to which, he contended, the Committees should, in all but chronic cases, have resort rather than to the Guardians. As he was anxious that, wherever this could be done, Committees should at once carry out the principles of his resolution, he would move as an amendment—

That though no general action on the motion of the 1st May should be taken till after the first meeting of Council in October, yet that where Boards of Guardians have already adopted a policy in restriction of outdoor relief, the Council sees no reason for urging the respective District Committees to postpone co-operation with them in the manner indicated by the resolution of the 1st of May.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. Peters, and the previous question having been put and lost, the amendment was also put and lost.

Major Prendergast's motion was then put, and carried by 23 votes against 12.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

Mr. Wilkinson, in rising, according to notice, 'to call the attention of the Council to the financial condition and prospects of the Society, as indicated in the statement of the Earl of Lichfield,'* urged upon the Council not only the importance but the extreme urgency of the matter to which he would draw their attention. The original lines upon which the Society was laid down were most harmonious and symmetric, and the Council might well look back with a feeling of pride on the day when the last Committee in the metropolitan area had been established. Still they had learned since that time that so gigantic an undertaking could not be carried out, or even inaugurated and maintained, without adequate support, both in funds and in workers of both sexes. It was for want of both sufficient means and of efficiently trained workers, unpaid and paid, that the Society had been unable thoroughly to carry out its original programme. To do this in the poorer districts, where neither of these sources of power he had alluded to could be found, the District Committee Aid Fund had been established, and this fund, they had been told, would have ceased to exist had it not been supplemented from the General Fund, now crippled, in its turn, by the assistance it had rendered to the first-named fund. Members had already been informed that during the next six months some £2,800 would be required for the Council and the District Committees, 21 of which were dependent upon the Council. Whatever measures the Council were disposed to recommend, whether by special appeal, by alterations in the present mode of collection, or otherwise, must be taken at once. In his opinion what was required, in the way of funds, to make the working of the Society efficient in all parts of the metropolis was not the £15,000 a year, hitherto expended by the whole Society but twice that sum. He then pointed out that, unlike other associations dependent upon voluntary contributions and working in the very poorest districts of London, the Committees of the Society in those parts were, at present, debarred by the rules of the Society itself from appealing for help to the richer districts of the metropolis, and therefore those Committees must depend on help from the Council, and, through the Council, from the Committees in the wealthy parts of London. If, after seven years of anxious and arduous working in a right direction, the Society had made for

* See Reporter, May 3, 1876.

friends, now was the time for those friends to come and give their help, not so as to foster dependence, as to supplement vigorous personal and local efforts part of the Committees to obtain workers and to raise

Mr. Wilkinson concluded by moving—

the financial position of the Society requires the immediate action of the Council.

Lichfield seconded the motion.

Charles Trevelyan moved the adjournment of the which was seconded by the Rev. Harvey Brooks.

Miner reminded the Council that at the next meeting part of their Sub-committee on the Collection of Funds be submitted.

a few words from Mr. Dundas and others, the motion was carried.

following business stands for Monday, May 22:—

adjourned motion of Mr. W. M. Wilkinson (see *supra*).

Willis-Bund to call attention to the Poor Law Amendment Bill, 1876.

That, in the opinion of this Council, the law of removal and settlement with great hardship upon the poor; and that it is desirable, if amending the same, to take steps for its total abolition at the possible moment.

That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to take steps this resolution before Her Majesty's Government.

To receive the Report of the Collection Sub-committee.

Following contributions were received for the week ending May 12:—*Donations*: Per the City Committee, £70. 16s.; Caesar H. Esq., £5; Miss Lush, 5s.; Major E. D. Nares, £1. 1s.—*Annual*: Wyer, Esq., £1. 1s.; Harcourt B. Slade, Esq., £2. 2s. The Marquis £5; Mrs. Sommerlat, £1. 1s.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan parishes on the last day of the fifth week of April 1876 was 46,214 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,302. This was a decrease of 421 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 1,888, and 26,099 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 600. This was a decrease of 31 on the corresponding day of the preceding week, and an increase of 135 on the corresponding day of last year.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

A special Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles and Lunatics held its fourth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central Hall. There were present: the Earl of Devon (in the Chair), the Earl of Devon, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., the Hon. H. Strutt, Lieut.-General Cavenagh, the Revs. R. J. Simpson, J. Cummins, Drs. W. Brewer, J. Langdon Down, Bell Fletcher, G. Ham, D. Hack Tuke, W. C. Cortis, Fletcher Beach, Messrs. H. M. J. Cropper, W. Pole Carew, F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. Howgrave Graham, Assistant Secretary. Visitors, Miss Warner, Mr. J. Lee Warner.

Read from the Colonial and Foreign Offices stating that the Committee of the Council for information had been complied with, and it was to apply for similar information in regard to the United States of America.

The Committee then proceeded to consider the several Heads of the 2nd Report, entitled, 'General Principles of Treatment,' and the following resolutions were, after discussion, come to, in reference to the five first—

That Idiots and Imbeciles should be treated distinctively from Lunatics.

That they ought not to be associated with Lunatics in Asylums.

That they ought not, unless in exceptional cases, to be associated with Lunatics in Union Houses.

That the distinctive treatment suited to Idiots and Imbeciles ought to be applied collectively, especially in the earlier stages of education; and that Idiots and Imbeciles cannot, with advantage, be placed in schools with other children.

That, as Sir Charles Trevelyan, that 'feeble-minded children ought not to be associated with Adult Idiots,' was discussed in detail, and even withdrawn.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under-servicing	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals			
Kensington	3	6	15	..	4	..	3	1	..	4	23	8	5
Fulham	1	2	3	..	1	1	..	..	3	3	7	3	4
Paddington	4	3	7	..	2	1	2	3	1	3	18	7	6
Chelsea	1	1	2	..	2	2	3	1	1	5	11	11	3
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division ..	2	1	3	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	23	8	5
Westminster do.	4	2	6	12	..	2	3	1	..	5	28	7	3
Westminster:—													
St. James' & St. Anne's ..	2	1	3	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	6	2	3
St. Marylebone	2	7	9	..	7	4	5	1	..	8	28	8	12
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	1	..	4	6	1	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	3	..	3	..	10	1	11	..	..	..	14	5	6
South St. Pancras	4	9	13	..	20	3	23	1	1	2	38	3	5
Islington	6	6	12	..	18	18	1	..	..	1	25	15	7
Hackney	..	..	..	..	7	7	..	1	..	2	10	1	5
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury ..	..	1	1	..	7	7	..	1	..	1	10	1	5
Strand	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	..	1	1	5	8	5
Holborn	1	6	7	..	17	17	..	1	..	1	25	7	12
City	2	1	3	..	6	6	4	2	..	6	15	3	4
Shoreditch	1	..	1	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	5	2	1
Bethnal Green	3	4	7	..	1	1	1	..	2	3	11	8	1
Whitechapel	1	4	5	..	2	1	3	..	1	1	9	3	13
St. George's-in-the-East ..	2	2	4	..	1	5	6	..	1	1	11	1	7
Stepney	2	4	6	..	2	1	3	..	1	1	10	12	4
Mile End Old Town	2	4	6	..	1	3	4	..	..	..	10	1	2
Poplar	..	..	..	..	5	5	..	2	..	2	7	3	5
St. Saviour's	1	1	2	..	1	1	2	..	2	4	6	..	6
Newington	2	10	12	..	3	2	5	3	..	3	21	12	4
St. Olave's	..	3	3	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	6	6	4
Lambeth:—													
North	1	..	1	..	4	2	6	2	..	2	12	2	5
South	2	2	4	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	5	1	3
Wandsworth & Putney ..	1	1	2	..	5	5	1	..	1	7	7	2	1
Battersea	1	1	2	..	..	..	6	2	..	7	8	..	2
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Camden:—													
Grove Lane	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	..	2	1	6	..	1
Peckham	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	..	3	6	..	1
Greenwich	1	1	2	..	1	1	1	1	2	3	6	2	1
Deptford	3	1	4	..	2	2	1	1	..	2	8	1	5
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	4	4	1	2
Lewisham	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	3	4	4	12
Ritham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Totals	33	27	85	145	2	136	31	169	47	24	220	93	407
											158	181	97

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, GREAT ORMOND-STREET.

From an inspection of the subjoined 'Revised Arrangement,' 'Regulations for Out-patients,' and 'Application Form,' copies of which will shortly be sent to the District Committees, it will be seen that out-patients cannot now obtain gratuitous medical relief at this Hospital, if the head of the family is in receipt of more than 30s. a week, or is receiving parish relief. Out-patients, after their first visit, are only admitted to the benefits of the Hospital when they can present a letter from the Governor or Subscriber who gave the original hospital letter, in which he states, of his own knowledge, that the first of these conditions is fulfilled, or when, in the other, the patients can show, on their hospital letter, as a voucher for both conditions being fulfilled, the stamp of a Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. The Seventh Rule gives a certain discretion to the Committees when there are special circumstances:—

CIRCULAR.—N.B.—This circular supersedes the circular addressed to District Committees on the 2nd June last. It should be so placed in the offices as to be within easy reach for reference.

DEAR SIR.—The Committee of the Ormond-street Children's Hospital having, in some points, modified the 'Arrangement,' particulars respecting which were forwarded to you in a circular, dated June 2nd, 1875, I am directed by the Administrative Committee of the Society to send you a copy of the 'Regulations for Out-patients' at the Hospital, and to call your attention to the following rules:—

1. With a view to checking misuse of their Out-patient Department, the Committee of the Hospital have determined to exclude, as a rule—(a) children whose parent (the head of the family) is in receipt of more than 30s. a week; and (b) children whose parents are in receipt of parish relief.

2. When a Hospital letter, similar to that enclosed, is brought to your office, your Committee will have to inquire—(a) whether the head of the family is or is not in receipt of more than 30s. a week, or (b) whether the parents are or are not in receipt of parish relief; and their inquiry will be limited to the verification of these two facts.

3. Your Committee should not, as a rule, stamp the letter brought to you by the bearer, if the head of the family is in receipt of more than 30s. a week, or if the parents are in receipt of parish relief.

4. But in cases in which the weekly earnings of the head of the family exceed 30s., your Committee should be at liberty to stamp the letter (adding a note), if any exceptional circumstances are found to exist which render it advisable that the case in question shall receive charitable assistance.

5. When the Committee see reason to refuse to affix the stamp, the Council think that it will be well to inform the Hospital Committee of the fact, through the post, giving the name and address of the rejected applicant, and the number of the letter.

6. All inquiries on behalf of the Hospital should be made with the utmost promptitude, and conducted with the greatest delicacy and care, so that the head of the family may not be injured by such inquiries as may, necessarily, be addressed to his employers. The Council have directed that, for the purpose of the Weekly Returns, the affixing of the stamp should be considered as a decision, and that the case should be entered under Class I. or II., not under Class III.

7. An Application Form, to be made use of by your Committee in making the inquiries into cases referred to you by the Hospital, is herewith enclosed, and fifty copies of the form will be sent without delay.

Note.—Your Committee probably has a suitable stamp; if not, the Council can obtain for you a lever endorsing-press, price 15s. 6d., or, if your Committee wish it, will entertain an application for a grant of one. The Hospital Committee request that the new arrangement may come into effect as soon as possible; so it is necessary that stamps should, if required, be ordered at once.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly, C. S. LOCH.

The following is the text of the Regulations for Out-Patients referred to:—1. That all new patients shall be admitted at the new Out-patient Room of the Hospital between 8.30 and 10 A.M. daily, except Sundays. 2. That all such patients be at once examined by the House Surgeon or other medical officer, who shall send away all who are suffering from Scarlet Fever, Smallpox, or other contagious fever, or its immediate sequelæ, and provide for the separation of cases of Whooping Cough. 3. That all other patients be admitted, being sorted by him into two classes, viz., those of slighter ailments to be treated as casualties, and graver ailments to be entered on the register, and to be supplied with letters, entitling the bearer to attend for a period of two months. 4. The register and also the letter shall bear a record of the name and residence of the patient, as also of the occupation of the parent on whom the patient is dependent. 5. No patient whose parent is in the receipt of more than 30s. per week shall, as a rule, be considered eligible for permanent treatment as an Out-patient of the Hospital. 6. No patient shall be entitled to attend a second time as an Out-patient unless the letter with which the parent has been furnished shall—(1) Be accompanied with a note from the Governor or Subscriber who gave the original letter of admission for such Out-patient, stating that the case is, to the knowledge of the Governor or Subscriber, within the last-preceding rule; or (2) Shall have been submitted to the Secretary or other officer of the Charity Organisation Society for the district in which the patient dwells, and bear the stamp of the Society, verifying the statement contained in such letter. 7. In cases where the weekly earnings of the head of the family exceeds 30s. the Charity Organisation Society shall be at liberty, notwithstanding the Fifth Regulation, to stamp the letter (adding a note), if any exceptional circumstances are found to exist which render it advisable that the case in question shall receive charitable assistance. 8. No patient whose parents are in receipt of parish relief shall ordinarily be considered eligible for permanent treatment as an Out-patient. With reference to this class of applicants, however, as also with reference to those whose parents are in the receipt of more than 30s. per week, it shall be in the power of the medical officers to dispense with these regulations on purely medical grounds, provided always that such medical officer enter in a book, to be kept for that purpose, the particulars concerning such patient, and the reason for the exemption, and sign it with his own name—the said book to be laid before the Managing Committee at each meeting. 9. That no letter be valid for more than two months, unless the medical officer sees fit to prolong the time for the patient's attendance, in which case he shall supply the patient with a new letter, indicating that the case is chronic. Such chronic patient may be brought at such intervals of time as the medical officer may desire; but if medicine is prescribed, such medicine shall in no case whatever be supplied for a longer period than one week, though it may be obtained weekly, by application at the Dispensary, without its being prescribed afresh. 10. That in order to prevent patients continuing their attendance beyond the period of two months, without the authority of the medical officer, the Dispenser be instructed to stamp each letter, the period of which is about to expire, so that the attention of the medical officer may be called to the case on the occasion of the patient's next visit. 11. That the Dispenser be instructed to attend strictly to the regulations laid down by the Medical Committee with reference to adherence to the regular formula, and the avoidance of costly medicine in prescriptions for Out-patients. 12. That the Dispenser be authorised to sell bottles and gallipots to patients who require them, at the rate of 1d. each, accounting monthly to the Secretary for all moneys received, but that no other articles be sold.—By order of the Committee of Management, March 23, 1876.

The following are the particulars indicated on the application forms to be used for Children's Hospital cases:—Record No., Hospital No. 1. Name and address. 2. Employment, and name and address of present employer. 3. Married or single, and number and ages of family. 4. Weekly earnings of father and mother. 5. Income from clubs or other sources. 6. State if applicant is in receipt of parochial relief—if so, name parish and amount of relief.

THE DISABLED FIREMEN'S PENSION AND RELIEF FUND.

Secombe v. Tidman.—This case was commenced by Mr. Samuel Simpson Secombe, the Secretary of the above so-called Society, against Mr. R. V. Tidman, the Honorary Secretary of the Lewisham Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, in consequence of a statement made by the latter, at the Greenwich Police-court, on the 14th of November, 1874, to the effect that collectors were going about collecting for a fund called the 'Disabled Firemen's Pension and Relief Fund,' and that it had been found, on inquiry, that the institution was not worthy of public support. The case came on for hearing before Mr. Justice Blackburn and a special jury, in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, at Westminster, on the 15th instant. Mr. Serjeant Parry and Mr. F. H. Lewis appeared for Mr. Tidman. On the case being called, the Plaintiff did not put in an appearance. Accordingly, the Court gave judgment, dismissing the action, with costs for the Defendant.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Report of the Hastings and St. Leonards Provident Dispensary. 1875. Report of the Manchester and Salford Provident Dispensaries Association. Handbook of the Glasgow Charities. Compiled by a Committee of the Glasgow Association for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity. 1s.

The Repression of Vagrancy and Indiscriminate Almsgiving, with a Statement as to the Result of 'The Dorset System.' By Captain Amyatt Brown, Chief Constable of Dorset. Simpkin & Co. 6d.

The Langham Magazine for April, containing an article on the 'Mistake of Popular Charity.' S. Deacon & Co. 2s. 6d.

A Guide to the Proper Management and Education of Blind Children during their Earlier Years. By J. G. Knie. Simpkin & Co.

AN IMPOSTOR AT BRIGHTON.—*Henrietta Randall*, 28, was charged with obtaining, by false pretences, a sovereign, the money of Mrs. Brooksbank, of No. 5 Arundel Terrace, Brighton. Mr. Gray prosecuted on behalf of the Brighton Charity Organisation Society, who had taken up the case. Mrs. Brooksbank stated that about the 27th April the prisoner applied to her for a recommendation for indoor relief at the Sussex County Hospital. She told her to go to the Hospital, and inquire if hers was a proper case for treatment at the Hospital and return on the following morning and inform her (Mrs. Brooksbank) of the result. The prisoner came back, and stated that she had seen the house-surgeon at the Hospital, who represented that her case was not one for treatment in the institution, she being in consumption. She then expressed a wish to go to Ventnor Hospital, where, she believed, she would be attended to, explaining, however, that she had not money to take her. On the understanding that she would proceed to Ventnor next day Mrs. Brooksbank gave her a sovereign to assist her. Mr. Langdale, the house-surgeon, was called, and testified to never seeing the prisoner. The prisoner declared that she went to the Hospital and was directed by the hall-porter and the nurse to the surgeon's room. She there saw a medical gentleman, but, so far as she could remember, not Mr. Langdale. Wm. Collingham, agent to the Brighton Charity Organisation Society, deposed that he apprehended the prisoner at her lodgings, at No. 76 Upper North Street, and that in reply to the charge preferred against her she said, 'I don't see it.' He brought her to the Police-office. Mr. Gray stated that the prisoner had represented that she was in the service of Mrs. Brassey, the wife of Mr. Brassey, M.P. for Hastings, but Mrs. Brassey's butler was communicated with, and this representation was proved to be false, the prisoner having merely been relieved by Mrs. Brassey. Mr. Collingham added that the Charity Organisation Society had ascertained that, on a representation that she wished to go to another hospital, the prisoner had received £9 from Lady Caroline Turner, of Gresham Place, London, S.W. As it was possible that the prisoner might have been at the Sussex County Hospital, and seen another surgeon than Mr. Langdale, the magistrates would not convict her of obtaining money under false pretences, but of begging; and for that offence sentenced her to fourteen days' imprisonment, with hard labour. They thanked the Charity Organisation Society for investigating the case.—*Sussex Daily News*, Tuesday, May 9, 1876.

* * The above case is referred to in *Reporter* No. 169, March 8, 1876. It has been known for some time to the Marylebone and Paddington Committees, and also at the Central Office.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 14d. s. d.

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Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

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THE

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 179.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 24, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is
the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, Hon. Secretary of the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association, has been appointed representative of the Association in the place of Mr. Edward Thornton.

During the absence of Major Prendergast, Mr. J. C. Cavendish has been appointed a representative of the St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee.

The Rev. H. F. H. Burchell-Herne will, during the absence of Mr. E. Peters, act as Hon. Secretary of the Stepney Committee, jointly with Mrs. Barnett.

Captain Noyes has been elected representative of the St. Olave's Committee *vice* Mr. W. F. Beauford. During Mr. Beauford's absence Captain Noyes will also act as Hon. Secretary jointly with Mr. R. Burnett.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 p.m.

Present: Alsager Hay Hill, Esq. (in the chair); Dr. Anderson, J. Hitecombe, Esq., Kensington; C. J. Stevens, Esq., Fulham; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; W. S. Setonarr, Esq., Chelsea; J. Cavendish, Esq., St. George's; W. Bevan, Esq., Bousfield, Esq., H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Allet, Hampstead; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; W. F. Lawrence, Esq., Hon. E. F. Kenyon, Hamilton N. Hoare, Esq., St. Giles's; Hay Hill, Esq., Strand; Sir Richard Wilbraham, Holborn; Rev. H. I. Munnins, City; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; J. Sapsford, Esq., Abinal Green; Lord Dunsany, St. George's-in-the-East; A. C. Mitchell, Esq., Stepney; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major E. D. Nares, Mile End; Ralph

Ellis, Esq., Poplar; A. D. Graham, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., F. B. Mortgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., H. Brand, Esq., Newington; Capt. Noyes, St. Olave's; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersea; Samuel Etches, Esq., Clapham; George Parker, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., Lewisham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-President; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., George Blount, Esq., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., Additional Members. Total, 47. H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., Assistant Secretary.

PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES IN MANCHESTER.

Sir C. E. Trevelyan presented one hundred copies of the Manchester and Salford Provident Dispensaries Association, which he had received from the Honorary Secretary, Mr. O'Hanlon. Sir Charles said that in July 1873 Sir Rutherford Alcock and Dr. Ford Anderson were deputed to attend a meeting of the subscribers to the hospitals and dispensaries at Manchester, at which it was resolved: 'That, as there is a large class of working men above the condition of pauperism who, while unable to pay the ordinary medical fees, are yet well able to make small periodical payments for medicine and medical attendance, it is desirable to establish Provident Dispensaries, by which these cases may be provided for.' Manchester and Salford were then divided into districts, with a view to a Provident Dispensary being placed in each, to be managed by its own committee, consisting of ordinary members, honorary members, and medical men; and artisans and others were invited to become members, provided their income did not exceed on an average about 30s. a week. Up to the end of last year seven such dispensaries had been established, with 16,596 members, and £1,447 paid by them; and three or four others were about to be commenced; after which the system would be within the reach of the great bulk of the working population. It is expected that all these dispensaries will be self-supporting within two years of their first establishment. Lists of applicants to the hospitals and free dispensaries in the Association are daily sent to the Provident Society, by whose inspectors they are visited at their homes, and those who are able to pay the small subscriptions required under the provident system have their cards stamped in such a manner as to preclude them from receiving gratuitous relief a second time, and are referred to the Provident Dispensary of their district. On Sir Charles Trevelyan's motion it was agreed that the thanks of this Council be conveyed to the Council of the Association; and that copies of their report be sent to the District Committees.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending May 13 the receipts had been £91. 18s. 3d. for the General Fund, and that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £322. 19s. 5d. and £68. 14s. 1d. respectively.

GRANTS.—Grants of £13 each had been made to the Holborn, Whitechapel, Poplar, St. Saviour's, and St. Olave's

Committees. Owing to the state of the funds larger sums could not at present be granted. It was stated that the sums of £45, £45, £30, £48, and £70 respectively were required by these Committees.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS IN THE CITY.—The recommendation of the Administrative Committee on this subject was voted urgent, and, after discussion and amendment, was carried; Mr. W. M. Norton being appointed to collect funds in the City on behalf of the Society, at a salary of £150, and an increase of £25 should he raise £500 in the course of twelve months, or of £50 should he raise £1,000 during a similar period. The appointment to be terminable, at the end of six months, by one month's notice on either side.

APPEAL FOR FUNDS.—It was resolved, on the recommendation of the Administrative Committee, that the Committee be authorised to issue an appeal for funds in the form of a letter to the *Times*.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

Copies of the Report of the Sub-committee of Council on the Collection of Funds were laid upon the table, and the Report was ordered to be considered at the next meeting, on Monday, May 29.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

Sir C. E. Trevelyan resumed the adjourned discussion on Mr. Wilkinson's motion, calling the attention of the Council to the financial position of the Society. Sir C. Trevelyan said that the state of the finances, though serious, was not, he thought, alarming; but though it did not point to any radical change of system, it called for active exertion. The secret of the Society's success was, he maintained, its combination of local effort and responsibility with central representative control. In accordance with this principle the collection of the Committees was confined to their own areas, while the Council had power, by means of public appeals, to obtain funds from all parts of London. Sir Charles pointed out that the amount collected by the District Committees during the last two years had been more than twice the amount collected by the Council; being, in the first case £17,522, and in the second (taking the General and District Committees' Aid Funds together) £7,821. He believed that the grants made to the District Committees had already sapped their independence, and pointed out that during the past year they had collected £580 less than in 1873-4. He contended that there was abundant latent energy which was only waiting to be called forth, and he would suggest that special letters should be addressed to persons known to take an interest in the improvement of our population, and that the wants of the Society should be made known more widely. The Committees in the wealthier districts were only beginning to realise the fact that they must collect, not only for themselves, but for the Society at large. He concluded by urging the District Committees to aim at independent support.

After a short discussion, Mr. Du Pré Thornton, bearing in mind that the Report of the Sub-Committee of Council on the Collection of Funds would be considered next Monday, moved the adjournment of the further consideration of the subject. This was seconded by Mr. Maurice, and carried.

THE LAW OF SETTLEMENT AND REMOVAL.

Mr. Willis-Bund called attention to the Poor Law Amendment Bill, and moved—

(1) That, in the opinion of this Council, the law of removal and settlement presses with great hardship upon the poor; and that it is desirable, instead of amending the same, to take steps for its total abolition at the earliest possible moment.

(2.) That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to take steps to bring this resolution before Her Majesty's Government.

He explained that, from the first, he had been in favour of the total abolition of the present law, but, thinking that the Council might not be prepared to follow him so far, he had brought forward his motion of May 10 in order that the Administrative Committee might thoroughly consider the matter in the first instance. From a Parliamentary Return furnished early in the present year he saw that, during a period of twelve months, ending with March 25, 1875, there were 4,074 orders of removal, under which 7,391 persons had been removed, at a cost of £8,680. He pointed out that the majority of these removals were either to or from London, and that the question was, therefore, one that closely affected the classes with whom the Society had to deal. Mr. Willis-Bund then traced the successive amendments of the law since 1832, and mentioned cases illustrative of the hardship inflicted by the law in its present state. In one case a single woman, aged 32, residing with her widowed mother, left her to go on a month's trial as servant at a situation in another union. Returning home, and becoming chargeable, she was removed to the place of her birth, as she had broken her residence in the union where she and her mother had resided for three years. In another case the widow of a soldier was removed from a parish where she and her husband had lived for five years, because the residence had been broken by their absence with her husband's regiment. In the third case the wife of a surgeon had, from the nature of her husband's engagements during the week, been compelled to live for six years in an adjacent parish to that in which he resided. Her husband being imprisoned for some offence, and she having become chargeable, she was removed, with her children, to the union in which her husband had resided. Mr. Willis-Bund concluded by saying that he thought the abolition of the law should be gradual, and would accept a suggestion made to him to the effect that a sub-committee should be appointed to consider the matter.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins seconded the motion, but he would have preferred the appointment of a sub-committee.

Mr. Whitcombe thought that the question was scarcely one for the Society to take up.

The Rev. H. F. Mallet reminded the Council that at the last Metropolitan Conference of Guardians this very subject had been most fully discussed, and that the opinion of the Conference was adverse to abolition.

The Chairman (Mr. J. R. Hollond) expressed his concurrence in Mr. Mallet's views, and referred to opinions expressed at the Conference. Though the subject was one of great interest to the Society, he thought that it required dealing with by a body of experts rather than by the Council. He would strongly deprecate the appointment of another Committee.

After a few words from Mr. Miner and others,

Mr. Bonsfield moved the previous question, which was seconded by the Rev. H. F. Mallet.

Mr. Willis-Bund said he had no wish to press the motion on the Council, and confessed that he did not quite see his way to the total abolition of the present law. He would still, however, be glad to see the matter taken in hand by a special Committee.

The previous question was then put, and carried by ten votes against nine.

The Council then adjourned.

The following business stands for Monday, May 29:—

- I. The adjourned discussion on Mr. Wilkinson's motion of May 17.
- II. To consider the Report of the Sub-committee of Council on the Collection of Funds, appointed February 14, 1876.

Dr. Boyd presented copies of his recently published Treatise on the Diseases of the Nervous System.

The Committee then proceeded to consider the remaining heads of the Second Section of the Agenda, entitled 'General Principles of Treatment,' and passed, after discussion, the following resolutions:—

6th. 'That the improvement of Idiots and Imbeciles would not be promoted by boarding them out, but in certain cases, boarding out, under proper supervision, is not unsuitable to Harmless Lunatics.'

7th. 'That the education of Idiots and Imbeciles should be based on physical considerations.'

8th. 'That the education of Idiots and Imbeciles should commence at the earliest age at which they can dispense with a mother's care, and the subsequent stages should depend upon the capacity developed by them.'

9th. 'That Idiots and Imbeciles should have a thorough industrial training, so as to enable them, as far as practicable, to support themselves, or at least to contribute towards their support, when circumstances render it necessary': and—

10th. 'That Idiots and Imbeciles of all classes should, as far as may be prudently done, be also encouraged to cultivate any literary, scientific, artistic, or mechanical faculty they may happen to possess, or be otherwise furnished with employment, so as to promote their self-respect, and to make them feel that they are of some use in the world, or, any rate, to occupy them pleasantly.'

* * In the report of the previous meeting part of what follows was omitted, owing to want of space:—

A motion made by Sir Charles Trevelyan, that 'Feeble-minded Children ought not to be associated with Adult Idiots,' was discussed in detail; and on its being shown that, under certain circumstances, mutual aid might with advantage be interchanged among those diversely afflicted, and the elder might act as nurses and helpers to the younger, and having regard also to the improvement likely to be effected by early training in the habits of this class, the motion was withdrawn.

A Public Meeting in promotion of the objects of the Paddington Committee was held on the 17th inst., at the Lecture Hall of St. James's Church, Gloucester Place, Westbourne Gardens. It was expected that Mr. Russell Gurney, M.P., would have taken the chair; but at the time appointed for the meeting to be held Mr. J. R. Holland said that it was with great regret he had to communicate to the meeting the fact that he had received a letter from Mr. Arthur Mills, M.P., stating that Mr. Russell Gurney and he were both detained at the House of Commons on important business. Mr. Holland added that he would move that Lord Lichfield should be requested to preside. This was seconded and carried unanimously.

Lord Lichfield, who was received with warm applause, said he attended there, not with the intention of taking an active part in the meeting, but to ascertain how the principles of the Society were being carried out, and what progress was being made in Paddington. It was very unfortunate that the meeting should have been deprived of the presence of so excellent an advocate of its cause as the chairman who was to have presided, and it was to be hoped that no drawback would result to the Society from the absence of two friends so active as Mr. Gurney and Mr. A. Mills. Lord Lichfield proceeded to say that it was with great pleasure he opened the meeting, by congratulating those who had had the management of the Paddington Committee upon the very great success which had attended their work. Nothing could be more satisfactory to those who had taken an interest in promoting Charity Organisation from its commencement than to find such good work done as was detailed in the Report laid before the meeting. There were many things in that Report to which he should have liked to make reference, but he hoped that some one else who was more acquainted with the Paddington work would do so, and would place before the meeting all that could be said for and against the work in Paddington. There were many resident gentlemen present who were acquainted with the Society's work, and he would call upon Mr. Mocatta to propose the adoption of the Report.

Mr. Mocatta, in proposing the adoption of the Report, said it was drawn up in a most able manner, was full of interesting matter, and was most valuable for the suggestions it made in a very condensed, and concise form. It bore proof of being carefully considered, and gave a full knowledge of the work of Charity Organisation in Paddington. It was six years since the Committee was established, and during that time they had done a vast deal of work, and year by year showed greater strength. In the course of a long and able speech Mr. Mocatta then

SENDER BY THE COMMITTEES WEEK END-DAY, MAY	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief Underserving	Cases for Poor-Laws or otherwise ineligible	Class total		The Guardians	Institutions or Local Authorities	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letter for Hospital, &c.				
.....	3	2	5	10	1	2	1	4	4	9	..	13	27	6	4	17
.....	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	1	2	4	3	4	5
.....	1	1	2	4	..	8	1	9	4	1	6	10	23	12	4	17
.....	..	1	1	1	..	3	3	3	3	1	..	4	8	7	5	..
Division, & do.	1	2	3	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	24	12	8	..
.....	1	1	8	10	..	4	1	5	3	1	..	4	6	3	1	..
St. Anne's	1	..	1	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	3	3	9	4
ne	1	1	9	11	..	12	3	15	1	2	3	6	32	10	9	..
.....	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	3	3	..
ncras and	7	2	1	10	..	10	..	21	1	..	1	1	21	2	8	..
ncras	1	3	8	12	..	17	4	20	1	..	2	3	36	2	9	..
.....	1	..	1	..	..	26	..	26	1	..	..	1	28	25	11	..
loomabury	1	..	1	..	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	2	5	2	3	..
.....	1	1	1	..	..	2	..	2	1	1	..	2	5	12	3	..
.....	1	1	2	..	15	..	15	..	1	..	..	..	17	7	15	..
.....	..	..	..	..	7	7	7	7	2	2	..	4	11	5	37	1
.....	4	4	4	..	1	..	1	6	1	2	3	6	7	3	..	..
.....	1	2	1	4	..	3	2	5	..	..	..	..	9	3	5	..
n-the-East	1	1	2	4	..	3	2	5	..	1	3	4	14	4	9	..
.....	2	1	3	1	4	2	7	..	..	2	..	2	12	6	9	..
Town	5	5	5	1	1	1	2	7	1	..	..	1	7	2	5	1
.....	1	3	4	..	2	2	4	3	1	..	..	..	9	1	5	1
.....	2	4	6	..	2	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	9	..	2	..
.....	1	2	3	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	2	4	8	10	..	..
North...	1	2	3	..	5	..	5	..	2	..	2	2	10	6	..	..
South...	1	2	3	..	1	..	..	2	2	..	..	1	9	1	11	..
& Putney	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	3	2
.....	4	2	6	..	..	1	..	1	4	1	..	5	11	1	2	..
.....	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	2	2	..	1	3	5	3	2	21
.....	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	1	4	6	2	1	..
.....	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
.....	2	..	2	..	1	..	1	1	4	1	..	5	8	3	1	16
.....	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	2	3	..	..	3	2	1	1	3
.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	3	1	1	5
.....	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	5	..	23
.....	..	..	..	1	..</											

VOLUNTARY PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolises on the last day of the first week of May 1876 was 46,117 received outdoor relief, making a total of 80,968. This was a decrease of 334 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 160, and 25,774 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 563. This was a decrease of 37 on the corresponding day of the preceding week, and an increase of 66 on the corresponding day of last year.

cial Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles, and Har-
matics held its fifth meeting on Wednesday last, at the Central
here were present: The Earl of Devon (in the Chair), the Earl
ld, Lord Wrottesley, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., Sir Rutherford
C.B., the Hon. C. H. Strutt, Lieut.-General Cavenagh, the
Cummins, Drs. W. Brewer, J. Langdon Down, Bell Fletcher, G.
am, W. S. Cortis, Fletcher Beach, T. A. Wise, R. Boyd, Messrs.
kinson, J. Cropper, F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson, W. Millard,
Howgrave Graham, Assistant Secretary.

It was read from Dr. Ireland, Superintendent of the Scottish Institution for the Education of Imbecile Children, at Larbert,

proceeded to trace out the need shown for the Society before its establishment. This was proved, he said, by the enormous amount of money spent in charity without there being any co-operation between those who distributed the relief, so as to prevent persons from being relieved over and over again. He showed that, notwithstanding all the aid given, the people relieved were in a state of chronic pauperism, and the first work of the Society was, he pointed out, so to federate charity distributors, that each should know what the other was doing. He spoke against the system of relief, which only staved off the evil day of want, and urged that all relief should aim at assisting the poor persons to place themselves above the ranks of dependence—an end which this Society had in view in all it did. That the Committee was making progress in obtaining the confidence of the public was seen in the fact that during the year, 474 reports had been made for persons in the parish who desired information about those who applied for charity. Then the Committee had established a Labour Register, and 175 persons had, by means of this, been helped to work, so that in these cases the Committee, by assisting able and willing hands to find work, had done a vast deal more good than by distributing doles of money. (Cheers.) In regard to loans, apparently the amount lent had not been great; but when it came to be seen how much more good was done by loans than by gifts in the East of London, this branch of work would be more dealt with. He then proceeded to urge that to deal with poverty was a science of the highest order, and that those who took upon themselves the duty of dealing with it ought to study the best principles upon which to carry this out; but, he said, this study was unfortunately most frequently one which was entirely neglected. Yet the study in question was imperative upon those who associated themselves with societies which sprung up to do this thing and that thing in the name of charity, and upon those persons who considered it their duty to give their surplus funds to charity. It was a painful thing, no doubt, to know that many wealthy persons gave nothing in charity; but it was a fact that these persons did little harm in comparison with the harm which was done by those who distributed their money broadcast, without thinking where it went. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to say that there had been co-operation between the School Board officers and the Society's officers, and much good had been done by the gift of Mr. Francis Peek, who had given to the Council £1,000 a year for three years, in order to enable the Society to give adequate aid to deserving families who were unable, from unavoidable distress, to send their children to school, so as to dispel that ignorance which was known to be so fruitful a source of poverty, crime, and disease. (Cheers.) He proceeded to dwell upon the need for the District Committee Aid Fund of the Society, a fund, he explained, to which the rich Committees should contribute for the aid of the Committees in the poorer parts of London, where, he said, whole districts might be gone through without one well-to-do house being found. Paddington, he was glad to say, had given £100 to this fund. In such places a Committee could not be supported by the inhabitants; and not only was help in money needed from the wealthier parishes, but personal help was necessary as well, for poorly-paid people worked the most hours; and though these poor people were willing to help their neighbours, yet it was impossible that the man with 23s. a week could give time for working on a Committee; while people going to the East from the West of London would do good to themselves in learning the true principles of charity, and would carry their refining influences among the poor. The speaker then answered the objection made to the Society—that its working expenses were high—by pointing out that, as an inquiring and investigating Society, the expenses must always be high; and, moreover, the good the Society did was not to be calculated by the amounts it gave, but by the information it afforded, the impostors it detected, the permanent good it effected year by year in many cases, and the check it was upon mendicancy and fraudulent charities.

Mr. J. R. Holland, in seconding the motion, explained various points in connection with the Society not generally understood by the public. He proceeded to show that the Society was endeavouring to check impulsive charity, which was not true charity, and to place in its stead that true charity which arose from an earnest desire to do good. The Charity Organisation Society did not desire to relieve persons or societies from the duty of administering their charity, but it only desired to so direct them by information that the charity should do good, and not harm—that the charity should be a means of saving people from pauperism, and not be a mere aid to Poor Law relief. As a proof of the evil which was done by ill-directed charity he quoted the words of the Rev. T. J. Rowsell, the Vicar of St. Stephen's, who wrote:—

It is quite true that I did close the Soup Kitchen which had been in existence before I came here. I was very unwilling to disturb the kind efforts of several gentlemen here, and I attended when soup was given out, and followed some to their homes who came for soup, and also inquired carefully into circumstances of others. I found that scarcely one out of a hundred needed help, and I was convinced that the Soup Kitchen suggested dependence and begging, and induced parents to send their children to apply, and so to begin a system of concealment, which is in every sense harmful. My opinion is that in localities such as this, these aids and inducements to beg are very injurious. The District Visitors are able and willing to assist through their personal knowledge any cases of sickness or affliction where kindness and alms are needed.

(Hear, hear.) The Report would show the necessity of providence being encouraged, for inquiry proved that five-sixths of those who became applicants for charity and aid were never members of any provident society. (Hear, hear.) The speaker dwelt upon the necessity for the District Visitors being in connection with the Society—the officers of the Society being the inquiring agents, and the visitors the almoners—and he urged the needs of the District Committee Aid Fund upon the notice of the wealthy inhabitants of Paddington.

The adoption of the Report was carried unanimously.

The Rev. H. V. H. Cowell moved the following resolution: 'That the past working of this Society, both in this district and throughout London, entitles it to the support of the public and of the inhabitants of Paddington.' He spoke at length upon the great good which the Society had, to his knowledge, done, and said that he had received the greatest possible assistance from the Society, whose District Committee undertook the judgment of every case, and judged it, he knew, with wisdom and kindness. He declared that it was impossible for a clergyman to judge a case, for he had not the time and opportunities to make an investigation, and if he gave he was often deceived, while if he refused a case he often did wrong in judging by appearances. He warmly thanked the Society for the good it had been the means of doing his poor parishioners, and for relieving him from many difficulties.

Mr. A. Mills, M.P. (who with Mr. Pell, M.P., had come in just before, and were warmly received), seconded the motion, and said that if he had not been so active a member of the Committee as he used to be it was owing to Parliamentary and School Board duties, but he assured the meeting that he felt as deep an interest in the Society as ever. He spoke at length upon the work carried out, and said that in his capacity of Chairman of the Divisional Committee of the London School Board he had found the vast good which had been effected by the noble gift of his colleague on the School Board—Mr. Francis Peek; for by means of the Charity Organisation Society many parents had been enabled to comply with the law. Thus this relief was wise and generous, and kept a family, in many cases, from being pressed down by poverty. The speaker paid a warm tribute to the good services rendered by the paid officers of the Paddington Committee.

Mr. Pell, M.P., supported the motion, and said that though he was not a member of a Charity Organisation Society he hoped to be, for he was to take part in establishing one in the chief town of the county for which he sat in Parliament. He gave his experiences as an East End guardian for a short time, and said that he was convinced that only by carrying out the principles of the Society, and by a thorough dealing with out-door relief, could the great problems which now harmed society be solved. He gave some remarkable facts and figures relative to East End poverty, and showed that where the poor had been dealt with in a proper manner poverty had lessened, and the condition of the poor had been vastly improved—so vastly improved, that instead of being paupers on the rates they had become producing members of society. Mr. Pell said that out-door relief caused poverty, for it enabled those who received it to work for less wages than the self-dependent, and thus the self-dependent were reduced to the necessity of seeking relief.

On the motion of Sir Thomas Pycroft and Mr. Henriques a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, who, in reply, made an exhaustive speech upon the action and principles of the Society.

This concluded the proceedings of the meeting, which was well attended.

AN AMERICAN'S OPINION ON SOME ENGLISH CHARITABLE ARRANGEMENTS.—Dr. Willbur, who was recently deputed by the Governor of New York to investigate our English institutions for the care and training of idiots, reports:—'At the annual elections the circumstances of the family from which the candidate comes have more influence than the question of teachableness in the person whose admission is desired. It is not necessary to show the unwisdom of selecting pupils on the ground of sympathy rather than of judgment. It is beginning to be strongly felt in England, and will soon, doubtless, be abandoned.'

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 180.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 31, 1876.

Price 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The Central Office will be closed on Whit-Monday. There will therefore be no meeting of the Council next week, nor any meeting of the Administrative Committee to-morrow, Thursday. The Administrative Committee will meet as usual on Thursday, the 1st of June. As there is no meeting of Council the *Reporter* will not be issued next week.

A few sets of the Annual Reports of the District Committees for 1875 will shortly be bound up with the Seventh Annual Report of the Council, price 2s. 6d., or post free for 3s. Those who wish for copies are requested to send their orders at once, addressed to the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street.

The Meetings of the Woolwich Committee (held at 12 on Mondays) will in future take place weekly instead of fortnightly.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Alsager Hay Hill, Esq. (in the chair); Dr. Anderson, J. Whitcombe, Esq., F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Yard, J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. B. Daniel, W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Lord W. Compton, Robt. Dundas, Esq., J. C. Cavendish, Esq., St. George's; W. Bevan, Esq., W. Bousfield, Esq., H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); The Earl of Lichfield, Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marylebone; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; T. B. Spencer, Esq., Islington; W. F. Lawrence, Esq., Hamilton N. Hoare, Esq., St. Giles's; H. Hay Hill, Esq., Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; G. B. Baker, Esq., Holborn; Rev. H. I. Cummins, City; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Rev. S. S. Barnett, Whitechapel; Major Nares, Rev. S. A. Thompson Yates, St.

George's-in-the-East; A. C. Mitchell, Esq., Stepney; Hon. H. R. Scott, Mile End; R. Ellis, Esq., Poplar; H. Hoper, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., Newington; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; H. F. Cornish, Esq., Deptford; A. Annesley, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., Lewisham; C. A. Barry, Esq., H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-President; Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, Vice-Chairman; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members. Total, 53. H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., Assistant Secretary. Mrs. Fenlon, Visitor.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending May 20 the receipts had been £10. 4s. 0d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund; and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £230. 13s. 10d. and £3. 14s. 1d. respectively.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

Mr. Du Pré Thornton resumed the adjourned discussion on Mr. Wilkinson's motion, calling the attention of the Council to the financial position of the Society. He considered the present mode of collecting funds expensive, unfair to Committees, and unjust to individual members. He estimated the average establishment expenses of the Committees (taking one with another) at £300 a year. This would give a total of about £11,000. It was clearly bad economy to employ some thirty or thirty-five persons to collect this sum. What was required was, that fewer collectors should be employed, but that they must be of a higher class. Such men could not be expected to work in the very poorest Districts where there was little prospect of funds being raised, and it was a waste of power, he thought, to attempt to raise funds in such Districts. It was unjust, he contended, that the Committees in the poor parts of London should, in addition to their other work—itsself of a very difficult character—bear the additional burden of collecting money in districts where it was so scarce. The speaker thought that the members of the richer Committees knew but little of the difficulties under which individual members of the poorer Committees laboured. These Committees, if they did not owe their chief strength to non-resident members, were, at any rate, largely reinforced from the outside; and it must be borne in mind that these 'outsiders' had to carry on the work in Districts with the local circumstances of which it was impossible they could be thoroughly acquainted. Hence he thought it unfair to impose upon Committees so constituted the additional labour of collection. He thought that those Committees who had an abundance of voluntary workers should train members for the poorer Districts, and send them to work there. He took objection to the comparison Sir C. Trevelyan had, on a former occasion, drawn between the amounts collected by the District Committees and by the Council. The former, he pointed out, employed some thirty collectors, and the latter none at all. He thought that Council should be ready to undertake, at the

request of any Committee, the collection of funds in their District, such funds to be handed over to the Committee.

Mr. Wightman-Wood said that he was unable to find, after careful examination of the matter, that there had been any falling off in the revenue of the Society, and he believed that this alone showed that they possessed the confidence of the public. If there had been an increase of expenditure unaccompanied by a corresponding increase of income, and if there seemed no probability of that increase being met, they must, of course, curtail their expenditure and place it on the footing of former years. He thought the Committees should obtain more co-operation from existing charities.

Lord Lichfield pointed out that although the expenditure and receipts of the Council had both increased, yet their present financial position was far less satisfactory than it was at this time last year. He concluded by moving the adjournment of Mr. Wilkinson's motion, which was seconded by Mr. Wilkinson, and carried.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON THE COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

It was agreed, after some discussion, that the recommendations of the Sub-committee should be considered *seriatim*. They were as follows:—

I. That the Council should collect funds, in accordance with the recommendations of the Report of the Appeal Committee, adopted by Council March 17th, 1873, and that the necessary steps be forthwith taken by Council to effectually carry out the recommendations contained in the said Report.

[The classes to whom it was then agreed that the Council should appeal were:—

- (1) Large landed proprietors.
- (2) City companies.
- (3) Banking, mercantile, and manufacturing firms.
- (4) Persons of known wealth and benevolence (after communication with the Committee in whose district they reside).

II. That each District Committee should collect funds within its own district, but that the collection should be made not merely for its own work, but also on behalf of the whole Society.

III. That in districts in which there is reason to believe that much larger sums might be collected, the local Committee shall be invited to accept assistance in collection from the Council.

[Your Sub-committee do not propose any change in the arrangement made with the City Committee, or that in force in the seven East-end Districts. They cannot, however, consider either arrangement at present satisfactory, and they would urge Council to instruct the Administrative Committee to report on the work of the East-end Financial Committee at an early date.]

IV. That each Committee should set forth prominently in its Annual Report, and in all appeals to the public, the work of the whole Society, with a summary of the results effected by it throughout the metropolis, and that the Administrative Committee be instructed to draft a short and comprehensive statement of the work of the Council, and of the Society generally, up to the 30th of September in each year, for the use of District Committees in the preparation of their reports, or for insertion in the reports themselves.

V. That each Committee having collected all that it can, by a thorough house-to-house collection, should, at the end of each quarter, transfer any balance remaining in its hands, over and above the sum required for its own use, either to the General Fund or the District Committee Aid Fund of the Society.

VI. That, within a month after the 30th September of each year, estimates of the probable expenses of each Committee for the ensuing year, together with the balance-sheet for the past year, be sent to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-committee, in order that they may as soon as possible have the means of framing the estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

Mr. Edgcombe moved, and Sir C. Trevelyan seconded the adoption of the first of the above recommendations.

Lord Lichfield thought the resolution did not go far enough. Being himself of opinion that a central system of collection was the best system for the interests of the Society, he could not agree with any portion of the Report. A radical change in the mode of collecting funds was required, and the Sub-committee had not, as far as he could understand, recommended any change. He saw from the first page of their Report that they were appointed under the following resolution:—'That this Council, being of opinion that some

change is required in the mode of collecting funds, it is resolved that a Sub-committee be appointed by the Council to consider and prepare some definite scheme, to be laid before this Council as soon as possible.' He could not admit that any change, properly so called, was proposed by the Report now before them. The recommendation under consideration merely proposed to continue the present mode of collection pursued by the Council. He must therefore oppose it, and would move as an amendment, and in a somewhat altered form, the resolution to which he had alluded on Feb. 7 of the present year—

That the system under which each District Committee has hitherto collected funds within its own district, and expended them without reference to the means and requirements of other parts of the Metropolis, has interfered with the establishment of a thoroughly efficient and reliable machinery for investigation, and has produced marked inequalities and inconsistencies in the distribution and administration of the Society's funds.

That such results are entirely at variance with the principles upon which the Society was started, and that, inasmuch as the Report of the Sub-committee does not recommend a change in the present arrangement for collecting and distributing the funds required for the use of the various District Committees, it is unsatisfactory and cannot be adopted.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins seconded the amendment. The Report was, in his opinion, a mere compromise between different views. He believed that a proper financial organisation, with well-paid collectors, was essential, and then the funds required would be forthcoming, though ten times as much should be wanted. The recommendation under discussion involved an adherence to the present system.

Mr. Miner pointed out that the recommendation advocated active steps being taken to carry out the Report of the Appeal Committee, which had hitherto remained almost a dead letter.

Mr. Willis-Bund was of opinion that the Report, by practically leaving things as they were, contradicted the decision of the Council upon which the Sub-committee was appointed.

Mr. Whitcombe thought that any scheme of centralisation was so incompatible with the whole plan and idea of the Society, that it could not be considered to be within the function of the Sub-committee to recommend such a scheme.

Sir C. Trevelyan said that the Society must rely for support upon those who took an interest in London as a whole—who had the welfare of the whole of the London poor at heart. It would, in his opinion, be most disastrous if the Committees should cease to collect. They were, each of them, separate spheres of work and interest, and could call forth an amount of local support that the centre could never evoke. He was in favour of a fair trial being given to the present system; the principle was sound, but had never, financially, been carried out.

Lieut.-General Cavenagh agreed with the last speaker that the power of collecting now possessed by the Council should remain, and that it would be unwise to remove from the District Committees the interest and responsibility they now have. These, he thought, were inseparable, and the loss of interest would follow upon the removal of responsibility. He felt sure that if the richer Committees would make proper exertions, sufficient funds could be obtained. He gave notice that he would move, as an amendment:—

That the Council should, as heretofore, be empowered to make such general appeals through the public journals, or by means of special appeals to companies, banking, mercantile, and manufacturing firms, or large landed proprietors, or persons of known wealth and benevolence, as from time to time may be deemed necessary.

In reply to a question by Mr. Miner, Lord Lichfield said that he put his opposition to the Report upon no other ground than that he considered the present system of collecting funds a failure. He feared that support would be withdrawn from the Society if some great improvement were not made in the present system of collection. The funds obtained were, he contended, insufficient for the maintenance of an adequate and

competent paid staff in every district of London. Such machinery was, he considered, the first object of the Society.

Mr. Wightman-Wood could not admit that there had been any failure, though there was, of course, room for improvement both in the mode of collecting funds and in the work of the District Committees. He could not agree with the recommendation of the Sub-committee or with Lord Lichfield's amendment, and, believing that the Committees should be even less fettered than at present, he would, if he had the opportunity, move the following amendment:—

That the Council collect funds from all sources, throughout the metropolis and the country generally, in such mode as it may deem most expedient; provided only that the Council shall not make a house-to-house collection in any district of the Society except by arrangement with the District Committee.

After some further discussion, Lord Lichfield's resolution was put and lost by 24 votes against 13.

General Cavenagh's amendment, having been seconded by Mr. Dundas, was, after a short discussion, put and lost by 17 votes against 6.

Mr. Wightman-Wood's amendment, having been seconded by Mr. Du Pré Thornton,

Lord Lichfield must repeat that he thought that the whole of the collection should be in the hands of the Council. They should not merely have the power of issuing appeals to certain bodies or individuals, but that of collecting funds on behalf of the whole Society, where and in what way it might seem best. Thoroughly efficient paid staffs could then be appointed, and he felt sure that they would then find that local workers would rally round the centres thus created.

Sir C. Trevelyan, the Rev. R. J. Simpson, and Mr. Edgcombe considered that the progress the Society had made since its establishment was very remarkable and encouraging. Sir Charles pointed out that it was not money alone that was wanted, but voluntary workers who should direct the paid staff. This superintendence could, he affirmed, never be carried out from one centre.

After a few words from others, and from Mr. Wightman-Wood in reply, his amendment was put and lost.

The adjournment of the debate until Monday, June the 12th, was then moved by the Rev. R. J. Simpson, seconded by the Rev. J. D. McGachen, and carried.

The following business stands for Monday, June 12:—

I. The adjourned discussion on the first Recommendation of the Report of the Sub-committee of Council on the Collection of Funds:—

(1) That the Council should collect funds, in accordance with the recommendations of the Report of the Appeal Committee, adopted by Council March 17th, 1873, and that the necessary steps be forthwith taken by Council to effectually carry out the recommendations contained in the said Report.

II. The consideration of the remaining recommendations of the Report:—

(2) That each District Committee should collect funds within its own district, but that the collection should be made not merely for its own work, but also on behalf of the whole Society.

(3) That in districts in which there is reason to believe that much larger sums might be collected, the Local Committee shall be invited to accept assistance in collection from the Council.

(4) That each Committee should set forth prominently in its Annual Report, and in all appeals to the public, the work of the whole Society, with a summary of the results effected by it throughout the Metropolis, and that the Administrative Committee be instructed to draft a short and comprehensive statement of the work of the Council, and of the Society generally, up to the 30th of September in each year, for the use of District Committees in the preparation of their reports, or for insertion in the reports themselves.

(5) That each Committee, having collected all that it can by a thorough house-to-house collection, should, at the end of each quarter, transfer any balance remaining in its hands, over and above the sum required for its own use, either to the General Fund or the District Committee Aid Fund of the Society.

(6) That within a month after the 30th September of each year, estimates of the probable expenses of each Committee for the ensuing year, together with the balance-sheet for the past year, be sent to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-committee, in order that they may as soon as possible have the means of framing the estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

The following contributions were received during the week ending May 27, 1876:—*Donations*: Mrs. Rooper, £1; Miss Caroline Singleton, £5; J. Denham Smith, Esq., £10. *Annual*: The Salter's Company, £2. 2s.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of May, 1876, was 34,260, and 45,635 received outdoor relief, making a total of 80,255. This was a decrease of 713 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 7,819, 16,933, and 25,448 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 645. This was an increase of 82 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 242 on the corresponding day of last year.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Fifty-first Annual Report of the Hampshire Friendly Society. 1875.
Annual Report of the Shrewsbury Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity. 1875-6.

Annual Report of the Reading Charity Organisation Society.
Circular to the Subscribers to the Metropolitan Charities for Educating and Employing the Blind. Issued by the Charity Voting Reform Association.

Fourth Annual Report of the New York State Charities Aid Association.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under-servicing	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise inadmissible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospital, &c.			
Kensington	4	4	7	15	1	2	3	4	1	1	22	4	5
Fulham	1	2	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	3	5
Paddington	1	2	5	8	3	1	4	1	1	1	13	23	7
Chelsea	1	3	3	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	5	5
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	1	1	4	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	8	4
Westminster do.	1	1	10	12	6	6	5	1	1	1	7	2	1
Westminster:—													
St. James' & St. Anne's	1	6	7	14	3	1	4	1	1	1	5	4	7
St. Marylebone	1	1	1	3	7	4	11	1	1	1	21	8	12
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	1	3	6	11	1	12	1	1	1	16	2	1
South St. Pancras	3	8	14	25	14	1	15	1	1	1	32	2	6
Islington	2	2	2	6	26	2	26	2	1	1	31	27	4
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	2	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	6	1	3
Strand	1	1	1	3	3	3	5	1	1	1	8	24	1
Holborn	1	3	4	8	14	1	15	1	1	1	20	6	19
City	1	1	1	3	7	7	1	1	1	1	10	2	3
Shoreditch	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1
Bethnal Green	2	1	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	1	5
Whitechapel	1	7	7	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	3	7
St. George's-in-the-East	1	5	5	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	9
Stepney	4	1	5	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	9	3
Mile End Old Town	1	3	4	8	2	2	1	1	1	1	7	3	8
Poplar	1	2	3	6	3	1	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
St. Saviour's	3	1	6	10	2	4	6	1	1	1	19	2	4
Newington	1	4	5	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	3
St. Olave's	2	2	4	8	2	1	3	1	3	1	18	3	1
Lambeth:—													
North	1	10	11	22	1	2	1	4	2	1	20	1	3
South	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
Battersea	1	5	6	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	4	2
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	1	1	1	3	4	4	1	1	1	1	5	1	4
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
Eitham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	2
Totals	32	21	98	151	3	118	26	147	46	18	4	24	92
											396	175	176

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The Special Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics held its sixth meeting on Wednesday last at the Central Office. There were present: The Earl of Lichfield (in the Chair), Lord Wrottesley, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., the Hon. C. H. Strutt, the Rev. H. I. Cummins, Drs. J. Langdon Down, Bell Fletcher, G. W. Grabham, W. S. Cortis, Fletcher Beach, T. A. Wise, R. Boyd, and D. Hack Tuke; Messrs. F. H. Dickinson, W. H. Pole Carew, J. Cropper, F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson, W. Millard, C. A. Miner, and Danby P. Fry; and Mr. Howgrave Graham, Assistant Secretary.

The Committee commenced the consideration of the third section of the Agenda, entitled 'Treatment of Adults,' and, after discussion, passed the following Resolutions:—

1st. 'That the Treatment of Adult Idiots and Imbeciles must depend upon the degree in which the character and faculties have been developed by previous education and training.'

2nd. 'That a small proportion may be permanently improved, so as to take care of themselves, either at their own homes or elsewhere, and to earn their own living;'

3rd. 'That a larger proportion may be improved so as to support themselves under proper safeguards;'

4th. 'But that there is also a large proportion of cases which, having achieved a certain improvement, are unable to get beyond this, and are, indeed, liable to retrograde, and for these suitable Institutions are indispensable.'

5th. 'Not only can Idiots and Imbeciles in Asylums be employed with advantage to themselves, and the Asylums be managed as Industrial Establishments for manufacturing or agricultural industry, but it is essential to the moral and mental wellbeing of the class that such a system should be adopted; and, under good management, it may be made advantageous to the Institutions in a financial sense by diminishing the cost of maintenance.'

MACAULAY AND THE BEGGING-LETTER WRITERS.—It may be inferred from the following extract from Lord Macaulay's Life (vol. 2, pp. 113-14) that he would have welcomed the aid of the Charity Organisation Society (not, of course, at that time in existence) for the purpose of testing doubtful claims upon his bounty: 'To have written, or to pretend to have written, a book, whether good or bad, was the surest and shortest road to Macaulay's pocket. "I sent some money to Miss * *, a middling writer, whom I relieved some time ago. I have been giving too fast of late—forty pounds in four or five days. I must pull in a little." "Mrs. * * * again begging and praying. "This is the last time; an execution; &c., &c." I will send her five pounds more. This will make fifty pounds in a few months to a bad writer whom I never saw." "I have received," he writes to Mr. Longman, "a rather queer letter, purporting to be from the wife of Mr. D—, the author of —, and dated from Greenwich. Now I have once or twice received similar letters, which have afterwards turned out to be forgeries. I sent ten pounds to a sham Mary Howitt, who complained that an unforeseen misfortune had reduced her to poverty; and I can hardly help suspecting that there may be a sham Mrs. D—. If, however, the author of — is really in distress, I would gladly assist him, though I am no admirer of his poetry. Could you learn from his publishers whether he really lives at Greenwich? If he does, I will send him a few pounds. If he does not, I will set the police to work." . . . The Rev. Frederick Arnold tells the story of a German gentleman, the husband of a lady honourably connected with literature, who had fallen from affluence to unexpected poverty. He applied to Macaulay for assistance, and, instead of the guinea for which he had ventured to hope, he was instantly presented with thirty pounds. During the last year of my uncle's life, I called at Holly Lodge to bid him good-bye before my return to the University. He told me that a person had presented himself that very morning, under the name of a Cambridge Fellow of some mark, but no great mark, in the learned world. This gentleman (for such he appeared to be) stated himself to be in distress, and asked for pecuniary aid. Macaulay, then and there, gave him a hundred pounds. The visitor had no sooner left the room than my uncle began to reflect that he had never set eyes on him before. He accordingly desired me, as soon as I got back to Cambridge, to make, with all possible delicacy, such inquiries as might satisfy him that, when wishing to relieve the necessities of a brother scholar, he had not rewarded the audacity of a professional impostor.' *

* 'Sept. 14, 1859.—A Dr. * * * called, and introduced himself as a needy man of letters. I was going to give him a sovereign, and send him away, when I discovered that he was the philologist, whom I should never have expected to see in such a plight. I felt for him, and gave him a hundred pounds. A hard pull on me, I must say. However, I have been prosperous beyond the common lot of men, and may well assist those who have been out of luck.'

A LADY STATE COMMISSIONER.—The United States Senate has confirmed the appointment of the first woman who has ever received a State office. This lady's name is Josephine Shaw Lowell. She was nominated by the Governor for the office of State Commissioner of Charities, in room of Commissioner Marshall. Mrs. Lowell belongs to a distinguished New England family. Her husband—a nephew of the poet Lowell—and her only brother were killed in the late war.—*Labour News*, May 27, 1876.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES of the Charity Organisation Society, and their Offices.

KENSINGTON—39 Holland Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—7 Brook Green Terrace, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—20 Westbourne Park Terrace, Harrow Road, W.
CHELSEA—5A Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Barnsbury, N.
HACKNEY—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur St., New Oxford St., W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBORN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, Clerkenwell, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
SHOREDITCH—56 St. John's Road, Hoxton, N.
BETHNAL GREEN—297 Bethnal Green Road, E.
WHITECHAPEL UNION—194 Commercial Road, E.
ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST—194 Commercial Road, E.
STEPNEY UNION—598 Commercial Road, E.
MILE-END OLD TOWN—116 Mile End Road, E.
POPLAR UNION—129 East India Dock Road, E.
ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK—9 St. George's Circus, S.E.
NEWINGTON—230 Walworth Road, S.E.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, SOUTHWARK—172 Tooley Street, S.E.
LAMBETH—Archbishop Sumner's Schools, Kennington Road, S.E.; and 21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
WANDSWORTH and PUTNEY—The Plain, Wandsworth, S.W.
BATTERSEA—175 Battersea High Street, S.W.
CLAPHAM—73 Bromell's Road, Clapham Common, S.W.
CAMBERWELL—1 Grove Lane, S.E.; and Meeting-house Lane, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWICH—14 Haddington Terrace, King Street, S.E.
DEPTFORD—Mission Hall, King Street, Broadway, S.E.
WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDENHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.
CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards the expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the poor District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' of the Council.

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R EPORT ON THE TRAINING OF THE BLIND.
By a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society; with Appendix.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 181.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 14, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicancy.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); J. Whitcombe, Esq., F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington; Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Dr. Daniel, Capt. Boyce, W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Lord W. Compton, Hon. R. Moreton, R. Dundas, Esq., F. Cavendish, Esq., W. Westby Moore, Esq., Major Fitz-Roy, St. George's; W. Bevan, Esq., W. Bousfield, Esq., H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's); the Earl of Lichfield, Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marglebone; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallet, Hampstead; Lady Wilson, Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; Thos. B. Spencer, Esq., Islington; W. F. Lawrence, Esq., Hamilton Hoare, Esq., Hon. E. F. Kenyon, St. Giles's; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Sir Richard Wilbraham, Capt. Fortescue, Holborn; Rev. H. I. Cummins, City; H. A. Herbert, Esq., Rev. H. G. Henderson, Rev. H. P. Kelly, Shoreditch; Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bathnal Green; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Whitechapel; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major D. Nares, Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mile End; Ralph Ellis, Esq., Poplar; A. D. Graham, Esq., F. D. Mortimer, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Sav'our's; F. De Pré Thornton, Esq., Newington; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; S. Etches, Esq., Clapham; J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersea; Thos. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; A. Annesley, Esq., Lewisham; Capt. Gardner, Eltham; H. Reid, Esq., A. R. Hutchins, Esq., C. A. Barry, Esq., Sydenham; F. D. Mocatta, Esq., W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-Presidents; A. H. Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association; Sir Chas. Trevelyan, Stephen Fuller, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., W. W. Wood, Esq., Additional Members; C. S. Loch, Esq., H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., Secretaries. Total, 63. F. Cukland, Esq., Morton Latham, Esq., F. Dausen, Esq., Visitors.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the two weeks ending June 3 the receipts had been £112. 3s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £312. 16s. 4d. and £3. 14s. 1d. respectively.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON THE COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson resumed the adjourned discussion on Mr. Wightman Wood's amendment—*

That the Council collect funds from all sources, throughout the metropolis and the country generally, in such mode as it may deem most expedient; provided only that the Council shall not make a house-to-house collection in any district of the Society except by arrangement with the District Committee.

He said that the Report of the Sub-committee was essentially a conservative one, and did not propose much alteration of the lines upon which the Society had been laid down. At the same time, he would remind the Council it was clearly the result of a very careful consideration of the whole subject; and, at any rate, it indicated certain definite modes of action.

Mr. Miner assured the Council that the Sub-committee had spared no endeavour to get thorough and reliable information from all sources, and they had communicated with the District Committees to see what plans they had followed in collecting funds. He would remind the Council that the question of the plan upon which funds should be collected had been most fully discussed on a former occasion, when very opposite views had been taken by Lord Lichfield and by Sir C. Trevelyan. The plan of central collection had then been rejected by a large majority, and an intermediate course had been decided upon. But the scheme thus accepted had been but feebly carried out by the Council, and no systematic arrangements had been made. Yet, in spite of the fact that the present system had remained undeveloped, very large sums had come in. He believed that if the recommendations of the Appeal Committee were thoroughly carried out, the Council would obtain ample funds. It was clear that the District Committees must make some concessions. Up to the present time each Committee had collected funds on its own plan, and in some cases, he felt sure, the subject had not received from the Committees the attention it deserved. Mr. Wood's amendment differed very materially from the recommendation of the Committee, and, if adopted, would, he feared, lead to collision between the Council and the Committees.

Mr. Mocatta, while feeling that the Council were much indebted to the gentlemen who had so carefully drawn up so excellent a Report as that now before them, could not entirely sympathise with the proposals of the Report itself. In his opinion, the collection of funds should still be left in the hands of the Committee, but the money thus collected should be paid into a common fund, and distributed to the Committees according to their individual requirements. At present there were among the Committees disparities of efficiency, disparities of funds, and disparities of numerical strength. His wish would be to see these inequalities removed, and to know that

* By a misinterpretation of the Chairman's notes, it was stated in the last Reporter that Mr. Wightman Wood's amendment was put and lost. The adjournment was carried before the amendment in question had been put.

† See Reporter of May 31, p. 98.

no Committee could be considered to be specially favoured, either as regards money or workers.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins thought that both the recommendation and the amendment were, as far as they went, schemes for collection from the centre. But he pointed out that the recommendation, enforcing, as it did, the realisation of the recommendations of the Appeal Committee, laid down the principle that those persons who were known to have given to other Societies, or even to the Charity Organisation Society itself, were those who were to be specially appealed to. This, he feared, would not lead to new ground being broken. The Report was, he thought, a compromise at the best, and for his own part he must prefer the amendment of Mr. Wood, which, at any rate, left the hands of the Council free.

Mr. Dundas pointed out that the protection apparently afforded to the Committees by the words of the amendment was perfectly illusory, as the most wealthy persons in all parts of London would respond more readily and more freely to an appeal than to the visits of a collector.

Mr. Willis-Bund, while agreeing with the last speaker, pointed out that his objections applied, he thought, with still more force to the recommendation.

Mr. H. N. Hoare would ask Mr. Wood if he would eliminate from his amendment the words 'house-to-house.'

Mr. A. H. Hill also thought that the expression was wanting in definiteness. He would ask Mr. Wood to accept the following addition to his amendment:—

And that all appeals shall indicate distinctly the relations of the District Committees to the Council and the Society generally.

Mr. Hollond must suppose that the house-to-house collection would be carried out by the District Committees, and that all other forms of collection would be conducted by the Council. The suggestions of the amendment were, he thought, vague—those of the recommendation of the Report precise and well-defined. If the amendment were passed, much would, of course, depend upon the way in which the plan it indicated was worked. Still he could not help thinking that in practice it would be surrounded with many practical difficulties. It would be far from easy, if any extensive collection was to be made from the centre, to warn the local collector before he had called upon persons appealed to, and he feared that many collisions must, with the best management, occur.

Major Fitz-Roy said that the question had been most thoroughly discussed by his own Committee. Members were by no means of one opinion at first, but eventually they had unanimously approved of the Report, and their collector was, at the present time, appealing for funds on behalf of the whole Society.

Mr. Wightman Wood, in saying a few words in explanation of his amendment, expressed his regret that he could not adopt Mr. Hoare's suggestion. He approved of Mr. Hill's words, but thought that they had better take the form of a substantive motion.

The amendment was then negatived by 27 votes against 11. The recommendation of the Report, viz.—

That the Council should collect funds, in accordance with the recommendations of the Report of the Appeal Committee, adopted by Council March 17th, 1873, and that the necessary steps be forthwith taken by Council to effectually carry out the recommendations contained in the said Report—

was then put and carried by 24 votes against 12.

Mr. Miner then moved the second recommendation:—

That each District Committee should collect funds within its own district, but that the collection should be made not merely for its own work, but also on behalf of the whole Society.

The recommendation, he pointed out, divided itself into two parts. The first was obvious, and was merely such a limitation of the collecting area of the Committees as had been hitherto agreed to. The second part was, he urged, of the last importance. It was clear that the greatest confusion would ensue if Committees were to collect in each other's districts, and it was therefore incumbent upon the Committees to help one another; and to do this effectually, the richer Committees must realise the obligation they are under to urge upon their public the claims of the whole Society, whose operations, it should be explained, extend over the whole metropolis. It was, he feared, but little understood that the object of the Society was to cut at the roots of pauperism, and to search out its causes. The work of the Council, as distinguished from that of the Committees, was, he thought, scarcely comprehended, and required thorough exposition. The benevolent must, he maintained, be told that some of the charities to which they are now subscribing are fraudulent, while many others which are not fraudulent are of a pauperising character. Large sums were required in order that the Society might secure the services of intelligent and educated men, and the public must learn that workers were required as well as money.

Mr. Hollond, in seconding the adoption of the recommendation, pointed out that a Committee of the Charity Organisation Society was, from its very constitution as part of an organised body, debarred from appealing for funds to all parts, as an ordinary charity (such as a soup-kitchen) could do. The most serious obligation rests therefore upon the richer Committees; they are, in fact, bound to supply funds for the poorer Committees. These are used for purposes of enquiry by the former class, and it was therefore essential to success that all should be equally efficient. The perfection of the machinery of the Society was to the interest of all the Committees.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins moved, but subsequently withdrew, an amendment appointing a Committee to consider the general position of the Society.

Mr. Wightman Wood moved, as an amendment, the insertion in the resolution, after the words 'collect funds,' of the following words: 'in any mode in which it may deem expedient, from persons,' and the addition of the following words:—

And hand over to the District Committee Aid Fund 10 per cent. of the first £500 collected and sums under £500; 30 per cent. of the second £500 collected; and 50 per cent. on all further sums collected.

He felt convinced that many of the Committees did not collect enough money, and that the present system was inadequate, and presented anomalies of so startling a character that some alteration was inevitable. He regretted that the system of collection from a centre had not been adopted from the first, but he felt sure that the richer Committees would not now consent to it, and that the only issue practicable was a compromise.

Mr. Whitcombe gave notice of the following amendment:—

That it be a matter of arrangement between the Council and the Committee of each District whether the collection shall be made by the Council or by the Committee, and generally as to the plan of collection to be adopted there; but the collection, by whichever body made, shall be on behalf of the Society at large.

Mr. Du Pré Thornton would move, if he had the opportunity, that—

When any District Committee shall have made application to Council for a grant in aid of its establishment expenses, and such grant has not been made because of the paucity of funds at the Council's disposition, then it shall be open to that Committee to collect funds as it shall find best, to meet the expenses of its establishment during the year then current.

Dr. Daniel feared that some of the Committees might be indisposed to accept the decision of Council. The collection

of funds, even in districts not extremely poor, was not an easy matter. The Treasurer of his own Committee had paid several visits, but had not been successful in his efforts to increase their funds. He concluded by giving notice of the following amendment:—

That the further consideration of the Report of the Sub-Committee of the Council, on the Collection of Funds, be adjourned until the financial condition of the Society has been fully discussed, when the mode of collecting funds will have to be considered, together with other means of placing the Society on a satisfactory basis.

Mr. Wightman Wood's amendment having been seconded by the Rev. M. S. A. Walrond,

Sir C. Trevelyan said that, in his opinion, the plan proposed by the amendment was a mathematical impossibility. No scale of proportionate contributions could be laid down which would apply fairly and equally to all Committees. The amount to be contributed by each Committee for the support of the poorer Committees must be left, he maintained, to the honour and sense of duty of the Committees themselves.

Lord Lichfield, after dwelling upon the inconvenience of considering each recommendation separately, stated that he was prepared to criticise the Report as a whole, but, taking into consideration the lateness of the hour, he would move the adjournment of the debate.

This was seconded by the Rev. R. J. Simpson and carried.

The following contributions were received during the two weeks ending June 10, 1876:—*Donations*: Anonymous, £5; Miss Frances Blake, £5; Lord Dunsany, £20; G. J. Eyre, Esq., £10; Sir Dudley C. Majoribanks, Bart., M.P., £50; Russell Scott, Esq., £20; Rev. E. Sendall, £2.—*Annual*: G. L. Houstoun, Esq., £1. 1s.; Mrs. Keyser, £1. 1s.

The following business stands for Monday, June 19:—

I. That each District Committee should collect funds, in any mode in which it may deem expedient, from persons within its own district, but that the collection should be made not merely for its own work, but also on behalf of the whole Society, and hand over to the District Committee Aid Fund 10 per cent. of the first £500 collected and sums under £500; 30 per cent. of the second £500 collected; and 50 per cent. on all further sums collected.

II. Amendments by Mr. Whitcombe, Mr. Du Pré Thornton, and Dr. Daniel (*see above*).

III. The consideration of the remaining recommendations of the Report:—

(3) That in districts in which there is reason to believe that much larger sums might be collected, the Local Committee shall be invited to accept assistance in collection from the Council.

(4) That each Committee should set forth prominently in its Annual Report, and in all appeals to the public, the work of the whole Society, with a summary of the results effected by it throughout the metropolis, and that the Administrative Committee be instructed to draft a short and comprehensive statement of the work of the Council, and of the Society generally, up to the 30th of September in each year, for the use of District Committees in the preparation of their reports, or for insertion in the reports themselves.

(5) That each Committee, having collected all that it can by a thorough house-to-house collection, should, at the end of each quarter, transfer any balance remaining in its hands, over and above the sum required for its own use, either to the General Fund or the District Committee Aid Fund of the Society.

(6) That within a month after the 30th September of each year, estimates of the probable expenses of each Committee for the ensuing year, together with the balance-sheet for the past year, be sent to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-committee, in order that they may as soon as possible have the means of framing the estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

IV. Mr. A. H. Hill to move:—

That it is expedient that this Council should offer every facility in its power for the training of suitable persons to act as local Charity Agents under the several District Committees, and with this view opportunities should be afforded for extra clerks, at moderate salaries, to work, by way of apprenticeship, under the Secretaries of the Society at the Central Office.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

At their meeting to-morrow (Thursday) the Administrative Committee will consider the constitution and work of the proposed Sub-Committee on Co-operation with Charities.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE TWO WEEKS ENDING SAT. JUNE 10, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.				
Kensington	8	3	12	23	3	2	5	1	2	7	36	9	13
Fulham	2	2	1	5	1	8	4	2	4	11	5	5	11
Paddington	2	1	5	8	8	1	9	6	2	17	34	19	7
Chelsea	2	6	8	16	1	1	1	3	3	12	22	13	7
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division.	1	1	2	4	4	4	3	1	4	4	13	6	..
Westminster do.	1	11	12	3	7	10	7	5	12	44	9	5	..
Westminster:—													
St. James's & St. Anne's	3	4	7	2	2	4	1	2	1	12	3	9	12
St. Marylebone	4	2	7	13	12	9	21	4	2	42	12	13	1
Hampstead	..	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	1	2	3
North St. Pancras and Highgate	3	3	9	11	11	11	..	..	..	1	21	7	4
South St. Pancras	4	2	19	25	2	18	7	27	1	7	61	2	15
Islington	3	3	9	15	50	2	52	2	..	2	63	30	13
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	2	4	6	10	10	10	1	..	..	1	17	4	5
Strand	1	3	4	8	5	8	2	1	3	12	33	7	1
Holborn	2	2	4	8	19	2	21	1	..	1	26	14	18
City	1	3	4	8	11	13	1	3	1	5	22	26	43
Shoreditch	1	1	8	10	9	2	11	8	4	2	14	35	3
Bethnal Green	1	4	6	11	4	6	3	..	1	4	16	9	3
Whitechapel	1	6	7	14	1	4	5	..	1	2	13	12	14
St. George's-in-the-East	..	2	2	4	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	8	1
Stepney	2	8	10	20	4	3	7	2	2	4	21	20	10
Mile End Old Town ..	3	9	12	24	3	3	3	..	..	..	16	2	12
Poplar	..	4	4	8	1	6	1	8	2	2	14	9	5
St. Saviour's	..	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	6	3	3
Newington	4	5	1	10	2	3	5	..	2	2	17	10	3
St. Olave's	..	6	6	12	3	1	4	..	1	1	11	5	6
Lambeth:—													
North	1	2	3	6	3	3	1	..	1	2	9	1	5
South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	28
Battersea	4	4	..	8	1	1	1	1	1	2	7	4	2
Clapham	1	1	..	2	1	1	2	1	..	3	6	5	4
Camberwell:—													
Grove Lane	5	5	..	10	4	4	1	2	..	3	14	..	3
Peckham	1	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	5	1
Greenwich	1	4	5	10	1	1	1	3	1	5	11	15	24
Deptford	2	1	3	6	2	5	7	2	..	1	13	..	2
Woolwich	1	1	..	2	3	3	6	..	..	..	7	4	3
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	42
Etham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Sydenham	1	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	2	19
Totals	43	82	166	291	10	209	58	277	59	33	17	38	147
											652	313	271

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The Special Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles and Harmless Lunatics held its seventh and eighth meetings on Wednesday, 31st May, and on Wednesday, the 7th June, respectively, at the Central Office. There were present at the seventh meeting: The Earl of Devon (in the Chair), the Earl of Lichfield, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., the Hon. C. H. Strutt, the Rev. H. I. Cummins, Drs. W. Brewer, J. Langdon Down, Bell Fletcher, D. Hack Tuke, and R. Boyd; Messrs. F. H. Dickinson, W. H. Pole Carew, F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson, W. Millard, and Danby P. Fry; and Mr. Howgrave Graham, Assistant Secretary.

Dr. Langdon Down presented copies of a paper on 'The Education and Training of the Feeble in Mind,' read by him at the Social Science Congress of 1867, and reprinted for the use of the Committee.

Mr. Millard communicated a condensed statement of the arrangements for the education and care of Idiots and Imbeciles in the United States, and a letter to him on the same subject, from Dr. Wilbur, Superintendent of the New York Asylum.

The Committee then discussed, at considerable length, the fourth head of the third section of the Agenda, viz., 'The best mode of treating adults who are only susceptible of supervision, shelter, and kind care;' and, instead of recording a separate opinion on this point, it was determined to amend the fourth resolution, passed at the preceding meeting, which will now stand as follows:—

'4th. But that there is also a large proportion of cases which, having achieved a certain improvement, are unable to get beyond this, and are, indeed, liable to retrograde, and for these Institutions, or Departments, where suitable classification may be carried out are indispensable.'

At the eighth meeting were present: W. H. Pole Carew, Esq. (in the Chair), Lord Wrottesley, Sir Alexander Acland Hood, Bart., Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, the Hon. C. H. Strutt, the Rev. H. I. Cummins, Drs. W. Brewer, J. Lang-

don Down, Bell Fletcher, D. Hack Tuke, W. W. Ireland, G. W. Grabham, Fletcher Beach, and R. Boyd; Messrs. F. H. Dickinson, F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson, W. Millard, and Danby P. Fry; and Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary.

It having been resolved at a previous meeting to reserve the consideration of the third section of the Agenda ('Treatment of Adults'), so far as it bore upon the case of *Harmless Lunatics*, the Committee discussed this part of the subject at considerable length, and Sir Charles Trevelyan moved the following resolution:—

'That, as a general rule, improved, but uncured, Adult Idiots, Harmless Lunatics, and Epileptic and other Hospital cases, should be provided for in accordance with the preceding resolution (see the Proceedings of the 31st May), in separate Institutions, or Departments of Institutions, where suitable classification may be carried out.'

To which the Hon. C. H. Strutt moved the following amendment:—

'That those Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics who, after training and education, are neither capable of further improvement nor of useful employment, and whose presence may be injurious to those under training, should be maintained in separate Institutions, or Departments of Institutions.'

This amendment having been put and lost by nine votes to eight, the original resolution was declared to be carried.

RETURNS FOR MAY.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of Cases for the five weeks ending Saturday, May 27, 1876, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under-surveying	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total			
Kensington	12	17	20	49	1	10	5	16	12	2	20	..	34	99	34	37
Fulham	1	6	1	8	..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	8	20	11	21
Paddington	7	4	12	23	..	14	3	17	20	5	13	5	43	83	48	21
Chelsea	..	1	7	8	..	..	3	3	9	3	1	5	18	34	32	14
St. George's Division	6	2	9	17	1	3	1	5	..	..	..	..	6	107	37	22
Westminster do.	6	6	23	41	..	12	2	20	15	2	..	1	18	107	25	9
Westminster:—																
St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho	2	3	3	8	..	12	1	13	1	..	..	..	1	22	11	2
St. Marylebone	6	2	27	35	1	34	13	48	10	3	3	7	23	106	34	44
Hampstead	2	..	1	3	1	5	..	6	3	1	..	1	5	14	10	10
North St. Pancras	13	3	2	20	..	35	2	37	..	..	..	..	1	58	19	11
South St. Pancras	11	13	34	58	..	73	14	87	2	2	..	5	9	154	11	26
Islington	6	1	7	14	..	94	1	95	4	1	..	..	5	114	75	25
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	..	3	5	8	..	18	..	18	4	3	..	..	7	33	5	1
Strand	..	3	3	6	..	7	4	11	7	1	..	1	9	23	66	13
Holborn	5	..	12	17	..	57	2	59	2	2	..	..	4	60	25	51
City	..	2	1	3	..	31	..	31	9	6	..	..	15	49	16	130
Shoreditch	..	2	2	4	..	8	..	8	3	4	..	..	11	22	7	3
Bethnal Green	2	4	16	22	..	3	1	4	10	1	..	4	15	41	16	11
Whitechapel	2	3	16	21	..	6	8	14	1	1	..	1	5	40	18	26
St. George's-in-the-East	4	1	11	16	2	9	6	17	..	2	..	5	7	40	10	30
Stepney	1	1	6	8	1	8	4	13	..	2	..	..	4	28	35	21
Mill-end Old Town	4	1	15	20	1	7	3	11	..	..	..	1	1	32	7	21
Poplar	1	3	8	12	..	12	3	15	6	1	..	..	7	34	11	21
St. Saviour	5	2	13	20	..	8	7	15	2	4	..	5	11	46	2	15
Newington	4	1	16	21	..	5	2	7	6	..	1	3	10	28	24	1
St. Olave's	5	1	8	14	..	12	2	14	3	4	..	5	12	40	10	15
Lambeth:—																
North	3	1	14	18	3	8	3	14	8	..	..	..	8	50	6	2
South	..	2	3	5	1	1	..	2	..	2	..	1	3	5	2	8
Wandsworth and Putney	..	2	1	3	..	..	5	5	2	..	..	1	3	11	7	27
Battersea	4	3	6	13	..	..	..	..	11	4	..	1	16	29	6	18
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	2	1	..	1	4	7	4	52
Camberwell:—																
Grove Lane	..	1	1	2	..	11	1	12	3	1	1	1	6	20	2	8
Peckham	..	3	2	5	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	..	1	6	1	7
Greenwich	5	1	4	10	1	2	..	3	5	8	..	4	17	30	14	6
Deptford	1	4	1	6	..	5	3	8	5	2	..	..	7	21	3	15
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	7	12	4	4	22
Levensham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	9	14	17	19	..
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	61
Sydenham	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	1	5
Totals	134	96	318	548	16	522	104	642	180	74	45	87	388	1,576	657	739

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of May, 1876, was 34,507, and 45,309 received outdoor relief, making a total of 79,816. This was a decrease of 234 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 6,734, 16,255, and 21,299 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 688. This was an increase of 13 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 218 on the corresponding day of last year.

MEETING OF CLERGY AND DISTRICT VISITORS.—On May 4, at the town-house of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Miss Octavia Hill read, to a meeting of District Visitors and Clergy, a paper on the subject of making district-visiting more useful in raising the temporal condition of the poor. She urged that from each District Visiting Society a lady should be selected to act as secretary, whose duty should be specially to study how to improve the temporal condition of the poor, and who would quickly become a centre of information to her colleagues. Miss Hill advised that such secretaries should attend the meetings of the Charity Organisation Committees, where they would learn much, and render valuable assistance. She also offered to communicate with any such secretaries, to pass on to them any information which reached her, and which she thought likely to be of use to them, and to arrange meetings with them to discuss difficult questions. Her paper will be published in the July number of *Good Words*.

ALLEGED DEATH FROM STARVATION.—In the *Times* of May 12 a paragraph appeared headed 'Starved,' and giving an account of an inquest upon Charles Proctor, 57, a cabinetmaker, who, it was stated, occupied a first-floor back at 42 Totty Street, Bethnal Green. The landlord having seen nothing of him for four days, became alarmed, and on entering his room found him partially insensible. An order was obtained for his removal to the workhouse, where he died on the 6th May, according to the paragraph, 'from starvation.' Inquiries into the circumstances of the case were made by the Bethnal Green District Committee, and it appeared that the deceased (whose name was Prescott) was of dissipated habits, and that his death was not attributable to want. He was in receipt of 5s. 6d. a week as his share of the rent of five houses belonging to him and to other members of his family. He never did any work, and had, it was stated, done none for nine years. It appeared also that as soon as he received his small income he would spend so much of it in drink that he had not enough left for food, that he habitually drank to excess, and was very eccentric and dirty in his habits, and that he used to stay in bed for four or five days together. When found partly insensible he had a biscuit and sixpence in his pocket.

PAUPERISM.—The Lady-Day Return issued by the Local Government Board shows that the number of persons then receiving relief from the rates in England and Wales was 700,332, which number shows a decrease of 76,169, or 9.8 per cent., compared with the number at Lady-Day 1875, and of 10.8 per cent. compared with Lady-Day 1874. The improvement thus shown in the present year compared with 1875 extends to every one of the 11 divisions of England, but it was as small as 2.0 per cent. in Yorkshire, and it ranged from 5.6 to 9.1 per cent. in six other divisions. There are only four in which it exceeded the average of 9.8 per cent.—namely, the South Midland and the Eastern divisions, in which it was 10.8 and 10.9 per cent.; the metropolis, 11.4 per cent.; and the Welsh division, as much as 25.9 per cent., owing to the comparison being with a time of trouble in the iron and coal trades. But about 3 per cent. should be added to all the figures, owing to these returns not including vagrants nor paupers in lunatic asylums.—*Times*, June 3, 1876.

WANTED, an AGENT to the Strand Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. Aged about 30. Hours 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Duties.—To make inquiries, write reports, collect subscriptions, and do the office-work of the committee. Security required. Good character indispensable. Salary £75 a year.—Apply by letter only, stating qualifications and antecedents, to Secretary, Strand Committee, 13 Beaufort Buildings, Strand, W.C.

Now Ready. Price 1s.

REPORT ON THE TRAINING OF THE BLIND. By a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society; with Appendix.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 182.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 21, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICE.

Mr. H. Wilding has been elected Hon. Secretary of the Deptford Committee, in the place of Mr. William Kemp, resigned.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The following offer to give employment may be of service to District Committees:—

Two trustworthy washerwomen are wanted to superintend girls and to teach them washing. For terms and further particulars apply to Mr. Albert Way, Wonham Manor, Reigate. Husbands and children not objected to.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); Dr. Anderson, J. Whitcombe, Esq., F. J. S. Eigcombe, Esq., Kensington; C. J. Stevens, Esq., Fulham; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Yard, J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Aspinall, Esq., Dr. Daniel, Capt. Boyce, R.N., Chelsea; Lord W. Compton, R. Dundas, Esq., Major Prendergast, Major Fitz-Roy, St. George's; W. Bevan, Esq., W. Bonsfield, Esq., H. Peto, Esq., Westminster (St. James's and St. Ann's); the Earl of Lichfield, Miss Octavia Hill, W. H. Birley, Esq., St. Marylebone; E. Bond, Esq., C. E. Maurice, Esq., Rev. H. F. Mallett, Hampstead; Lady Wilson, C. J. Tarring, Esq., South St. Pancras; T. B. Spencer, Esq., Islington; Reginald Smith, Esq., Hon. E. F. Kenyon, H. N. Hoare, Esq., St. Giles's; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Rev. Harvey Brookes, Norwood Earle, Esq., City; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; J. G. Mainwaring, Esq., Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; A. G. Crowder, Esq., A. C. Mitchell, Esq., Stepney; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major Nares, Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mile End; R. Ellis, Esq., Poplar; A. D. Graham, Esq., Henry Hoper, Esq., F. D. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's; F. Du Pré Thornton, Esq., Newington; Douglas Brown, Esq., Lambeth; F. Green, Esq., J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersea; S. Etches, Esq., Clapham; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; H. F. Cornish, Esq., Deptford; G. Parker, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., Lewisham; H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham;

W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., F. D. Mocatta, Esq., Vice-Presidents; A. H. Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir Chas. Travelyan, Stephen Fuller, Esq., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., W. W. Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 63. C. S. Loch, Esq., C. J. Ribton-Turner, Esq., H. Howgrave-Graham Esq., Secretaries. Cleland Burns, Esq. (Chairman of Glasgow Charity Organisation Association), Mrs. Howgrave-Graham, Visitors.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending June 10 the receipts had been £21. 1s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £313. 5s. 5d. and £3. 14s. 1d. respectively.

GRANTS.—Grants of £32, £32, £17, £35, £57, and £30 had been made to the Whitechapel, Holborn, Poplar, St. Saviour's, St. Olave's, and Mile End Committees respectively.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON THE COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

Lord Lichfield resumed the adjourned discussion on Mr. Wightman Wood's amendment—

That each District Committee should collect funds, in any mode in which it may deem expedient, from persons within its own district, but that the collection should be made not merely for its own work, but also on behalf of the whole Society, and hand over to the District Committee Aid Fund 10 per cent. of the first £500 collected and sums under £500; 30 per cent. of the second £500 collected; and 50 per cent. on all further sums collected.

Lord Lichfield confessed that he could not see any reason for believing that the system indicated by the amendment was at all likely to meet the requirements of the Poor Committees, and he proceeded to show what inequalities would arise if £12,000 or £18,000 were collected by the six richer Committees and distributed on this plan. On these, and on other grounds, therefore, he would urge the Council to hesitate before adopting the plan indicated by the amendment. A still stronger reason for the rejection of the plan was that it was based upon an idea which he could not but think an erroneous one—namely, that sufficient money for the poorer districts could ever be raised by the richer Committees.

Lord Lichfield then drew attention to the recommendations and suggestions of the Report now before Council. He said that, with one exception, these recommendations and suggestions merely urged upon the Society greater exertions in the same direction as that in which they had hitherto worked. That exception was, however, a most important one, for by it Committees were to be authorised to collect money in the name of the whole Society. The Committees would, no doubt, raise more money in this way; but the adoption of the principle would, he contended, make the present inconsistencies and inequalities still more glaring, for the richer Committees would still be able to expend, in their own districts, as much money as they thought fit to spend there, while the amount would not only be larger, but would have been distinctly obtained from the public on behalf

of the poorer Committees. Again, if the poorer Committees were to be supported by the richer, it amounted to this, that a large majority of the Committees of the Society were to be entirely dependent upon a small minority. In fact, bearing in mind the recommendation that each Committee should send in the estimates of their requirements, the Report laid down the principle that, after the appetites of the richer Committees had, so to speak, been measured, in order that we might know what they might require and what they might be able to spare, the poorer Committees were to be maintained by the crumbs that might fall from the tables of the richer Committees. Then, with reference to the third recommendation, how could it be decided that enough had not been collected in a district, and that the Council must come to the rescue? It was, he thought, very difficult to tell what could be done in this direction; opinions on such a point might very well differ. With regard to the first suggestion of the Report, that the names of persons willing to assist deserving cases should be obtained—this was, he did not hesitate to say, the A B C of Charity Organisation, and was already the first duty of every Committee.

The speaker then said that he thought, in order that the Council might have a thorough grasp of the subject they had under consideration, it would be well for him to rehearse, at some length, not merely the history of the special subject with which they now had to deal, but also the history of the Society itself, and the circumstances under which the movement originated. He pointed out that among those present at a Council meeting in the present day there were many who had joined the Society recently, there were few who had belonged to it since its early days, and there were very few indeed—not, perhaps, more than two or three—in the Council-room to-day who had assisted in the actual foundation of the Society itself. After dwelling upon the circumstances in which the Society had its origin, Lord Lichfield said, in explanation of the existence of the present system of independent collection on the part of the Committees, that he had only consented to such a system as a temporary measure; that there had been great difficulties in starting Committees, and that he had always looked forward to the time when the District Committees would consent not merely to a central collection, but to central control. As early as 1870 it could be seen, from an examination of the records of the Society, that anxiety and dissatisfaction existed, not only with regard to these questions of central collection and central control, but also with regard to that of a powerful executive body at the centre. This, he believed, was more necessary for the efficient working of the Society than any mere scheme of collection. The speaker then alluded to various motions bearing upon these questions which had, at various times from that year to the present one, been brought forward and discussed; and he recapitulated some of the arguments used by himself and others on these occasions. The former were, briefly, that the public, subscribing funds to the Council for the benefit of the whole Society held the Council responsible for the efficiency of the whole Society; whereas the Council, having no controlling power over the District Committees, could not do justice to the responsibility thus imposed upon it. He held in his hand an analysis of the names of those who, in one of these debates, voted against the plan of centralisation; and he drew attention to the large preponderance, among the majority, of the representatives of richer Committees.

The Council had shown their sense of the importance of this subject, not only by the discussion of numerous motions and amendments of the most varied character, but by the appointment of several Committees and Sub-Committees to consider questions bearing upon the position and prospects of

the whole Society. The Reports of the last two of these Committees were now before Council. He said 'the last two of these Committees' advisedly, for he feared that the Report of the Sub-Committee on Visits to Offices,* some of the recommendations of which were still before the Council, had perhaps passed from the recollection of many members. He would also remind the Council that one of the chief recommendations of that Report had been, for the time, set aside, and the Sub-Committee whose Report was now under their more immediate consideration had been specially appointed to consider the question raised by the important recommendation he had referred to. In his opinion the Report of the Visits to Offices Sub-Committee, to which he had alluded was by far the most valuable and most powerful document of the two; and he intended at once to draw the special attention of Council to some of its utterances, and to some of those of the Report of the Sub-Committee on the Collection of Funds, to which the recommendations of the former Sub-Committee had given rise. Taking, in the first instance, the Report of the Sub-Committee on the Collection of Funds, what did that Report say? It stated that, with three exceptions, all the Committees were of opinion that more money might be collected in these districts, and it endorsed and confirmed that opinion. It showed that there was great want of co-operation with, and of support from, the local charitable agencies; it pointed out that to secure a sufficient number of competent officers the Society would require some thousands a year more than it at present obtained, and then it proceeded to recommend what was practically no change in the mode of operation, but merely, as he had already pointed out, an extension and development of the present inadequate system. The Report of the Visits to Offices Sub-Committee embodied a much stronger opinion, expressed, he would venture to say, by a much stronger Committee. This Report drew attention to inequalities in the number and efficiency of the paid staff of the Committees; to inequalities in the representation of the Committees at Council; and to the way in which Committees in the poorer districts, where it was already difficult enough to obtain working members, were hampered by the additional burden of collection.

Lord Lichfield then dwelt further upon the importance of a strong executive body at the centre, upon whom must devolve such additional responsibilities as any form of central collection and control would necessarily entail. He thought that the opposition of members to a system of central control and collection might arise from various causes. Some Committees dreaded interference, and some feared larger expenditure at the centre. To these last he would point out that reduced central expenditure did not, necessarily, imply increased expenditure of Committees. The advantages of central collection, though great, could be briefly expressed. It was simple, intelligible, equitable, and wholly in accordance with the principles upon which the Society was established. It had not yet been tried, so that the possibly small amount of failure that had attended the present system could not be charged against the one advocated. If he were asked what guarantee he would give for the success of the Society under this system, he would point to the success which had attended their efforts in spite of the present system. That success, he maintained, demonstrated, incontrovertibly, the soundness of the principles upon which the Society was based. Lord Lichfield said, in continuation, that his conviction with regard to the faultiness of the present system, and of the danger which the whole Society incurred by adhering to it, was so firm, that if the Report were passed in its present form, he must say, much to his regret, that he saw no course before him but that of re-

* See Reporter for 1875, pp. 33, 41, 137, and 145; and for 1876, pp. 13 and 19.

signing the Chairmanship of the Council. He would still hope to attend the Council meetings, and to give the Council all the assistance in his power, he would even loyally help them to carry out a scheme of the success of which he was utterly hopeless, but he felt that, under those circumstances, he could no longer occupy the position he had hitherto held as their Chairman. In the course of his examination of the subject now under consideration it had, however, occurred to him that, perhaps, some compromise might be accepted, some intermediate course agreed to, and the only basis upon which he had been able to found such a course was this. Let each Committee that chooses to do so invite the Council to collect for them, and let each Committee that prefers to collect for itself continue to raise its own funds; but let the Council collect in all parts of London indifferently, and on the plan which it thinks best. In the hope that such a course might be accepted by Council, he would, therefore, at the proper time, submit the following amendment:—

That each District Committee should collect funds for its own purposes only, within its own district, unless it prefers to have its collection undertaken by the Central Office, and that the Central Office should collect funds throughout the metropolis in any mode in which it may deem expedient for its own purposes, and on behalf of District Committees which do not collect for themselves.

Major Prendergast was aware that the attention of Lord Lichfield had, during the past winter, been drawn to the question of the efficiency of the Committees, and that he had been present at a large number of meetings of the Administrative Committee, and of various very important Sub-Committees, which had reported to Council in due course. But the subject with which they had dealt was not the question of collection, but that of efficiency, and with the latter question the executive body had not yet had time to grapple. In the course of their very lengthy and careful enquiry the Sub-Committee on Collection had come to the conclusion that the Committees would not accept any scheme of centralisation, and it had therefore not been recommended by them.

Mr. Allen Graham feared that the chief defect inherent in Mr. Wood's scheme, as in all those involving the transfer to the Council, for the use of the poorer Committees, of the surplus funds of the richer Committees, was that the natural tendency of the richer Committees must be not to collect more than they themselves require.

Mr. Wightman Wood's amendment was, after some slight discussion, put and lost, three voting in its favour.

Mr. Whitcombe said, with reference to his amendment,—

That it be a matter of arrangement between the Council and the Committee of each District whether the collection shall be made by the Council or by the Committee, and generally as to the plan of collection to be adopted there; but the collection, by whichever body made, shall be on behalf of the Society at large, that it left entire liberty of action to the Committees, while it increased their means of getting funds.

The Rev. H. F. Mallet having seconded the amendment, a few words in opposition were said by Sir C. Trevelyan, Mr. Miner, and Mr. Hollond, and the amendment was put and lost, five voting for it.

Mr. Du Pré Thornton and Dr. Daniel having obtained leave to withdraw the amendments of which they had given notice (*see last Reporter*),

Mr. Allen Graham said he had great pleasure in seconding Lord Lichfield's amendment. He could not feel that the object of the Committee, whose Report was now before them, had been to devise the best possible scheme of collection. It was, he thought, only an attempt to go as far in the direction of advance as the Committee thought the Council could be induced to go. He found, on referring to the Manual, that it was laid down as a principle that each Committee should raise and expend funds in its own district. But he pointed out, at the time when such a principle was affirmed, there could not

have been, as at present, a majority of Committees dependent upon the centre for support; and to carry out that principle the original idea of entire independence must be reverted to. In his opinion the one fatal objection to any system of collection but a central one was, that it imposed upon the already overtaxed energies of the poorer Committees the additional burden and anxiety of collection. He could see why the poorer Committees should look to the Council for support, but not why they should depend for support upon the richer Committees. He had no fear of confusion arising from successive appeals, first from the District Committees, and then from the Council. The collectors would be instructed fully to explain the arrangement, and, for his own part, he believed that the statements of the superior collectors appointed by Council would do much to impress upon the minds of the public the fact that the Society works for the whole of London, not for any particular districts alone. He strongly supported the view that a much stronger executive body was required, and he pointed out, at some length, that had the Committees been in all cases spontaneous growths, they might be left to find their own nourishment. But they were rather, in many districts, delicate exotics raised by the Council, and to the Council they must, for some time to come, look for support. The Committees were, in these parts of London, far in advance of public opinion; it was futile, therefore, to hope that the public would at present efficiently support them. But if the Council expended on these Committees the money it had obtained from the public for the objects of the Society, it was bound to see that the Committees were carrying out those objects with the strictest adherence to principle. Central control was, therefore, he would say with Lord Lichfield, a necessary consequence of central collection.

Mr. Mocatta did not quite agree with Lord Lichfield's amendment; but he must admit that it had always appeared to him that the expenditure of the Society in the rich and in the poor districts was just the reverse of what it ought to be, and that the larger sums, both in machinery and in relief, should be expended in the poorer districts. He would still advocate the plan of paying all sums into one common fund.

Mr. Maurice feared that the plan proposed by the amendment would hinder the advance of the poorer Committees. He thought that many people would give money to their own Committees for transmission to the poorer Committees, when they would refuse it to the Council. He deprecated the notion that districts were either rich or poor; some could not strictly be placed in either category.

Mr. W. Wood expressed his opinion that the present system, though sound in theory, had utterly broken down in practice. The rich Committees, he was sure, had not energy enough to collect sufficient funds for the poor Committees. He approved the principle of Mr. Du Pré Thornton's amendment, but saw that it must lead to confusion. Of Lord Lichfield's amendment, however, he had no such fear; it was simple and consistent. It was, in his opinion, a significant fact that no member of his own (St. George's) Committee, or indeed of any of the richer Committees, had proposed, or even supported, any kind of intermediate course. He was heartily in favour of the amendment, but would ask Lord Lichfield to add to the end of his amendment the words, 'or, having collected, have been unable to raise sufficient funds.'

This addition was accepted by Lord Lichfield; and after a few words from Mr. Willis-Bund and others, the adjournment of the debate (which had already been put and lost twice before) was moved by Mr. Bousfield, and seconded by Lord W. Compton, who said that he felt sure that his Committee would be glad of the opportunity of considering the amendment now before them.

The adjournment was then put and carried.

The following business stands for Monday, June 26 :—

I. The adjourned discussion on Lord Lichfield's amendment to Recommendation No. 2 of the Report of the Sub-Committee on the Collection of Funds—

'That each District Committee should collect funds for its own purposes only, within its own district, unless it prefers to have its collection undertaken by the Central Office, and that the Central Office should collect funds throughout the metropolis in any mode in which it may deem expedient for its own purposes, and on behalf of District Committees which do not collect for themselves, or, having collected, have been unable to raise sufficient funds.'

II. The consideration of the remaining Recommendations (Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6) of the above-mentioned Report (see *Reporter*, June 14, page 103).

III. Mr. A. H. Hill to move :—

'That it is expedient that this Council should offer every facility in its power for the training of suitable persons to act as local Charity Agents under the several District Committees, and with this view opportunities should be afforded for extra clerks, at moderate salaries, to work, by way of apprenticeship, under the Secretaries of the Society at the Central Office.'

IV. Miss Hill to move :—

'That, considering the needs of the poor Committees, and to avoid catastrophe when most persons interested in the subject are out of town, it is desirable that every member of the Council should endeavour to give or collect either £5 or £10 each, or more if possible, before they leave town, quite irrespective of what they may have given or collected before.'

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

At their meeting to-morrow (Thursday) the Administrative Committee will consider a paper of suggestions by Mr. S. Fuller, on the *Reporter*.

The following contributions were received during the week ending June 17, 1876 :—*Donations*: Colonel Bryan Milman, £5; St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee, £250. *Annual*: Sir George Baker, £1. 1s.; H. Peto, Esq., £1. *District Committee Aid Fund*: H. D. Erskine, Esq., £2. 2s.; J. R. Fuiton, Esq., £5; Loan from General Fund, £250.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The Special Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles and Harmless Lunatics held its ninth meeting on Wednesday, June 14, at the Central Office. There were present: The Hon. C. H. Strutt (in the Chair), Sir Alexander Acland Hood, Bart., Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B.; the Revs. H. I. Cummins, R. J. Simpson; Drs. J. Langdon Down, D. Hack Tuke, G. W. Grabham, T. A. Wise, Fletcher Beach, R. Boyd; Messrs. F. H. Dickinson, F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson, W. Millard, Danby P. Fry, W. H. Pole Carew, and Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary.

A report was made of a visit paid on the previous day by ten members of the Committee to the Earlswood Asylum.

A letter, dated the 27th ult., from Dr. Wilbur, Superintendent of the New York Asylum for Idiots, to Sir Charles Trevelyan, approving of the Agenda, and commenting upon the proceedings at the third and fourth meetings, was submitted to the Committee.

The Committee then considered the five first heads of the fourth section of the Agenda, viz., 'Administrative Arrangements,' and passed the following Resolutions :—

1. 'Voluntary charity has directed attention to the claims of this neglected class, and made great progress towards the establishment of a model for general adoption; but it has not proved equal to providing a remedial machinery co-extensive with the evil.'

2. 'Assuming that the returns of the Census of 1871 are within the mark, only about three per cent. of the Idiots and Imbeciles in England and Wales have been suitably provided for by voluntary charity.'

3. 'Adequate provision for all the Idiots and Imbeciles in England and Wales of the poorer classes, whether juvenile or adult, cannot be made without the intervention of the State.'

Under the 6th head letters were read from Mr. Jonathan Pim and Professor Hancock, stating that the provision made in Ireland for Idiots and Imbeciles was simply that they might be confined in Lunatic Asylums as being insane, or in Prisons as criminals, or in Workhouses as paupers, excepting only the Stewart Asylum, established about eight years ago, in which there are at present 43 inmates; but that a report is being prepared by the Charity Organisation Committee of the Dublin Statistical and Social Inquiry Society, under the several heads of the Agenda, so that the Committee may have uniform information for all parts of the United Kingdom as a basis for an uniform law for the helpless classes.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of June, 1876, was 34,079, and 45,114 received outdoor relief, making a total of 79,193. This was a decrease of 623 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 6,650, 16,325, and 23,518 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 576. This was a decrease of 112 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 120 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Class total			
Kensington	3	2	5	1	2	3	3	1	10	14	33	7	3
Fulham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	7	5	2
Paddington	2	5	7	1	1	2	6	1	2	11	20	19	5
Chelsea	1	1	2	1	1	2	4	1	2	7	13	8	2
St. George's :—													
St. George's Division	4	4	8	1	1	2	1	1	2	4	18	4	6
Westminster do.	3	1	4	4	4	8	2	1	1	4	3	3	1
St. James & St. Anne's	1	2	3	4	4	8	2	1	1	4	7	3	7
St. Marylebone	2	1	3	1	7	8	2	1	1	4	13	2	8
Hampstead	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	1	4
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	2	5	5	10	1	1	1	3	4	3	7
South St. Pancras	2	8	10	10	10	20	4	1	2	7	27	2	3
Islington	2	2	4	17	17	21	2	1	2	5	21	13	6
Hackney	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	7	4	5
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	3	3	6	3	3	6	1	1	1	3	7	14	5
Strand	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	7	3	3
Holborn	2	1	3	12	12	15	1	1	1	3	16	3	11
City	1	1	2	7	7	9	1	1	1	3	8	2	16
Shoreditch	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	2	6
Bethnal Green	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	2	3
Whitechapel	1	3	4	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	5	4	7
St. George's-in-the-East	2	1	3	3	3	6	1	1	1	3	11	3	3
Stepney	2	2	4	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	13	3	4
Mile End Old Town	2	2	4	3	3	6	1	1	1	3	7	3	10
Poplar	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	6	8	5	5
St. Saviour's	1	7	8	3	1	4	2	2	4	8	16	3	3
Newington	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	3
St. Olave's	1	3	4	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	9	3
Lambeth :—													
North	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
South	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	6	2	2
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Battersea	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Clapham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Camberwell :—													
Grove Lane	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Peckham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Greenwich	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	5	6	4	13
Deptford	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	2	3
Woolwich	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Lewisham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Eitham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1
Totals	31	16	66	113	104	217	34	18	16	68	316	156	132

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

SIR E. H. CURRIE ON THE 'RECOGNITION' OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—The Secretary of the Christian Blind Relief Society, 'having had the honour of meeting the representatives of all the charities for the Blind under the auspices of the Charity Organisation Society,' Sir Edmund Hay Currie, in addressing a meeting of the Christian Blind Relief Society, held at the Bowd and Bromley Institute, on the 2nd instant, said: 'The Society, as you have heard, has been recognised by the Charity Organisation Society, and I venture to say, that any Society which has received such a recognition is thoroughly deserving of your support.'—*East London Observer*, June 10, 1876.

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REPORT ON THE TRAINING OF THE BLIND.

By a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society; with Appendix.

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THE

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 28, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

EFFECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor: bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities. securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases. granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be expected for, and which are not met by existing sources. repressing mendicity. and, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those desirous to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge that as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and mind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies intended to help them. The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

Wington Committee will, for the present, hold their meetings on Fridays, at 3.

olwich Committee will meet on Thursdays, at 8 P.M. He has been elected a representative of the Com-

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Deputy-General Cavenagh (and subsequently Mr. A. H. Hill) in the Chair. J. Whitcombe, Esq., F. Anderson, Esq., Kensington; C. J. Fulham; Major Yard, J. R. Holland, Esq., Paddington; Capt. Boyce, R.N., Chelsea; Robert Dundas, Esq., W. W. Moore, Esq., St. George's; W. Bousfield, Esq., W. Bevan, Esq., Lord Lichfield, Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marglebone; E. Bond, Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; W. Legg, Esq., North St. Pancras; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; Reginald Smith, Esq., Hon. H. N. Hoare, Esq., W. F. Lawrence, Esq., St. Giles's; Rev. Canon, Strand; Capt. Fortescue, Holborn; Rev. H. I. Cummins, Esq., City; Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; Hon. C. W. Whitechapel; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major Nares, Rev. W. H. Lang-End; A. D. Graham, Esq., F. Montgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's; M. Esq., Newington; Capt. Noyes, St. Olave's; Douglas Brown, Esq., F. Green, Esq., J. H. Ward, Esq., Battersea; S. Fiches, Esq., Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; S. Topley, Esq., Woolwich; G. A. Annesley, Esq., R. V. Tidman, Esq., Lewisham; Capt. Gardner, Esq., H. Reid, Esq., Sydenham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., F. D. L., Vice-Presidents; Alsager Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Rev. M. and, Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association; Sir Chas. A. Miner, Esq., Additional Members; tot: 11, 53. C. S. Loch, ibton-Turner, Esq., H. Howgrave-Graham Esq., Secretaries.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*,* that during the week ending June 17 the receipts had been £263. 16s. 5d. for the General Fund, that the receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund had been £257. 2s., including a loan of £250 from the General Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £322. 1s. and £51. 11s. 7d. respectively.

THE REPORTER.—A paper of suggestions on the *Reporter*, by Mr. S. Fuller, had been considered, and it was resolved that the names of members attending Council meetings be published, and that the Proceedings of Council be reported as hitherto; that 'questions' of interest to District Committees, and details of special prosecutions, be inserted: that the *Reporter* be more freely used as a medium for collecting and diffusing information on subjects in which the Society is interested; that 'letters' be received; that District Committees be again invited to forward 'specimen' cases for insertion; that suitable advertisements be received; that a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider the best mode of carrying out the above changes, and report in a month's time; and that Mr. F. D. Thornton, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Major Nares, Mr. S. Fuller, and Mr. A. H. Hill be appointed members of the Sub-Committee.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON THE COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

With the consent of Mr. Bousfield, Sir C. Trevelyan resumed the adjourned discussion upon Lord Lichfield's amendment:

That each District Committee should collect funds for its own purposes only, within its own district, unless it prefers to have its collection undertaken by the Central Office, and that the Central Office should collect funds throughout the metropolis in any mode which it may deem expedient for its own purposes, and on behalf of District Committees which do not collect for themselves, or, having collected, have been unable to raise sufficient funds. He said that, in bringing forward this amendment, Lord Lichfield had preferred a heavy indictment against the constitution of the Society, and had concluded by proposing a mode of collection entirely subversive of that constitution. He would follow Lord Lichfield's allusion to the early history of the Society, by drawing attention to a few more of the points it would be well to recall in connection with its origin and foundation. In the course of his retrospect Sir Charles pointed out that, according to his view, the Society itself was, in the words of the second rule of the Society, 'a federation of District Committees, advised and harmonised by a representative Council. In the earliest days of the Society it became apparent, he said, that a vast mixed multitude of some four or five millions of inhabitants, constituting rather a province of houses than a city, and imbued with those erro-

* It was agreed that, having in view the importance of the subject of the Collection of Funds, the standing business of the Council should be postponed. The Report of the Administrative Committee was, therefore, not read.

neous views on charitable relief which it was the great aim of the Society to correct, could never be organised and influenced from a single centre. Many other societies to which the speaker referred had attempted to solve this problem, and had failed. It could, he maintained, be done only on the principle of local administration, by bringing the experience, influence, and benevolent zeal of the leading persons of each District to bear, in the most direct and effectual manner, upon their respective Districts. It was also plain that no amount of stipendiary agency which we could employ would suffice; that we must mainly rely upon voluntary agency, and that we should endeavour to train to the work as many volunteers as possible. Stipendiary agents must be employed, to the necessary extent, in a subsidiary and subordinate relation to the District Committees. It was, he contended, upon these principles, namely, local administration, voluntary agency, and professional stipendiary assistance, that the constitution of the Society was based, and upon them it had rested ever since.

In the earlier days of the Society the question of funds did not, said the speaker, press so heavily upon the Council. The Guarantee Fund was then in existence, and it was, he maintained, distinctly understood at that time that the Committees should eventually support the Council. Later came attempts, he said, at centralisation. Lord Lichfield's motion in 1873, that all appeals for support be made from one centre* had been negatived by 21 votes against 11, and a Committee was then appointed 'to consider and report on the most effective and economical arrangements for distributing and collecting funds both by the Council and the District Committees.' This Committee made two reports, the first as to collection by the Council, under certain conditions, from persons who might be presumed to be interested in the general welfare of the metropolis; the second, as to the distribution of the funds to the Committees. The Committee did not enter upon the question of collection by District Committees, it being considered that these were details which Committees were competent to decide for themselves, according to the circumstances of their respective Districts.†

Sir Charles then emphatically denied that the present system had proved a failure as regards the work done. No doubt there had been deficiencies and shortcomings; he was as ready to admit this as the strongest opponent of the existing system would be to assert it, and he and those who thought with him were equally willing to do their best promptly and zealously to remedy them. How, he asked, is it possible that there should not be deficiencies in an organisation the object of which is to direct the charity of tens of thousands, to suppress imposture, and to improve and elevate the condition of the body of the people? If all defects had been overcome, the object would have been accomplished. But the time had not yet come, he would assert, for taking off our armour. We had, in fact, only just buckled it on, for the first seven years of the existence of our Society had barely sufficed for completing its machinery and getting it into working order; and many a hard-fought field was before us, before we could hope to conquer in this strife. So much had lately been said of the defects of the District Committees that he felt it would only be fair if their successes were depicted in colours as powerful as those used for delineating their failures. There had, in fact, been a great preponderance of good, well worth all the labour and expense bestowed upon the Society and the administration had steadily improved and was still improving. The main object of the Society—effectual inquiry,

effectual relief, and effectual exposure of imposture—had been substantially attained, and public confidence in the Society had been continually growing. This was proved, said Sir Charles, by the support and co-operation afforded to the Society by the clergy, the medical profession, Government departments, and even by Parliament itself. The reforms in medical relief that had owed their origin to the Society and had come to pass, not only in London, but even more strikingly in Manchester; the spontaneous, rapid, and successful growth of Charity Organisation Associations in most of the large towns of England, and in Glasgow and Dublin; the special committees of the Society on such subjects as Vagrancy, the dwellings of the poor, the condition of the Blind, and the treatment of Idiots and Imbeciles; the assistance the Society had been enabled, through Mr. Peek's generous gift, to render to those cases of distress brought under their notice by means of the operations of School Boards, and the co-operation of the Society with Boards of Guardians anxious to restrict, and eventually to supplant, by wise, well-regulated charity, the pauperising system of out-door relief—all showed the progress the Society had made and the growing appreciation evinced for its principles by the public at large. But, perhaps, after all, the best work they could point to was, that hundreds of men and women had been induced to take up the work; and, by the efforts of the District Committees and of the Council, trained in skilled voluntary work for the Society.

As regards finances, Sir Charles must repeat his emphatic denial that the existing system had proved a failure. The income of the Society, raised in the proportion of three-fourths by the District Committees to one-fourth by the Council, had been continually on the increase, and in the last three years of which an account could be rendered the District Committees had collected £35,256, while the Council had only collected £10,500, and this although the District Committees had not made any general appeals, while the Council had made appeals to the public through the *Times* and other channels of public opinion. Nor was this matter for surprise. The District Committees were not only 37 to 1, but they had a vast, varied, ready-made, and, for the most part, voluntary and unpaid machinery for making their collections. Their constituency might be said to embrace the whole of London, for residents in every district were intimately acquainted with them, and depended upon them for the various local benefits of the Society; whereas the Council, he feared, was, to the vast majority, merely an abstraction, and was only really understood by the comparatively few who were interested in the whole of London, and enlightened enough to comprehend the advantage of a central direction for the various local Committees of the Society. The speaker deprecated the numerous deliberations that had taken the place of action, and contrasted the activity of the Council in former years with the supineness which had of late, he said, prevented it from endeavouring energetically to raise funds. He contended that, had proper steps been taken, no such financial crisis as that with which they had been threatened (and in which he, for his own part, had never believed in), could have been used as the stalking-horse from behind which a second attempt had been made to substitute a centralised stipendiary system for the existing localised voluntary principle. The occasion of this second attempt was, said the speaker, a single paragraph, carried by a bare majority, in a long Report of a Sub-Committee, the rest of which was directed to other matters. This paragraph was referred to another and, he thought, a stronger Committee, which was instructed to make the point thus incidentally raised the sole subject of their deliberations, and the result was the Report now before the Council. He did not hesitate to say that it was an excellent Report. It was the

* See *Reporter*, February 5, 1873.

† The Third Report of the Appeal Committee (see *Reporter*, July 16, and October 22, 1873) dealt with this question.—Ed.

comprehensive statement that had ever been made of the situation of the Society in all that concerns finance, and it raised some additional suggestions for its successful work.

The speaker could not admit that the recommendations of the Report indicated nothing more than the continuance of the present system. Their intention was to give full practical effect to the financial system of the Society, both as regards the District Committees and the Council, and this adoption of the present theoretical plan would be the best change of all.

He could not, he regretted to say, look upon Lord Lichfield's amendment as a compromise. He must denounce it as the most stringent and subversive expression of the centralisation principle which had yet been enunciated, and, if passed, would suddenly and effectually revolutionise the Society. It would produce a reversal of the present mode of action in which the poorer Committees were urged to make themselves self-supporting, and the richer Committees exhorted to contribute funds for the Society at large. He must deprecate the notion of Lord Lichfield to the 'crumbs' that the richer Committees had scattered to the poorer. The former had, he was sure, loyally striven to raise money for the general uses of the Society, and more trust and confidence ought to be reposed in their zeal and loyalty than the words of Lord Lichfield had appeared to credit them with. Sir Charles quoted passages from appeals issued by the St. George's (over Square) Committee in 1872 and 1876, signed by the Duke of Westminster, as chairman of the Committee, asking for contributions in the name of the whole Society, for the benefit of the Council and of the poorer Committees. The result of the first letter, he reminded members, was the sum of £1,100 by the St. George's Committee to the Council, and with regard to the second, a first instalment of £500 had been already paid, the collection being still in progress. At this point, Sir Charles said, he agreed with Lord Lichfield. There was no possible compromise—no *via media*—no golden mean between the principle of local administration based on voluntary agency, and the principle of centralised administration based upon highly-paid stipendiary agency. We must either have responsible District Committees working through subordinate paid agents, or Lord Lichfield's 'strong Executive' at the centre, upon whom must devolve such additional responsibilities as any form of central collection and control necessarily entail. This would involve, he feared, an increase of staff at the centre. Several secretaries and clerks would, he had been informed, be required, and all work must be directed from the centre. He must deprecate these periodical attempts at altering the constitution of the Society; they imperilled its existence, and to take away from the richer Committees the power of collecting funds on behalf of the whole Society would, he feared, be killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. Experience was entirely in favour of the existing system. It had been a success, and the very prospect of becoming a still greater success as the Society was brought into full work. Of the opposite system, Lord Lichfield said, we had had no experience in our own country; while in other Metropolitan Societies, where it had been tried, it had been an entire failure. It would therefore be pure speculation, with every presumption against it.

A. H. Hill said that the main question certainly was whether the present system was a failure or a success. He was not, judging from his own experience of the District Committees, pronouncing it the latter. The documents issued from the Committees showed that there was no uniformity of action or general recognition of principles. As far as he could see, the work of the poorer Committees was more satisfactory than that of the richer, and he thought that the Council could justifiably point to their success in the poor districts of

the South and East of London, than to the work of the Committees in the wealthy districts of the West End. The more nearly did the Committees of the Society, in all parts of London, approach perfection in their work, the more thoroughly, he was sure, were the true interests of the poor advanced. He was strongly in favour of Lord Lichfield's amendment, and could not for a moment fear that its adoption could in any way imperil the Society.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen said that in that respect he could not agree with the last speaker. There was, he believed, already much dread among the Committees of interference on the part of the Council, and some impatience at any attempt at central control. The Sub-Committee whose Report was before Council had derived information from every possible source, and, as Major Prendergast had said, they could not, with that information before them, recommend any nearer approach to centralisation. Were a scheme of centralisation carried out, it would, he feared, be a fatal day for the Society. He did not forget that Lord Lichfield's amendment made no allusion to central control, but reading his amendment by the light of his speech, that, he felt sure, must be its intent.

The Rev. W. H. Langhorne said that although, like the last speaker, he represented a Committee in one of the very poorest districts in London, he must entirely differ from his conclusions. He could not possibly share these very gloomy views he took, and he had no fear whatever with regard to the effect which centralisation of funds might have on the poorer Committees. He could not, he feared, compare the Society in its present state to any of the higher living organisms: the head was there and the limbs were there; but some limbs were powerful, and others weak, while the head itself, he felt sure, might with advantage be strengthened. Nor could the Society, he thought, be properly called a 'Confederation,' for most of the Committees were, he took it, children of the Council, while some, he had heard from Sir Charles Trevelyan, were its parents. If the Council were not a governing body, he failed to see its exact relation to the Society. He thought the amendment was a step in the right direction, namely, in that of organisation, and he pointed out that its tendency would be to remove a somewhat invidious difference that now existed between the dependent and the independent Committees, for the latter, before they could receive subsidies from the Council, must submit to some examination with regard to their modes of working, while to the former perfectly free action was left. The Society would assume, he ventured to affirm, a much more symmetrical form if, following the plan of all other great societies, it adopted the simple principle of collection to, and distribution from, a centre.

Mr. E. Bond asked Lord Lichfield whether it was the intention of his amendment, if carried, that the District Committees should be confined to collecting for their own purposes only, and should be precluded from handing over to the Council any balance not required for their own support?

Lord Lichfield replied that he could not, at present, see his way to altering his amendment, and that he certainly intended to confine the collection of the Committees to their own purposes, and that they should not collect in the name of, and on behalf of the Society. But, he explained, if a Committee, in the course of a collection conducted on this principle, obtained more money than it required for its own purposes, it would, he conceived, be still within the power of that Committee in the exercise of its own discretion voluntarily to hand over to the Council such surplus as it thought fit to transfer in that manner.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins thought that the question before them, namely, that of the collection of funds, had been unne-

cessarily involved by too much attention being given to that of central control, which was not, he would point out, under the consideration of Council. Lord Lichfield's object, which he heartily supported, was clearly that the Council should no longer be dependent upon contributions from the richer Committees. That these Committees were very few in number was clear from a fact to which he would draw the attention of Council, namely, that only three Committees of the Society had, during the financial year 1873-4, raised more than £1,000. And he would point out further that in 1874 only £565 had been contributed by these Committees to the funds of the Council. The speaker dwelt upon the difficulty in obtaining, in districts where there were large non-resident employers, adequate contributions to the funds of the Committees, and argued from that and from other circumstances that contributions from such sources could be better obtained by the Council. A confederation of workers was, he said what was wanted for the perfection of the scheme of the Society—bands of earnest men and women who would go and work in those districts where both money and workers were scarce. But to secure these, the Society must be prepared to supply them with adequate funds, and to obtain these funds they must, he thought, look to the centre.

Major FitzRoy said that he felt sure that he should be taking the Council with him when he said that all were agreed that greater efficiency must be attained by the District Committees. This must of necessity imply an increased expenditure; for, he maintained, however much voluntary assistance might be secured, more paid agency was absolutely essential. It was for this reason that the Sub-Committee on Visits to District Offices, of which he had been chairman, had recommended the collection of funds from the centre. That Sub-Committee had gone very fully into the matter, and had arrived at their conclusions after mature consideration. But it was not, they conceived, within their function to say how such central collection was to be carried out. That question they left for later consideration, and it was now before Council in the form of the recommendations of the Report of the Sub-Committee on Collections. A common purse and a common distribution were, in theory, simple enough, but on a closer examination many difficulties presented themselves. Why not then, he asked, continue to employ the Committees as collecting agencies? He had, at first, hoped that his own (St. George's) Committee would have been able to adopt Lord Lichfield's amendment, but he feared that it would paralyse their efforts. They would no longer be able to use the powerful lever afforded them by the statement that the funds collected by them were applicable to the Society at large, not merely to the purposes of their own Committee; and the adoption of the amendment would, moreover, he pointed out, leave the Council without any definite practical scheme before them, so that they would be obliged to retrace their steps and re-consider the whole subject.

Mr. Bousfield feared that if larger funds were transmitted to the poorer Committees these would become large almsgiving centres. In rich districts, he pointed out, there were already numerous almsgivers of all kinds, and their operations invited organisation. But in the poorer districts such dispensers of charity were, with the exception of the clergy, scarcely to be found, and therefore he was not by any means convinced that in those localities Committees were at all necessary.

Mr. Holland said, with reference to Mr. Bond's question, that if the amendment were passed he thought the Council must be bound by its words rather than by some interpretation that might be attached to them. House to house collection by emissaries of the Council must, he thought, prove a failure, and would, he feared, entail disastrous results.

Major Prendergast would admit that a great error had no doubt been made in the first instance, when the principle of local was preferred to that of central collection. But the Council must now look their difficulties boldly in the face, and above all he would warn them against adopting a scheme so disastrous to the Society, so subversive of its constitution, as was the amendment now before them.

Lord Lichfield said, in explanation of his amendment, and in reply to a question from the Rev. R. J. Simpson, that he could scarcely consent to withdraw the word 'only' from the second line of his amendment. He begged the Council once more to understand that he considered his amendment a compromise, and that the responsibility of rejecting it must rest with themselves. He urged that he used the word 'compromise' because, while perfect liberty was left to the richer Committees to collect as much as they could for their own purposes, no attempt was made to diminish in any way the expenditure which might, even then, be excessive, as he maintained it was at present. He had introduced the word 'only' because he wished to avoid a double collection on behalf of the whole Society.

Mr. Miner, replying to the objections made to the second recommendation of the Sub-Committee, reminded the Council that the appointment of the Sub-Committee on Collection, its Report, now before them, and the discussions to which they had been listening, all had their origin in a single paragraph of the Report of the Visits to Offices Sub-Committee. Before the Collection Sub-Committee was appointed the views of the Committees had been ascertained, and the results had, together with a mass of other information, been most carefully considered by the Sub-Committee. He feared that upon the adoption of the amendment, or of any similar scheme, there would be great loss of vitality and vigour in the poorer Committees, and that they would degenerate into mere machines: for a healthy body strong limbs were, he thought, as necessary as a strong head. The speaker said, with reference to the charge that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee would make no change in the present scheme, that no scheme was in actual operation. No distinct appeal for funds had, since May 1874, been made by the Council. To quote Lord Lichfield's speech, he would say that the 'exception' he had alluded to was, indeed, a most important one, and, in his Lordship's own words, he would say that 'if the recommendation is adopted, that the Committees collect in future not merely for their own purposes, but also on behalf of the whole Society, the Council will put in the hands of the Committees an engine of enormous power for raising funds.' It was a great object, he thought, that money should be obtained from every stratum of society, that dribblets should be caught as well as streams impounded; and such work, he maintained, could only be carried out by the Committees themselves. Two large and experienced Sub-committees had recommended certain plans to Council, and if they adopted these recommendations, and earnestly and actively carried them out, could they doubt that they would be successful?

After some further discussion, Lord Lichfield and his seconder expressed their willingness to withdraw the word 'only' from the second line of the amendment, if the Council chose to express, by a vote, their wishes to that effect; but the Chairman ruled that, under the thirteenth Bye-law, the word could not be withdrawn.

On a show of hands being taken the amendment was lost by 22 votes against 19.

Lord Lichfield then moved, and it was carried, that the names of those who voted should be taken down. He said that his reason for wishing this was, that in introducing his amendment he had made reference to a division which had, in 1872, taken place on the same question, and he pointed out

that the result had shown that the population of the districts represented by the minority was double that of the districts represented by the majority. It was also agreed, on the motion of the Rev. H. I. Cummins, that a division should be taken. This was done, with the same numerical result as to votes; and the recommendation being put as an original motion, was carried by 22 votes against 12.

The Council then adjourned.

The following business stands for Monday, July 3:—

I. The consideration of the remaining Recommendations (Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6) of the above-mentioned Report (see *Reporter*, June 14, page 103).

II. Mr. A. H. Hill to move:—

'That it is expedient that this Council should offer every facility in its power for the training of suitable persons to act as local Charity Agents under the several District Committees, and with this view opportunities should be afforded for extra clerks, at moderate salaries, to work, by way of apprenticeship, under the Secretaries of the Society at the Central Office.'

III. Miss Hill to move:—

'That, considering the needs of the poor Committees, and to avoid catastrophe when most persons interested in the subject are out of town, it is desirable that every member of the Council should endeavour to give or collect either £5 or £10 each, or more if possible, before they leave town, quite irrespective of what they may have given or collected before.'

The following contributions were received during the week ending June 24, 1876:—*Donation*: E. W. Holland, Esq., £5. *Annual*: Hon. Mrs. Malcolm, £1; Sir W. C. Trevelyan, £1. 10s. *District Committee Aid Fund*: Marylebone Committee, £25.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END-ING SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise inadmissible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Letters for Hospital &c				
Kensington	4	4	5	13	1	3	4	8	7	28	11	2	8
Fulham	1	3	..	4	..	1	1	..	1	6	5	1	..
Paddington	2	1	1	4	..	5	2	7	..	20	14	2	..
Chelsea	2	..	3	5	1	1	..	2	2	13	7	1	1
St. George's:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. George's Division	..	3	3	..	1	..	1	4	1	5	9	5	1
Westminster do.	..	5	5	1	4	5	1	..	1	21	3	1	..
Westminster:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. James & St. Anne's	2	1	..	3	1	1	..	2	..	5	..	7	2
St. Marylebone	1	4	5	10	..	10	2	12	3	30	5	7	..
Hampstead	1	..	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	10	..	2	7
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	..	2	..	5	..	5	1	8	2	3	..
South St. Pancras	2	1	5	8	16	3	19	..	3	30	..	7	..
Islington	2	1	..	1	21	..	21	..	..	22	15	9	..
* Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	1	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	1	3	..	6	..
Strand	1	4	5	4	..	4	..	4	..	9	8	6	..
Holborn	2	2	..	10	1	11	1	..	1	14	6	10	1
* City	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoreditch	..	1	1	2	..	2	2	2	4	7	2	6	..
Bethnal Green	3	3	6	..	..	..	1	..	1	7	..	2	..
Whitechapel	..	3	3	..	1	1	2	..	1	6	6	1	..
St. George's-in-the-East	1	2	3	3	3	2	5	..	2	10	..	10	..
Stepney	1	1	3	5	..	1	1	..	..	6	6	5	..
Mill End Old Town	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	2	2
Poplar	1	1	1	3	1	..	1	1	1	3	5	2	4
St. Saviour's	..	4	4	..	2	2	2	..	1	3	5	4	..
Newington	3	1	4	1	..	1	..	..	..	3	4	5	..
St. Olave's	10	10	..	2	..	2	..	2	2	14	4	2	1
Lambeth:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North	1	2	2	5	..	..	1	..	1	11	2	4	..
South	..	..	1	1	1	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	7	..
Battersea	..	1	1	..	..	..	3	..	3	4	1	..	2
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
Camberwell:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grove Lane	2	2	..	3	2	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Greenwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	10
Deptford	1	1	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	3	1	1	4
Woolwich	..	3	3	..	..	..	1	2	1	4	7	1	10
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	4	..	10
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Totals	20	30	77	127	7	96	24	127	40	12	623	81	335
	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122

* No returns received from these Committees at time of going to press.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The Special Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles and Harmless Lunatics held its tenth meeting on Wednesday, June 21, at the Central Offices. There were present: Mr. F. H. Dickinson (in the chair), Lord Wrottesley, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., Lieut.-General Cavenagh, the Rev. H. I. Cummins; Drs. J. Langdon Down, D. Hack Tuke, G. W. Grabham, Brewer, Fletcher Beach, R. Boyd; Messrs. F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson, W. Millard, Danby P. Fry, Sydney C. Buxton, and Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary.

A report was made of a visit paid on the previous day by nine members to Dr. Langdon Down's establishment at Normansfield, Hampton Wick.

Answers were read from the Foreign Office, transmitting information relating to Idiot Institutions in Switzerland and Belgium.

And printed copies of the following papers were distributed:—

1st. A short account of the Idiot Asylums in Switzerland and North and South Germany, by Drs. Ireland and Beach.

2nd. On the arrangements for the education and care of Idiots and Imbeciles in Scotland, by Dr. Ireland, Superintendent of the Scottish National Institution for the Education of Imbecile Children; and

3rd. Letter to Sir Charles Trevelyan from Dr. Seguin.

The existing arrangements for the education and care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics in Scotland were then considered, under the 6th head of the 4th section of the Agenda; and letters were read from Dr. Mitchell, member of the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy for Scotland; Mr. Skelton, Secretary to the Board of Supervision for the Relief of the Poor in Scotland; and Dr. Ireland.

Under the 7th head of the 4th section it was determined to postpone the consideration of new legislation until it shall be seen what arrangements may be recommended to be made.

Under the 8th and 9th heads it was resolved: 'That the arrangement which has been made for Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics in the Metropolitan Asylum District is applicable, in its main principles, to the rest of England; viz., that Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics should be removed from Workhouses and County Lunatic Asylums, and that young persons of those classes should be suitably educated and trained.'

Under the 10th head it was resolved: 'That the education and care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics should be conducted by governing bodies specially appointed and responsible for that purpose; and

Under the 11th head: 'That such governing bodies should be charged with the education and care of Blind and Deaf and Dumb Children of the poorer classes.'

EAST END MEETING.

At a meeting of those interested in the work of the Charity Organisation Society in the East End of London, held on May 8, in the St. Philip's School-Room, Stepney, a paper was read by the Rev. S. A. Barnett, on 'Blanks in the Scheme of the Charity Organisation Society.'

Mr. Barnett began by saying that the title of his paper did not refer to imperfections in the mode of carrying out the scheme of the Society, but to gaps in the very scheme itself. These he placed under two heads, of which the first was the absence of any definite plan of co-operation with the Poor Law. The respective spheres of Charity and the Poor Law had never been exactly defined, though various attempts at a systematic co-operation between the two agencies had been made. The first was that of supplementing the Poor Law doles in certain cases by charity, but the objection to this was that it would lead to carelessness in giving relief, and so would have a tendency to pauperise. The second plan was that of dividing the outdoor list, the deserving been taken on by charity, and the undeserving by the Poor Law; but the objection to this was that it was difficult to see on what principle this division could be made, or how this form of relief could be justified in cases fitly classed 'undeserving.' The third plan was to limit Poor Law relief to the workhouse, the infirmary, and the District Schools, leaving all cases of out-relief to charity. This had the merit of being clear and distinct; of letting the poor know exactly how far the law was prepared to help them, and of opening up an opportunity to the charitable for giving real help to others. Rates, after all, were only a payment made to prevent people starving, and the money already given in charity, if properly organised, would be sufficient, for the cases would be much fewer than was imagined. The second gap in the scheme of the Society was the want of visitors to explain the reasons for the Committee's decisions, and to give moral help to the poor who came under their notice. It would be well if Committees associated with a body of visitors for these purposes.

In the course of the discussion which followed Mr. Jones, one of the relieving officers of the Stepney Union, stated that in his district, which contained a population of 38,000, the value of immediate discretionary relief which he had found it necessary to give did not amount, during the past year, to £1 (the exact sum was 10s. 1d.), and that the guardians did not make orders for temporary relief, either on account of sickness or for other reasons, to the amount of 35s in the same period. In cases of sickness the sick asylum was offered. In the case of widows with children, the latter were taken into the district schools, and in last April he had not a single widow with children on the books as receiving outdoor relief.

ROYAL SOUTH LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

The following circular and copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital have been sent to the Hon. Secretaries of the District Committees:—

Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Administrative Committee to send you the subjoined copy of a letter, addressed to the Secretary of the Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital (St. George's Circus, S.E.).

In a subsequent letter the Secretary of the Hospital has accepted the terms of this letter.

Charity Organisation Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.,

March 18th, 1876.

(Copy.)
Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for your letter of the 11th inst., which I yesterday submitted to the Administrative Committee.

I am directed to inform you that the Committee of the Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital may rest assured that any of the District Committees of this Society to which they may refer cases for inquiry will gladly give them every assistance in their power, it being, however, distinctly understood that the inquiry will be strictly confined to the following heads:—1. The amount of applicant's income. 2. The number and ages of the family dependent on the applicant. 3. Whether the applicant is in receipt of Poor Law relief.

They make this reservation in order that no difficulties may arise from a fuller investigation than is necessary in Hospital inquiries, being inadvertently undertaken.

If this should meet the approval of your Committee, a copy of this letter will be forwarded to our District Committees for their information and guidance.

Yours truly,

C. S. LOCH.

The Secretary, Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital,
St. George's Circus, S.E.

PAUPERISM AND CHARITY.—The following facts and figures are taken from an article entitled 'Mistakes of Popular Charity,' which appeared in the April number of *The Langham Magazine*:—"A few statistics may suffice to show, not only that pauperism and demoralisation are assuming really alarming proportions among the lower classes, especially in our large towns, but also that the effect of different kinds of relief, and pre-eminently of different Poor Law systems, in fostering or checking these evils, is one that can hardly be exaggerated. Professor Fawcett, in his instructive essays on 'Pauperism, its Causes and Effects,' shows clearly the encouragement which will be given to dependence and improvidence by any Poor Law which gives out-relief abundantly and in-door relief with comparative rarity. He supports his theory by the following striking figures:—In England the proportion of in-door to out-door paupers is only 1 to 8; in Ireland it is 4 to 5. In England, therefore, State relief takes a form so attractive that few endeavour to be independent of it, while in Ireland the conditions accompanying it are justly dreaded, and all efforts are made to avoid the necessity of resorting to it. The result is that in England one person in every twenty is a pauper, and in Ireland one in every seventy-four; while the charge of pauperism is 3s. per head on the entire population in Ireland, and 6s. in England, the whole of the former country containing only half the number of paupers to be found in London alone. Similarly the Scotch Poor Law of 1845 has, by its liberality in the matter of out-relief, caused the number of paupers in proportion to the population to be three times as great in that country as in Ireland, and twelve times as great in the Highlands as in Ulster and Connaught—and this notwithstanding the greater natural thriftiness of the Scotch, and notwithstanding, too, that the average income of an individual in Ireland is only £5 per annum, while in Scotland it is £20, and in England £23. Again, the old Poor Law in England remunerated pauper labour at a greatly higher rate than that of average wages, and by various other practices tended to render the position of the pauper superior to that of the independent workman. The result was that the charge of pauperism rose to the sum of 8s. per head on the entire population; and that in one instance a single farm of five hundred acres, and of £500 rental, paid £250 per annum in poor-rates, and suffered an additional loss of £100 per annum from the compulsory employment of superfluous pauper labour; while the restrictive measures of the New Poor Law of 1834 soon reduced the cost of pauperism to between 6s. and 5s. per head on the population. Another instance may be found in the well-known system practised in Elberfeld, where, in the space of three or four years, the number of paupers was reduced from 8 per cent. to 2.9 per cent. on the population, although the population itself increased during the same period from 50,364 to 52,590. Again, according to an interesting pamphlet by Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart., it appears that the number of paupers in Aitcham was, in spite of increase of population, diminished from 8 per cent. in 1836 to 1½ per cent. in 1870, the principles acted upon being described as follows:—

"1. Strict administration of out-relief. 2. Personal energy, sympathy, and supervision. 3. Sanitary precautions. 4. A practical reversal of the present Poor Law policy, and a revolution in administration by setting a premium on thrift."

"With regard to vagrancy, equally startling calculations have been made. According to official returns, the number of vagrants in Great Britain in 1869 was estimated at 60,000, while in England and Wales alone 27,701 persons were, in the year 1870, apprehended for various offences under the Vagrancy Act, and 18,384 were convicted. To this latter evidence of the unsatisfactory character of our vagrant population may be added the testimony of the Oxford Mendicity Society, which, out of 1,578 vagrant persons

who slept on its premises between March 17th and October 18th, 1873, selected for further investigation 290 of those whose statements were most plausible, and wrote to the addresses given. The result was that not more than 120 replies were received, and that only 17 of these were satisfactory. It is remarkable, also, that the effective measures taken by the Dorset Mendicity Society succeeded in reducing the number of vagrants assisted from 11,428 in 1869 to 2,609 in 1873, while the committals under the Vagrancy Act were diminished from 251 to 32.

"With regard to the effect of private charity in discouraging habits of providence, a suggestive statement may be quoted from the returns of the Poplar and of the Fulham and Hammersmith Committees of the Charity Organisation Society. In the former district the resident population consists almost exclusively of the poor, while the latter contains a fair proportion of resident gentry, and is bordered by wealthy neighbourhoods. The fact is therefore remarkable that the number of applicants who had subscribed to benefit societies or provident clubs was only 9 per cent. in Fulham, whilst in Poplar it was nearly 32 per cent.; nor was this to be explained by any special or local facilities for saving, since the occupations of the applicants were as various as the nature of the societies subscribed to.

"That the charitable funds of the metropolis require rather to be improved in their management than increased in their amount will be apparent from even the lowest computation of the sum annually expended in London in the relief of distress. Professor Fawcett, writing in 1870, alludes to a then recent pamphlet by Dr. Hawkesley, in which it is estimated at five millions, while others have given estimates varying from four to seven millions; and Sir Charles Trevelyan, writing to the *Times* in the year 1870, quotes a remarkable calculation, by which it is shown that even if one-eighth of the entire population of the metropolis were in receipt of money relief from the other seven-eighths, the amount annually contributed (deducting £50,000 for the expenses of collection and distribution) would provide £17 per annum for each individual, or £85 per annum for each family of five persons.

"The evidence collected by Sir Charles Trevelyan with regard to the enfeebled constitution and demoralised habits of the London poor cannot, for want of space, be inserted here, even in the most abridged form. The two following facts, drawn from his able articles on the subject in the *Parochial Critic*, are, however, sufficiently alarming and significant to justify an exception in their favour. The one is, that out of 5,567 boys, almost all of them from the London district who presented themselves as candidates for the navy on board the stationary flag-ship in the Thames, 4,410 were dismissed as not complying with the following conditions:—that they should be of sound constitution, free from physical defect or malformation, not subject to fits, and able to read and write. The second, abundantly supported by the personal testimony of influential manufacturers, is that when a large demand for highly-paid labour took place in Lancashire and Yorkshire, no previous training or skill being insisted on, the efforts made to transplant thither the unemployed and professedly destitute labourers of the metropolis proved, except in one special class of cases, an almost entire failure: first, from the unwillingness of the people to avail themselves of the opportunity offered; and, secondly, from the laziness and intemperance of those who actually migrated, their general character being so unsatisfactory that several leading mill and factory owners refused to take any more hands from London, and preferred to search for them even in some of the poorest agricultural districts. It is true that upwards of 500 persons have since been very successfully migrated to supply this demand, and some of the families, which in London were in receipt of Poor Law relief, are now earning 30s. and upwards per week. These cases, however, were most carefully chosen by special agencies, and the families only sent after strict investigation of their characters."

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of June 1876 was 34,162, and 44,932 received out-door relief, making a total of 79,094. This was a decrease of 99 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 6,262, 15,942, and 22,796 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 813. This was an increase of 237 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 357 on the corresponding day of last year.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 184.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 5, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies at are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

Mr. Rhys Davis has been elected a representative of the Harington Committee during the absence of Mr. T. Burdett Roberts.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

District Committees are requested to send in, as soon as possible, the returns of School Board cases for the past quarter.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); J. Whiteombe, Esq., Miss Merrington, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Esq., Kensington; Miss E. Howes, Wilham; Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Hollond, Esq., Paddington; R. A. Spinall, Esq., Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chelsea; Lord Wm. Compton, R. Dundas, Esq., W. W. Moore, Esq., Hon. H. R. Moreton, St. George's; W. Bevan, Esq., H. Peto, Esq., W. Bousfield, Esq., Westminster; the Earl of Lichfield, Miss Octavia Hill, W. H. Birley, Esq., St. Marylebone; E. Maurice, Esq., Hampstead; Lady Wilson, South St. Pancras; T. Copeman, Esq., Hackney; Hon. W. Warren Vernon, Hon. E. F. Kenyon, Esq., Giles's; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; G. Barrington Baker, Esq., Colborn; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Shoreditch; J. G. Mainwaring, Esq., St. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green; O. L. Corkran, Esq., Whitechapel; Major Nares, Hon. H. R. Scott, Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mile End; Rev. H. H. Burchell Herne, Poplar; F. D. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., St. Saviour's; A. R. Hutchins, Esq., Sydenham; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., D. Mocatta, Esq., Vice-Presidents; A. H. Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 44. C. S. Loch, Esq., H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., Secretaries; Rev. W. H. Hechler, Visitor.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending June 24 the receipts had been £17. 11s. 9d. for the General Fund, and £25 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £100. 11s. 3d. and £77. 11s. 1d. respectively.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON THE COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

Mr. A. H. Hill moved and Captain Boyce seconded the adoption of the third recommendation of the Report—

That in districts in which there is reason to believe that much larger sums might be collected the local Committee shall be invited to accept assistance in collection from the Council.

Lord Lichfield moved as an amendment the substitution of the words 'the Council has' for the word 'is.' He said that the Council having decided on allowing the District Committees practically to monopolise the collection of funds, it was important that failure should as far as possible be guarded against, and that with this view Council should reserve to itself the power of expressing its own opinion as to the efficiency or non-efficiency of the collection in any district. He thought that the words he proposed would be a step, however small, in the direction in which he still intended to urge advance—that of control from the centre. He had heard several times lately that his proposals would be subversive to the constitution of the Society. He would affirm that nothing he had proposed could be so totally at variance with the principles of that constitution as a scheme in accordance with which the District Committees were to raise funds on behalf of the whole Society, and then, without any control from the centre, were to spend as much of them as they pleased for their own local work. Lord Lichfield pointed out that when the Guarantee Fund came to an end, Council itself suggested that the richer District Committees should contribute to the support of the whole Society; if therefore this plan had proved a failure, Council was surely at liberty to revert to former plans. The speaker expressed his opinion that although contributions of considerable amount had been received, yet the financial straits of the Council were by no means passed. He thought that Council made a great mistake in depending so much upon large contributions from a few liberal men. The Society must look to the public at large for support; and to merit and obtain that support it must thoroughly carry out its principles. Some of the Committees, he maintained, did not obtain nearly enough from their districts, while his complaint with regard to the four richest Committees was not so much that they did not collect enough, as that they did not contribute, for the general purposes of the Society, a proper quota of the funds they raised.

The amendment, having been accepted by the mover and seconder of the recommendation, was agreed to.

The fourth recommendation—

That each Committee should set forth prominently in its Annual Report, and in all appeals to the public, the work of the whole Society, with a summary of the results effected by it throughout the metropolis, and that the Administrative Committee be instructed to draft a short and comprehensive statement of the work of the Council, and of the Society generally, up to the 30th of September in each year, for the use of District Committees in the preparation of their reports, or for insertion in the reports themselves,

was moved by Mr. A. H. Hill, and agreed to.

The fifth recommendation—

That each Committee, having collected all that it can by a thorough house-to-house collection, should, at the end of each quarter, transfer any balance remaining in its hands, over and above the sum required for its own use, either to the General Fund or the District Committee Aid Fund of the Society,

was moved by Mr. A. H. Hill, and seconded by Mr. Edgcombe, who took that opportunity of stating, as a member of the Collection Sub-Committee, that he withdrew his protest against the portion of their report now under consideration.

Lord Lichfield moved as an amendment—

That each Committee, having collected all that it can by a thorough house-to-house collection, should, at the end of each quarter, transfer to the General Fund any balance remaining in its hands, over and above such sums as may, by agreement between the Committee and the Council, be deemed sufficient to meet the local requirements of the Committee.

Lord Lichfield pointed out that the question now before the Council was much more important than the last one, which related to the collection of funds, while the present question referred to their distribution. He could not but think that the public would have just cause for complaint if, after contributing to the funds of a Committee money for the support of the Society at large, they found that only the surplus of such contributions was devoted to the purpose for which they had been given. The plan of appealing for the Society at large had already been made use of by the District Committees; and it was now proposed to give them still greater power in this direction. But its use involved responsibility to the public with regard to the efficiency of the whole Society, and what proof, he asked, had they of the assertions made by Sir C. Trevelyan to the effect that 'effectual inquiry, effectual relief, and effectual exposure of imposture,' had substantially been attained? He ventured to think that if Sir Charles and others who held these views were to visit other Committees than their own, and apply to their work those tests upon which they had asserted their reliance, they would find that the work would not, in many instances, bear the trial. He had referred to the fact that the four richer Committees did not contribute as much as they ought to the funds of the Council. He would now, by a comparison between the work of those and of other Committees, draw attention to the anomalies that resulted from the present system. He found that the money raised by these four Committees was equal in amount to the whole income (including grants from Council) of twelve Committees in other parts of London—namely, St. Pancras N., St. Pancras S., Holborn, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, St. George-in-the-East, Stepney, Mile End Old Town, Poplar, St. Saviour's, and St. Olave's; while the population of the area dealt with by the twelve poorer Committees was double that dealt with by the four richer. The average expenditure of the latter group had been six times as much as that of the former, while, although the four richer Committees had dealt with fewer cases than the twelve poorer Committees, the amount given by them in relief averaged eleven times as much as that distributed by the poorer Committees. But he would call their attention to another

anomaly, even more striking and important than those he had just indicated. Members of Council were of course well aware that those cases placed under 'Class II.—Recommended,' in the periodical returns of cases, indicated the most important and soundest work of the Society. They were test cases—they showed how far a Committee was working on the principles laid down by the Society—how far that Committee was able to obtain, from existing legal or charitable sources, adequate assistance for suitable cases. He found that these twelve Committees, established in poor districts, where charitable agencies and charitable persons must be few and far between, had 'recommended' to such sources of relief one-third more cases than had been so recommended by the four richer Committees. He thought that this was a most important point; for the Society having been promoted on the principle that the amount of charitable relief in the metropolis was sufficient if it were wisely administered, it was clearly the first duty of a District Committee of the Society not to give relief until every effort had been made to obtain it from other sources. Further, he would point out that the number of cases having received grants from the four richer Committees was double those assisted in this manner by the twelve poorer Committees, while the requirements of those districts in the matter of relief were presumably much greater.

Lord Lichfield considered that this question of central collection, distribution, and control lay at the very roots of the prosperity and wellbeing of the Society. He admitted that his amendment was but a small improvement upon the original recommendation; but he felt that every step, however small, was valuable if it led towards the just, sensible, and only intelligible scheme—that of central collection and equitable distribution.

Sir C. Trevelyan could not admit that the plan proposed would confer upon the Committees a monopoly of collection. He would point out again that the Council already collected one-fourth of the whole funds of the Society, and that the recent financial crisis was attributable to want of exertion on the part of the Council. He thought that it was a fallacy to consider the eastern parts of London as requiring so much more relief than the western districts. It was true that there were fewer rich persons, but, on the other hand, a large number of poor persons with mendicant proclivities were, by that very fact, attracted to the West End. He objected strongly to the amendment, which, in his opinion, would, by giving the Council full power to measure the wants of the Committees, result in centralisation of the most complete kind. The Society, it must be remembered, was a voluntary one, and could not therefore be bound by arbitrary rules.

Mr. Maurice would have had great pleasure in supporting the amendment if Lord Lichfield had explained what was to take place if the Council and a Committee took different views as to the requirements of the latter. He had opposed collection from the centre because he thought that it was impracticable, but he did not consider the amendment open to the same objection. Nor was he opposed to the decision resting with the Council in the case of such a difference of opinion as he had alluded to.

Lord Lichfield explained that he had carefully considered the point raised by Mr. Maurice, but he thought it might, were his amendment carried, be considered later, and he should, in that case, be prepared to make suggestions on the subject. Having in view the present system of working adopted by the District Committees, and being unwilling to interfere unduly with that system, he was prepared, as a compromise, so far to modify his amendment as to make it apply only to that portion of the funds of the Committees as had been ap-

plied to relief purposes, leaving the 'establishment' expenses untouched.

Mr. Mocatta, who had seconded the amendment, said that he also would be glad of a clearer definition of the way in which any difference of opinion between the Council and a Committee was to be settled. He feared that members of the richer Committees knew but little of the difficulties of the Committees in the poorer districts, and of the requirements of those localities. He had himself seen a good deal of the latter, and he had seen enormous differences between them and the western districts. The presence of mendicancy in the West did not disprove the existence of poverty in the East.

Mr. Corkran reminded the Council that excessive legislation did not imply reform, and that it was useless to pass resolutions which the Committees could not adopt.

Mr. Bevan said, with reference to what had fallen from Sir C. Trevelyan, that though the Society was voluntary, yet surely being a member of a society implied obedience to its rules, whereas membership had, to his surprise, been alluded to in connection rather with anarchy than with organisation. The press and the public localised the Society in that Council-room, not in the office of any District Committee; and to that Council, representative as it was, would the public continue to look for proper control in the distribution of funds. He would not on any account destroy the independence of the District Committees; but Committees must be ready to submit to some control from the head office, so that unwise profuse-ness might be kept in check.

Mr. Miner feared that the Administrative Committee could never duly appreciate the requirements of the District Committees, which depended, he thought, upon local circumstances. Committees must be allowed to judge of their own requirements, though the Council ought, no doubt, to be able to control excessive expenditure. He did not wish to see officers transferred from one district to another, but rather to see as efficient a staff in all districts as was to be found in those that were best manned, and the funds for this purpose would, he felt confident, be forthcoming if proper steps were taken to obtain them.

Mr. Wightman Wood could not agree to either the recommendation or the amendment. What guarantee was there that the richer Committees would exert themselves to raise more funds than they required for their own purposes? He still thought that a definite proportion should be handed over by each Committee, and would give notice of the following amendment; namely, after the words 'each Committee' to insert 'not supported by the District Committee Aid Fund,' and after the word 'transfer' to insert 'one-third of the amounts collected to the District Committee Aid Fund, and.'

Mr. Hollond thought that to substitute for direct relief recommendations to local charitable sources must, in the richer districts, be a work of time. He would point out that while almoners of the Society for the Relief of Distress were to be found in all the poorer districts, the Committees were perhaps the only lay charitable agencies to be found in the richer localities.

After a few words from Mr. A. H. Hill, Lord Lichfield's amendment was put and lost by 16 votes against 14.

Mr. Wood's amendment having been seconded by the Rev. W. H. Langhorne, was put and lost by 17 votes against 5.

By permission of the Council, the Rev. R. J. Simpson moved as an amendment that the following words be added to the recommendation: 'according to an annual estimate regularly furnished to the Central Office.'

This was seconded by Mr. W. Wood and accepted by the mover, but objected to by the seconder, of the recommendation.

After a few words from Sir C. Trevelyan, the Rev. R. J. Simpson, and others, the amendment was put and lost by 16 votes against 11. The recommendation was then put as an original motion and carried.

The 6th recommendation—

That within a month after the 30th September of each year, estimates of the probable expenses of each Committee for the ensuing year, together with the balance-sheet for the past year, be sent to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee, in order that they may as soon as possible have the means of framing the estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

was agreed to.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending July 1, 1876:—*Donations*: J. Booth, Esq., £10; The Earl of Ducie, £10; P. Earle, Esq., £10. 10s.; Miss Earle, £2. 2s.; Sir Philips Grey Egerton, £10; The Fishmongers' Company, £52. 10s.; W. J. Farrer, Esq., £20; M. W. O. Foster, Esq., £20; Vice-Admiral Sir J. D. Hay, £10; Lady Hayter, £5; E. W. Hollond, Esq. (for the Mile End Committee), £5; M. Latham, Esq., £10. 10s.; Lewis Loyd, Esq., £50; Mrs. Richard Martineau, £25; W. Millar, Esq., £3; The Lord Overstone, £50; G. Peacock, Esq., £5; Miss G. M. Ramsden, £5. 5s.; R. M. S., £10. 10s.; Miss Ryland, £10. 10s.; V. P., 3s.; Messrs. Wall & Son, £2. 2s.; The Duke of Westminster, K.G., £200; C. Wilde, Esq., £5; J. Wimbush, Esq., £1; W. W. Willink, Esq., £10. *Annual*: Miss Blackhouse, £5; Horace Broke, Esq., £2. 2s.; Major Cox, £1; L. H. Scott Douglas, Esq., 10s.; W. Fuller, Esq., £2. 2s.; W. Morris, Esq., £1. 1s.; Capt. F. G. Steward, £3; Dr. F. Robinson, £1; Mrs. Walker, £1; Lord Wrottesley, £2. 2s. *Quarterly*: Hon. W. Warren Vernon, £5. *District Committee Aid Fund*: T. Key, Esq., £2. 2s.

The following business stands for Monday, July 10:—

I. Miss Hill to move:—

That, considering the needs of the poor Committees, and to avoid catastrophe when most persons interested in the subject are out of town, it is desirable that every member of the Council should endeavour to give or collect either £5 or £10 each, or more if possible, before they leave town, quite irrespective of what they may have given or collected before.

II. Mr. A. H. Hill to move:—

That it is expedient that this Council should offer every facility in its power for the training of suitable persons to act as local Charity Agents under the several District Committees, and with this view opportunities should be afforded for extra clerks, at moderate salaries, to work, by way of apprenticeship, under the Secretaries of the Society at the Central Office.

III. Mr. J. Whitcombe to move:—

1. That the present plan of having a separate and independent Committee for each Poor-law district is not well adapted to those parts of London where the local resources are insufficient, both as regards money and volunteer workers, and that the union of several such districts under a strong Committee, to be formed by the amalgamation of the existing local Committees, with additional members nominated by the Council, would be desirable.

2. That a Sub-Committee be appointed to prepare a scheme in accordance with the above resolution, and to confer with the local Committees affected thereby.

IV. Mr. Wightman Wood to move:—

That any collection made by the Council be on behalf of the General Fund and of the District Committee Aid Fund; each fund to have a first claim on 50 per cent. of all sums so collected.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of June 1876 was 34,053, and 44,943 received out-door relief, making a total of 78,996. This was a decrease of 98 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 6,237, 15,416, and 22,416 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 719. This was a decrease of 94 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 208 on the corresponding day of last year.

ERRATUM.—The numbers given on the division taken on Lord Lichfield's amendment on the 26th ultimo were 22 to 19. In the latter number the vote of one of the Vice-Presidents (who, by Rule XIII., are not entitled to vote) was accidentally included. The correct numbers, therefore, are 18 for and 22 against the amendment.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, JULY 1st, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
Kensington	5	2	5	12	2	6	3	11	5	1	7	13	36
Fulham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	5	9
Paddington	1	1	6	8	1	2	3	6	5	2	7	12	29
Chelsea	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	4	2	6	10	18
St. George's:-													
St. George's Division ..	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Westminster do.	2	2	4	8	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Westminster:-													
St. James' & St. Anne's ..	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
St. Marylebone	2	2	5	9	1	6	4	11	1	1	2	3	11
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
South St. Pancras	4	2	2	8	1	10	6	17	1	1	2	3	11
Islington	3	1	4	8	1	16	1	18	1	1	2	3	11
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury ..	2	2	2	6	1	7	7	14	1	1	2	3	11
Strand	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Holborn	4	4	4	12	1	14	1	15	1	1	2	3	11
*City	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Shoreditch	5	1	2	8	1	5	5	11	1	1	2	3	11
Bethnal Green	3	1	3	7	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Whitechapel	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
St. George's-in-the-East ..	2	2	3	7	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Stepney	2	2	3	7	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Mile End Old Town	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Poplar	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
St. Saviour's	1	1	3	5	1	2	3	6	1	1	2	3	11
Newington	2	2	3	7	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
St. Olave's	2	2	5	9	1	2	3	6	1	1	2	3	11
Lambeth:-													
North	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
South	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Battersea	1	1	3	5	1	2	3	6	1	1	2	3	11
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Camberwell:-													
Grove Lane	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Deptford	2	2	2	6	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Totals	44	19	64	127	6	101	34	141	42	19	14	29	104

* No return received from this Committee at time of going to press.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The Special Committee for Idiots and Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics, held its tenth meeting on Wednesday, June 28, at the Central Office. Sir Alexander Acland Hood, Bart. (in the Chair), Lord Wrottesley, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., the Hon. C. H. Strutt, the Revs. R. J. Simpson and H. I. Cummins, Drs. W. Brewer, J. Langdon Down, Bell Fletcher, G. W. Grabbam, D. Hack Tuke, Fletcher Beach, Messrs. H. Dickinson, Danby P. Fry, Sydney C. Buxton, F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary.

Dr. Hack Tuke and Mr. Mocatta reported visits paid by them to the school of the Metropolitan Asylums Board for Imbecile Children at Clapton.

Dr. Hack Tuke presented a paper by him reprinted for the use of the Committee, on the Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dublin, showing how much may be done, even for adults, by regular school teaching.

Copies of the Report of the Charity Organisation Committee of the Dublin Statistical and Social Inquiry Society, alluded to at the close of the proceedings at the ninth meeting, were received and distributed.

The Committee then considered the 12th head of the 4th section of the agenda, 'Administrative Arrangements,' and Dr. Boyd moved the following resolution:-

'That the Visitors of the County Lunatic Asylums, which contain a considerable proportion of the Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics in the kingdom, are the very best guardians that could be selected to form a Board for the supervision of schools, separate institutions, or parts of institutions, for the improvement and care of these helpless classes.'

To which Sir Charles Trevelyan moved the following amendment:-
'That such Governing Bodies (see the proceedings of the previous meeting under the 10th head) should be composed—

1. Of representatives of the local magistrates;
2. Of representatives of the local guardians; and
3. Of persons appointed by the Crown.'

Eight having voted for the amendment and five against it, the amendment was put as a substantive resolution and carried.

RETURNS FOR JUNE.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of Cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, June 24, 1876, returned by the District Committees:-

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
Kensington	15	9	25	49	1	11	7	19	11	3	14	28	96
Fulham	1	7	2	10	1	3	6	9	2	1	3	6	24
Paddington	4	11	17	32	1	14	4	18	14	3	17	33	68
Chelsea	5	9	14	28	1	4	1	6	9	4	13	26	48
St. George's:-													
St. George's Division ..	1	8	9	18	1	5	5	11	10	6	17	33	68
Westminster do.	4	1	17	22	4	15	19	34	1	1	2	3	11
Westminster:-													
St. James' & St. Anne's ..	5	2	6	13	1	7	2	10	1	1	2	3	11
St. Marylebone	7	7	13	27	1	29	11	41	5	1	5	19	82
Hampstead	2	2	6	10	1	3	1	5	1	1	2	3	11
North St. Pancras	3	3	12	18	1	21	11	32	1	1	2	3	11
South St. Pancras	3	3	32	43	2	44	10	56	5	2	12	19	118
Islington	5	4	3	12	1	88	2	90	4	1	5	10	106
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury ..	3	7	10	20	1	15	15	30	1	1	2	3	11
Strand	1	3	6	10	1	3	6	14	2	1	3	6	24
Holborn	3	6	9	18	1	41	3	44	2	1	3	6	56
*City	2	2	4	8	1	18	1	20	1	1	2	3	11
Shoreditch	1	1	10	12	1	13	2	15	11	7	18	36	48
Bethnal Green	3	7	9	19	2	5	7	14	4	1	5	10	32
Whitechapel	1	1	12	14	1	4	7	11	1	1	2	3	11
St. George's-in-the-East ..	3	1	7	11	1	7	5	12	1	1	2	3	11
Stepney	3	5	14	22	1	6	6	12	2	1	3	6	40
Mile End Old Town	5	18	23	46	1	6	6	13	1	1	2	3	11
Poplar	1	3	10	14	1	6	10	17	1	1	2	3	11
St. Saviour's	5	8	2	15	1	3	3	7	5	1	4	10	31
Newington	5	8	2	15	1	3	3	7	5	1	4	10	31
St. Olave's	1	19	19	39	1	7	1	8	1	1	2	3	11
Lambeth:-													
North	2	3	6	11	1	4	4	12	1	1	2	3	11
South	1	2	3	6	1	2	3	6	1	1	2	3	11
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Battersea	1	5	5	11	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	11
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Camberwell:-													
Grove Lane	1	7	7	15	1	8	2	10	2	1	3	6	24
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Greenwich	1	1	4	6	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Deptford	1	3	4	8	1	2	3	6	1	1	2	3	11
Woolwich	1	4	4	9	1	3	3	6	1	1	2	3	11
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3	11
Totals	94	78	220	471	19	409	94	522	133	63	39	78	313

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REPORT ON THE TRAINING OF THE BLIND.

By a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society; with Appendix.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 185.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 12, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is
the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies at are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 p.m.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); J. Whitcombe, Esq., *Paddington*; Miss E. Howes, *Fulham*; Major Yard, J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; Dr. Daniell, Capt. Boyce, W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., *Chelsea*; and Wm. Compton, W. W. Moore, Esq., Major Fitz-Roy, Hon. H. R. Oulton, *St. George's*; W. Bousfield, Esq., W. Bevan, Esq., *Westminster St. James' and St. Anne's*; Miss Octavia Hill, W. H. Birley, Esq., *St. Argylebone*; C. E. Maurice, Esq., *Hampstead*; Miss Collett, *South St. Mary's*; T. Copeman, Esq., *Hackney*; Reginald Smith, Esq., Hon. W. Vernon, W. T. Lawrence, Esq., *St. Giles's*; Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. Hill, Esq., *Strand*; Rev. J. D. McGachen, *Bethnal Green*; Hon. C. Fremantle, *Whitechapel*; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major Nares, Rev. W. H. Ashborne, *Mile End*; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., W. F. Smith, Esq., *St. Mary's*; F. D. Thornton, Esq., *Newington*; T. Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; J. Cornish, Esq., *Deptford*; A. Annesley, Esq., G. Parker, Esq., *Lewisham*; C. A. Barry, Esq., A. R. Hutchins, Esq., *Sydenham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; A. H. Hill, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*; Sir Trevelyan, J. W. Willis Bund, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 43. C. S. Loch, Esq., *Secretary*; H. Howgrave Graham, Esq., *Assistant-Secretary*.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending July 1 the receipts had been 561. 19s. for the General Fund, and £2. 2s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £637. 15s. 5d. and £28. 13s. 1d. respectively.

GRANT.—That they had made a grant of £50 to the Newington Committee.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. J. R. Hollond asked whether all the District Committees made arrangements to keep their offices open throughout the summer.* He pointed out the inconvenience that

would arise from a single Committee closing its office, when at least one or two members would probably be found who would be able to continue their attendance.

Reference was made to a discussion of Council on the 21st of July, 1873, at which there appeared to have been a strong feeling against the closing of District Offices during any part of the summer.

Mr. Hollond also asked what use District Committees had made of the placards issued by the Council, with a view to advertising the work of the Society.

NEEDS OF THE COMMITTEES IN THE POORER DISTRICTS.

Miss O. Hill considered that there was no reason for pressing the motion of which she had given notice—

That, considering the needs of the poor Committees, and to avoid catastrophe when most persons interested in the subject are out of town, it is desirable that every member of the Council should endeavour to give or collect either £5 or £10 each, or more if possible, before they leave town, quite irrespective of what they may have given or collected before.

She had wished to obviate the difficulties that must inevitably have arisen had the want of funds continued, which existed when she gave notice of her motion. It now appeared likely that there would be sufficient funds available to meet the expenses of the Committees during the recess. The motion was withdrawn.

CHARITY AGENTS.

Mr. A. H. Hill moved:—

That it is expedient that this Council should offer every facility in its power for the training of suitable persons to act as local Charity Agents under the several District Committees, and with this view opportunities should be afforded for extra clerks, at moderate salaries, to work, by way of apprenticeship, under the Secretaries of the Society at the Central Office.

Proposals similar to that which he now submitted to Council had been made before. The work in which charity agents were employed was of a peculiarly difficult and delicate character, and required both education and experience. Many men and women would from philanthropic motives undertake this work for a merely nominal salary; and they would nowhere be able to learn so well the length and breadth of it as in the Central Office. He even considered that a clerkship at the Central Office might be made the apprenticeship for work as an agent. The difficulty of getting the right person on an emergency was sometimes so great, that it was worth while to make the experiment he suggested.

Sir Charles Trevelyan seconded the motion. He thought that the position and opportunities which the Society was able to offer, would outweigh the smallness of the recompense it could give in salary. He had great faith in the combined power of good education and good practical training.

In answer to Mr. Seton-Karr and Dr. Daniel, Mr. Hill said he considered that, like most apprenticeships, the plan suggested would prove to be economical.

Mr. Hollond stated the plan had been already tried, but that the Committee on Expenditure had disapproved of it.*

* See Reporter, No. 67, Vol. ii., p. 125.

* See Reporter, No. 68, Vol. ii., July 30, 1873.

The work that had to be done at the Central Office required experts to do it.

The Chairman suggested that the latter part of the motion should be modified as follows, viz. :—

And with this view, in appointing extra or other clerks selections should, as far as practicable, be made from the list of candidates for the post of District Agent, kept in the Secretary's office.

And the modification having been accepted by the mover,

After a few words from Mr. Miner, Mr. Maurice, Mr. H. H. Hill, Mr. Bevan, Lord W. Compton, and others, the motion was carried, 21 voting for and 6 against it.

COMMITTEES IN THE POORER DISTRICTS.

The motion of which Mr. J. Whitcombe had given notice was withdrawn, the Chairman having, in accordance with the fourteenth Bye-Law, ruled that the adoption of the motion would be a reversal of the decision arrived at by Council on the 14th of February last.*

Mr. W. W. Wood not being present to move the motion of which he had given notice, the Council then adjourned.

* See Reporter, No. 166, Vol. v., p. 33.

The following contributions were received during the week ending July 6, 1876:—*Donations*: Douglas Brown, Esq. Q.C. (special), £5; C.G. Chittenden, Esq., £2; M. W. Collett, Esq., £5; Miss D'Oily, £3; Lord Ebury, £15; 'E. G.', £1; The Dowager Marchioness of Exeter, £10; Mrs. Freeman (per the Strand Committee), £1. 1s.; F. A. Hamilton, Esq., £10; E. R. Le Mare, Esq., £10; R. B. Litchfield, £2; M. Moggeridge, Esq., £5; John Noble, Esq., £50; Mrs. R. Potter, £5; The Hon. Mrs. Swinton, £1; The Merchant Taylors' Company, £10. 10s.; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B. (special), £50.—*Annual*: Stephen Fuller, Esq., £5; Sir H. D. Ingleby, Bart., £1. 1s.—*District Committee Aid Fund*: Hon. H. Butler, £10; Lord W. Compton, £3; John Ewart, Esq., £10; Stephen Fuller, Esq., £5; The Hampstead Committee, £26; The Kensington Committee, £100; W. H. Smith, Esq., £5.

The following business stands for Monday, July 17:—

I. Mr. W. W. Wood to move:—

That any collection made by the Council be on behalf of the General Fund and of the District Committee Aid Fund; each fund to have a first claim on 50 per cent. of all sums so collected.

II. Rev. W. H. Langhorne to move:—

That, whenever practicable, the District Committees should avail themselves of any public rooms which may be had in the several districts for the purposes of Committee meetings, in order that the payments for rent may be, as far as possible, confined to the Agents' offices.

III. Rev. R. J. Simpson to move:—

That the Council desires to remind the District Committee that the District offices should be kept open for ordinary business throughout the summer months.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

LEWISHAM.—At the request of the Guardians, and at their expense, the Committee have had a board placed outside their office, which is headed, 'Lewisham Union, List of Persons in Receipt of Outdoor Relief,' and to which are affixed the weekly and half-yearly lists, printed by the Guardians.

At a meeting of the Lewisham District Board of Works, held on the 14th June (says the *Kentish Mercury*), a letter was read from Mr. R. V. Tidman, Hon. Secretary of the local branch of the Charity Organisation Society, stating that his Committee understood that the Board were preparing a revised Ordnance Map of Lewisham, and asking that they might be favoured with a copy for use in their office. Mr. Hennell said the Society were doing a very valuable work, and he moved, therefore, that the request be granted. The resolution was carried.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of June 1876 was 38,773, and 44,675 received out-door relief, making a total of 78,448. This was a decrease of 548 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 6,133, 15,239, and 22,369 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 571. This was a decrease of 148 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 237 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 8th, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letter for Hospital, &c.			
Kensington	2	3	7	12	1	2	6	1	1	6	21	6	1
Fulham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
Paddington	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	6	11	5	1
Chelsea	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	8	14	1
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division	3	3	3	9	1	1	7	1	1	7	27	7	3
Westminster do.	1	7	8	16	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	6	1
Westminster:—													
St. James's & St. Anne's	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
St. Marylebone	2	6	8	16	5	2	7	1	1	4	19	7	8
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	3	3	3	9	5	5	1	1	1	1	8	3	3
South St. Pancras	2	8	10	20	13	2	15	2	3	5	30	3	4
Islington	6	3	2	11	21	21	3	3	3	3	35	26	3
Hackney	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	3	6	4	4
Strand	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Holborn	1	1	1	3	18	18	1	1	1	3	22	2	9
City	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	11
Shoreditch	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bethnal Green	2	2	2	6	1	1	2	3	2	5	9	1	4
Whitechapel	3	1	2	6	1	4	5	1	1	2	13	4	8
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	1	3	1	3	4	1	1	1	8	2	2
Stepney	1	1	1	3	2	2	4	1	1	1	4	6	3
Mill End Old Town	1	8	9	17	1	1	2	1	1	1	11	1	1
Poplar	2	4	6	12	3	3	1	1	1	1	9	1	5
* St. Saviour's	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Newington	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
St. Olave's	1	5	6	12	3	3	6	1	1	1	13	10	1
Lambeth:—													
North	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
South	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
* Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Battersea	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Camberwell	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grove Lane	6	6	6	18	2	2	1	1	1	1	12	3	3
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	32	16	71	119	5	90	25	121	31	15	820	74	314

* No returns received from these Committees at the time of going to press.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The Special Committee for Idiots and Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics, held its twelfth meeting on Wednesday, July 5, at the Central Office. There were present: Sir John Ogilvy, Bart. (in the Chair), Lord Wrottesley, the Hon. C. H. Strutt, Sir Alexander Acland Hood, Bart., Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., Lieut-General Cavenagh, the Rev. Canon Hopkins, the Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mrs. Brewer, Boyd, Langdon Down, Fletcher Beach, G. W. Grabham, D. Hack Tuke; Messrs. F. D. Mocatta, A. Sperling, W. Millard, W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary.

A report was made of a visit paid by a deputation of the Committee on the previous Friday to the Leavesden Asylum.

Answers were read from the Foreign and Colonial Offices, transmitting information relating to arrangements in Holland and the West Indies.

And copies were distributed of a translation (made by Dr. Ireland) of a letter from Dr. Kind, Medical Superintendent of the Idioten-Anstalt at Langenhagen, in Hanover, on the arrangements for the education and care of Idiots and Imbeciles in North Germany.

The Committee then had before them the 14th head of the 4th section of the agenda, 'Administrative Arrangements,' and after considering a paper, prepared by Mr. Millard, on the number of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics, under and above 20 years of age, who had to be provided for, unanimously passed the following resolution:—

'That the country should be divided into districts sufficiently large to fill an Asylum containing not more than 2,000 adults, and Schools containing, at the utmost, 500 young people.'

And under the 14th head the Committee resolved, by 10 to 5—

'That, besides the supervision of the Commissioners of Lunacy, the

Schools and Asylums should be inspected and reported upon to the Local Government Board.

It was then determined to consider together the 1st and 4th heads of the 5th section, 'Ways and Means,' and after a prolonged discussion the subject was adjourned.

ON CHARITY ORGANISATION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR OUTDOOR RELIEF.

The following is taken from a paper read by W. G. Lely, Esq., at the Poor Law Conference held at Ipswich on the 8th ultimo:—

'It seems to be recognised by all who have considered the subject of pauperism that the system of outdoor relief, as generally administered, is productive of serious mischief to the classes directly under its influence, and through them to the welfare of the country.

'In cases exempted from the workhouse test of destitution, the genuineness of claims to relief is left to be ascertained by the investigation of Guardians and their officers, and this has almost everywhere been found inadequate. It is certain that outdoor relief is often given where the infirmity and destitution are pretended or exaggerated—a direct encouragement to fraud and hypocrisy, and a cruel injustice towards many struggling ratepayers.

'But there is a still more serious evil. A pauperising system of outdoor relief encourages men to disregard saving and self-reliance, to live from hand to mouth, and to form those habits of thriftless dependence on others by which they degrade themselves and their class; for this reason a change is desired by all who are anxious for their best interests. It is certain we should see far more thrift and forethought, if it could be proclaimed that in future all destitution was to be relieved in the workhouse except such as was due to unavoidable causes. We ought already to discriminate between cases on this principle—to inquire invariably what have been the past opportunities of saving, and to let our principle be known. But those who were brought up in times less favourable for their class, before these days of schools, of savings banks, of clubs, and so found modern facilities of migration, may often plead that they had little chance of saving. The exceptions to the rule of workhouse relief must, therefore, for some time be very numerous, and some cases of unavoidable destitution there will always be.

'Exceptions have long been the stumbling-block of Guardians. "The bane of all pauper legislation," said the first Poor Law Commissioners, "has been the legislating for extreme cases. Every exception, every violation of the general rule to meet a real case of unusual hardship, lets in a whole flood of fraudulent cases, by which that rule must in time be destroyed." The course of this destruction is familiar to us Guardians. "Hard cases make bad law," and we have cases with every gradation of hardship, with cross bearings that make it difficult to compare them, and facts very imperfectly ascertained. Rural Guardians have an especial difficulty; they are called on in turn to assist in "legislating" for the cases of men whom they may have known from childhood, with whose friends and relatives their business brings them into close connection, and whose shortcomings they may know too well, and yet be not unwilling to condone when the day of reckoning is come. It is called "legislating," and, indeed, where no fixed principles are in force, the decision of a particular case on its merits is a sort of *ex post facto* legislation, with an inevitable bias towards the good-natured leniency which "makes bad law." Will Guardians learn to discriminate on sound principles between the rule and the exceptions, or must a remedy be found in confining them to the administration of the rule, and leaving the exceptions to be otherwise provided for?

'The passage I just now quoted continues thus: "Where cases of real hardship occur, the remedy must be applied by individual charity, a virtue for which no compulsory relief can or ought to be a substitute." The exceptional cases proper for outdoor relief will certainly grow fewer, and it is worth inquiry, whether a time may come when charity can be trusted to take charge of any class of these, or even of the whole. But for this purpose it must be so formed into a system, or organised, as to ensure its finding out the hard cases, and restrain it from pauperising its objects.

'In rural districts the need for charity organisation is less obvious than in London, or even in smaller towns, for we have not the variety of Charitable Societies and the complete separation of rich and poor in daily life, which in London make the organisation of charity so necessary for husbanding its resources and preventing its abuse. Neither is its efficiency, as a substitute for outdoor relief, so well assured in the country, where there is not the same amount of existing charitable funds ready to take the place of a poor rate, while the raising of fresh ones may be thought to involve some danger of a pauperising result. But the experiment is well worth a trial. The work of district visiting and relieving is in London to a great extent separated from that of inquiry and organisation; in the

smaller towns and in the country these might properly be combined under the name, perhaps, of Charitable Aid Society. At present, for the most part, Guardians in the country have no system of communication with persons administering charitable relief, in the words of Mr. Wodehouse's report, and generally charitable assistance is not taken into account; i.e. full relief is given to many who are also constantly relieved by individuals, in some cases as superannuated dependents.

'Mr. F. S. Corrance, who has kindly favoured me with his views on the subject of this paper, believes that it would be desirable to construct local machinery for charity organisation, covering an area not less than that of a union, with a central committee including the Guardians and others willing to work, and parochial sub-committees and visitors.

'If the condition of the labouring classes continues to improve, and their means are thus more obviously adequate, not only to supply their daily wants, but to make provision for the future, of which education will have shown them the advantages—if we find that organisation enables charity to take charge of exceptional distress, and restrains it from fostering improvidence, a time may come when public opinion will be in favour of the abolition of outdoor relief, except for sudden, urgent, or irremovable cases. Such a change, if ever resolved on, might be effected in some such way as this: by an order prohibiting all future outdoor relief, except in sudden, urgent, or irremovable cases, but exempting from its operation and leaving under the old law all persons who at the date of such order were of the age of, say, sixteen years or upwards, a dispensing power for extraordinary occasions being reserved to the Local Government Board.

'Any such prospective abolition of outdoor relief would give an immediate and decisive impulse to provident energy in all its various forms, an impulse that would carry it far beyond the original purpose of escaping the workhouse. Savings banks would have a great increase of customers; a considerable sum can be saved without much difficulty by a young man before his marriage. The provident societies—most popular form of thrift—would enlarge their aims so as to insure their members against all the various mischances which threaten with destitution the labouring man and his family—inability to work through sickness or old age—expenses of medical attendance and of burials—the possibility of widows and orphans being left destitute and helpless; of these misfortunes a great part are already insured against by hundreds of thousands in the clubs—to their honour be it said—by a weekly payment of sixpence, and the rest could, I believe, be provided for on a similar scale if this contribution were doubled. Now a shilling a week (though less than the amount by which wages have of late years increased) could not be spared without some sacrifice by an agricultural labourer, but a shilling could not be invested better than in the security, self-reliance, and self-respect which this would purchase him. With the misfortunes I have named insured against, and other forms of saving generally known and practised, there would be little unavoidable destitution.

'But charity would have its definite and appropriate duty in saving from the workhouse the victims of unavoidable calamity, and in taking others by the hand who appeared to be reclaimable. Organised charity might, I believe, be trusted to do this work in the true spirit of the mercy which blesteth him that gives and him that takes, and for which no system of compulsory relief can or ought to be a substitute.

CHARITY ORGANISATION AT KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—At a meeting of the 'King's College Theological Society,' held on April 24, a paper on the above subject was read by the Rev. H. F. Mallet.

In the course of a full explanation of the principles of Charity Organisation, Mr. Mallet defined those principles as the adoption of a certain order and method in the administration of charitable relief. 'It is not, of course,' he said, "charity" or "love" as a principle, but "charitable action," which we seek to organise—to give it a direction, founded on induction from observed results, and having certain definite objects in view.' In speaking of the Charity Organisation Society, Mr. Mallet said its 'ideal' 'might become, if accepted and used as such by all Christian Churches, the Christian Diaconate of the nineteenth century—fulfilling, in reference not to one branch of the Church alone, but to all, a similar office, in our vast and complicated society, to that which the original Diaconate was intended to fulfil in that first germ of a true human commonwealth, the infant Church of Jerusalem.' Mr. Mallet dwelt at length upon the difficulties that the twofold duties of parish priest and almoner impose upon clergymen, and expressed an opinion that the ordinary methods of almsgiving introduce a most disturbing element into the relation of pastor and people. 'How,' he asked, 'are we to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving?—between those who may be encouraged in industry by a little timely help, and those who are tempted to go on living from hand to mouth in squalor and vice? The doles—consisting generally of tickets for soup, meat, or coals, in some cases of shillings or of loaves—are insufficient to benefit permanently a case of real distress, while yet quite enough to foster impro-

vidence, imposture, and vice. The clergyman is not by any means the only almoner—there are other agencies at work in the parish, both public and private, and, behind all, the Out-relief Department of the Poor Law. The consequence is, that the poor are sorely tempted to lay themselves out for what they can get from as many different sources as possible. This leads to many well-known evils and abuses, which need not be specified. And what a relation does it introduce between the pastor and his poor parishioners! Their interest is to conceal from him what they may obtain from other sources, in order to get a larger share of his alms. His position as almoner thus makes honest and straightforward intercourse impossible, and turns spiritual food into poison. It is one of the objects of Charity Organisation to separate, as far as possible, the function of temporal relief from that of spiritual ministrations—not as a matter of abstract principle, but of practical urgency in reference to present needs and to the choice of evils presented to us. If the clergy could refer all cases of temporal distress to a wise and discriminating agency, it were surely worth while to relinquish their indirect influence as almoners, in order to secure, an honest, unbiassed attention to their spiritual teaching, and to strike at the root of a too prevalent hypocrisy. It is not, however, contended that a strict line of demarcation can be drawn between spiritual and temporal ministrations in general. The pastor who seeks to establish a relation of love between himself and his flock will care for their bodies as well as for their souls. But such love will be shown quite as often in withholding an alms as in bestowing it.

Mr. Mallet quoted the writings of the Rev. Brooke Lambert and of Canon Barry on this subject, and pointed out that, 'although there are many cases in which almsgiving is needful, there are other and far better ways of benefiting the poor, and such as more truly harmonise with and pave the way for spiritual influences. The provision of innocent amusements and interests, to replace those that are vicious and degrading; the amendment of sanitary conditions; the encouragement of provident habits by well-managed clubs, dispensaries, and penny banks, and by a stricter and more careful administration of the Poor Law; the promotion of industrial development, of co-operation; and last, though not least, 'primary education,' were mentioned as methods whereby real aid may be given, and sympathy shown towards the permanent elevation of the masses.

Referring to the injunctions of the Bible on the subject of charity, Mr. Mallet stated that 'to interpret these lessons literally is simply to degrade them. "The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." If asked to mention facts in modern life which entirely modify the precepts of Scripture in regard to almsgiving, it is sufficient to specify—(1) the development of a great industrial system, based upon civil liberty and international friendship; and (2) the existence of a Poor Law. It must not be forgotten,' he added, 'that many of the precepts of Christ and His Apostles, addressed to a small and select body of believers, have since become embodied in permanent institutions, and that one of the most important of these institutions is the Christian State.'

A discussion upon the paper followed.

CONVALESCENT HOMES.

District Committees may be glad to know of the following small Homes:—

(1) A Convalescent Home for Children of from 5 to 12 years of age; payment, 5s. a week. No patients recovering from infectious illness, or requiring medical treatment, can be received. Apply to Mrs. Brandreth, Dickleburgh Rectory, Scoll, Norfolk.

(2) A Cottage Home, 3 Abercorn Villas, Sudbury, for poor women, girls, and children who are convalescents, or who otherwise require change of air and rest. At present, the terms of admission are as follows:—An annual subscriber is entitled to recommend one inmate yearly, who may stay three weeks at the Home; but if a longer residence be desired, the charge will be 7s. 6d. per week. A non subscriber may send an inmate on payment of 7s. 6d. per week. Any woman paying for herself is charged 5s. per week. Children under 12 years of age are received, for 5s. per week, if paid for; if their parents pay for them, the charge is 3s. per week. Boys are admitted up to 10 years of age. Third-class fare to Sudbury from Euston Road, 8d.

All applications should be accompanied by a medical certificate, stating the nature of the ailment from which the patient has been suffering.

Applications should be addressed to Miss Bright, 24 Norfolk Crescent, W., or to Miss E. Davies, 23 Brondesbury Road, Kilburn, N.W.

For other Homes, see *Reporter*, March 1, 1876, vol. v., p. 48; and March 22, 1876, vol. v., p. 68.

UNWISE CHARITY.—At Marlborough Street, a batch of nine persons principally women and children, were charged by Police-sergeant Watson, C 22, with street-begging and obstruction in Regent Street. Police-sergeant Watson said he saw the prisoners and several others standing on the footpath before the County Fire Office in Regent Street, waiting

for a gentleman named Gardener. He told them if they did not go away he would take them into custody. Mr. Gardener, on coming out of the office, was immediately surrounded by the persons who had assembled. Some pulled his coat-tails, and others, who pretended to be blind, ran off on seeing witness approach. The obstruction had been going on for some time, Mr. Gardener being in the habit of giving a shilling each to poor people in the street. One of the prisoners, a little girl, said she did not ask Mr. Gardener for anything. He had, however, been in the habit of giving her a shilling every week. Mr. Knox directed that four of the prisoners who were actually blind should be discharged with a caution, and fined the others 5s. each for causing an obstruction. He wished Mr. Gardener would reconsider his present inconvenient mode of distributing alms.—*Times*, July 1.

Publications of the Charity Organisation Society.

To be obtained at the Office of the Society, and through Messrs. LONGMANS, Paternoster Row, and all Booksellers.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY, ITS OBJECTS AND MODE OF OPERATION. Price 3d.

MANUAL, CONTAINING A LIST OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND THEIR MODE OF OPERATION. Price 3d. per dozen.

SUGGESTED RULES FOR DISTRICT COMMITTEES. Price 1d.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE PAPERS. Price 3d. per set. 1. GENERAL OBJECTS. 2. LOANS. 4. BOOKS AND FORMS. 5. SUGGESTED BYE-LAWS. 6. INFORMATION.

THE SOCIETY'S CLUE MAP OF LONDON, showing the Divisions of the District Committees. In paper cover, and folded, 3 in. by 4 in. Price 6d.

ANNUAL REPORTS for 1869, 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1874. Price 3d. each. Also for 1875. Price 6d.

SETS OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 1872, 1873, AND 1874 bound up with the ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL, presented March 1873, 1874, and 1875. Price 2s. 6d. each, by post 3s. With Clue Map, 3d. extra.

SUGGESTIONS ON THE BEST MODE OF ORGANISING LOCAL CHARITY ASSOCIATIONS, and other Papers for the Country. Price 3d. per set.

LIST OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN CHARITY ORGANISATION AND OTHER SIMILAR SOCIETIES. Price, mounted, 1s.; unmounted, 6d.

CONFERENCE ON NIGHT REFUGES HELD JUNE 8, 1870, AND REPORT OF COMMITTEE. Price 4d.

REPORT ON SOUP-KITCHENS AND DINNER-TABLES. Price 3d. With Digest of Report and List of Soup-Kitchens, 1s.

REPORT ON THE CRÈCHES, OR PUBLIC DAY NURSERIES OF LONDON, by W. G. HOWGRAVE, Esq. With Special Reports on 23 Nurseries; also a Tabular Statement showing the system pursued by each. Price 3d.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT. Price 1d.

REPORT OF MEDICAL COMMITTEE, AND RULES FOR PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES. Second Edition, with Proceedings at the Conference of December 12, 1871. Price 6d.

REPORT ON THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR, by a Special Committee of the Society, with Appendix. Second Edition. Price 6d.

REPORT ON THE TRAINING OF THE BLIND, by a Special Committee of the Society, with Appendix. Price 1s.

REPORT ON AN INQUIRY INTO THE SOCIAL POSITION OF THE OUT-PATIENTS OF THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, GRAY'S IN ROAD. Price 3d.

SUGGESTED RULES FOR PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES. *Separate*. Price 3d.

VOTING CHARITIES. Proceedings of the Council on the System of Periodical Contested Elections by the whole body of the Subscribers in its application to Hospitals and Orphanages. Price 1d.

SPEECH OF THE BISHOP OF LONDON ON THE ORGANISATION OF CHARITY. April 1870. Price 1d.

THE CHARITABLE ADMINISTRATION OF AN EAST-END MISSION DISTRICT. By A. H. W. C. Price 1d.

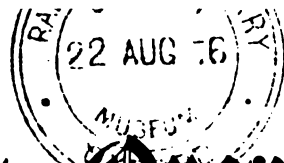
ADDRESS BY SIR CHARLES E. TREVELYAN ON THE SYSTEMATIC VISITATION OF THE POOR, AND REPORT OF A SUB-COMMITTEE ON HOUSE-TO-HOUSE VISITATION. Price 6d.

SUGGESTIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FOR SYSTEMATIC INQUIRY INTO THE CASES OF APPLICANTS FOR RELIEF. By G. J. BARNES-TURNER, Organising Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society. Price 2s. 6d.

A HANDY-BOOK FOR VISITORS OF THE POOR IN LONDON, WITH CHAPTERS ON POOR LAW, SANITARY LAW, AND CHARITIES. By CHARLES B. P. BOSANQUET, M.A. Price 2s.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER, which is published every Wednesday during the sittings of Council, is sent, post free, from the Central Office 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, for Forty Weeks (the average issue for a year) for 5s.

VOLUMES OF THE 'CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' for 1872, 1873, 1874, and 1875. Price 6s. 6d. per vol.



THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 186.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 19, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

District Committees, likely to require grants before the 30th of September next are requested to forward *without delay*, to the Secretary of the Council, their applications, together with the usual balance-sheet.

Mr. Douglas Walker has resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of the Strand Committee.

The Stepney Committee will in future meet at 4 P.M. instead of 3 P.M. on Tuesdays; the second weekly meeting will for the present be discontinued.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Alsager Hay Hill, Esq. (in the chair); J. Whitcombe, Esq., Kensington; Major Yard, Paddington; Capt. Boyce, Chelsea; W. W. Moore, Esq., St. George's; W. Bousfield, Esq., Westminster (St. James' and St. Anne's); Miss O. Hill, St. Marylebone; Lady Wilson, South St. Pancras; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; C. L. Corkran, Esq., Whitechapel; Hon. H. R. Scott, Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Mile End; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-President; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart. W. W. Wood, Esq., Additional Members; total, 17. Deputy Controller General Robinson, and R. Radcliffe, Esq., Visitors.

CHARITIES CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

In reply to Sir Charles Trevelyan, it was stated that the Charities Co-operation Sub-committee was being duly organised, and would commence work in good earnest after the recess.

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented the undermentioned papers:—

1st. 'Report of a Drawing-Room Conference on Boarding-out Pauper Children.' Longmans, price 1s.

2nd. A circular from the Charity Voting Reform Association to the subscribers to the Domestic Servants' Benevolent Institution, which showed, Sir C. Trevelyan considered, in a striking manner, that an institution could not be revised on so essential a point as the mode of admission to it, without bringing about the amendment of other defects; and

3rd. A paper read by Dr. Hancock, formerly Professor of Political Economy in the University of Dublin, on the Proceedings of the 'State Charities Aid Association of New York.' The most remarkable feature of the proceedings of this Association, Sir Charles remarked, is the importance they attach to the investigation of the causes of pauperism, and the use they make of family life as a means of removing it. By a law passed in 1875 the removal of children from the workhouse before they have attained the age of three years, and the making a provision for them 'in families, orphan asylums, or other appropriate institutions,' has been rendered compulsory; upon which the Committee of the Association remark:—

The new law, by giving precedence to family homes in the disposal of children, recognises the fact that, if carefully placed and judiciously watched, they are better off in families than they can be anywhere else, and they are much less likely to become chargeable to the State in after-life, because they will learn to help and to respect themselves; and loss of self-respect is at once the cause and the effect of pauperism.

Another point of interest is the proposal to establish Adult Reformatories for habitual vagrants:—

But further legislation will also be necessary to provide permanently for the incorrigibly idle and vicious, who should, in accordance with the advice of the State Board of Charities, be withdrawn from jails and poor-houses of the State, and committed, *until reformed*, to district workhouses—there to be kept at hard labour and educated morally and mentally.

A similar arrangement, but without any compulsory process, was proposed by our Committee on Night Refuges in 1870:—

It is desirable that some provision should be made for affording an opportunity of regaining their social position by steady and regular work, to those whose character is not positively vicious, but cannot be satisfactorily tested without such trial.

For this purpose it is suggested that one of the largest and best endowed of the Night Refuges should be converted into an adult Industrial Home, in which instruction should be given in the ordinary handicrafts; and certificates of character and skill should be given to those who deserve them.

As the present plan of an endless succession of short sentences has entirely failed to put down vagrancy, it may be hoped that the Government will avail itself of the command it will obtain over the prisons of the country, under the Prisons Act, to make suitable provision for this object.

FIRE IN LITTLE WINDMILL STREET.

Mr. Bousfield stated that the Westminster Committee were taking active measures to place the services of their agent and office at the disposal of the Relief Committee.

A SPECIAL DONATION.

Sir Charles Trevelyan read the following letter:—

When this weather is making us all think of getting away from London

as quickly as possible, it also reminds us of those who require it as much, with but little prospect of being able to go. It is for such I enclose you a cheque for £100; which I desire to be apportioned amongst the poorest of the District Committees, for convalescent cases only, in such proportions and with such restrictions as the Council may think fit to impose, but the cases to be those only which have been before one of your District Committees.

The Secretary was instructed to convey the thanks of the Council to the donor.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending July 8 the receipts had been £182. 12s. for the General Fund, and £159 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £793. 14s. 7d. and £355. 2s. respectively.

ADDITIONAL DISTRICT OFFICERS.—The Committee had adopted the following statement of the Districts Sub-Committee on the third and fourth recommendations of the Joint Sub-Committee:—*

The Sub-Committee has succeeded in enlisting several volunteer workers and attaching them to the various District Committees, and it has entered into closer communication with several Committees where its influence has been helpful; but, at the same time, it considers that it would be premature to decide finally whether the influence it can bring to bear, coupled with the progress which is being gradually made from other causes, is sufficient to permanently strengthen the Committees and bring them to a proper standard of efficiency.

The Sub-Committee is of opinion that the need of more volunteers should be kept steadily in view; and looking to the progress already made through the concentration in one Sub-Committee of the work connected with the District Committees, the Sub-Committee cannot at the present moment recommend the addition to the paid staff contemplated by the recommendation of the Joint Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee hopes that after the recess its members will be able to see still more of the District Committees.

CONFERENCE OF METROPOLITAN GUARDIANS.—Notices of the Conference to be held on the 17th inst. had been sent to District Committees.

THE MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—The work of the Mendicity Sub-Committee, formerly the Supervision Inquiry Sub-Committee,† had been defined in the following terms:—‘That it inquire into the *bonâ fides* of Metropolitan Charitable Institutions, and into individual cases outside the boundaries of Metropolitan Committees, and also take up the work of the Special Committee on Vagrancy and Mendicity.’

OFFICES OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The Rev. W. H. Langhorne moved:—

That whenever practicable the District Committees should avail themselves of any public rooms which may be had in the several districts for the purposes of Committee meetings, in order that the payments for rent may be, as far as possible, confined to the Agents' offices.

He had lately been considering how Committees in poor Districts could as far as possible assist the Society when there was a want of funds, and it had occurred to him that it would be possible to secure a further economy on one point without diminishing the efficiency of such Committees. The offices of the Society should, he thought, be very numerous; Committee-rooms should be proportionately few. Committee meetings might be held in vestry or other halls; and, now that

* See *Reporter*, No. 162, Vol. v., January 19, 1876. The following are the recommendations of the Joint Sub-Committee above alluded to, viz.:—‘That three salaried District Officers, of whom one might be the present Assistant Organising Secretary, should be appointed for the purpose of personally assisting Honorary Secretaries and Committees of poorer districts; that these officers should be under the control of the Sub-Committee, and, unless specially required to attend at the Central Office, their duties should be confined to the districts to which they are accredited. ‘The Committee consider that the salaries of the two new officers above recommended, should not exceed (including travelling allowances) £200 per annum.’

† See *Reporter*, No. 178, Vol. v., May 17, 1876.

in the East-end the Society was becoming thoroughly known, it might even be possible without disadvantage to place the offices of the Society, not in a good thoroughfare, but in some street off the main roads. Shopkeepers and others would willingly, in some instances, set up placards in their windows to inform the public of the position of the office. He then submitted statistics of the amounts paid by the District Committees in rent for office and Committee-rooms.

Mr. C. L. Corkran seconded the motion. He thought that District Committees could unite with societies working for objects cognate to those of the Society, and take Committee-rooms in common; or the Committee-rooms of District Committees might be underlet to other societies at a nominal rent. But rooms in the main thoroughfares were necessary, as it had been found that many persons purchased the provident and other papers exposed for sale in such places.

Rev. J. H. Simpson feared the complications and possible misunderstanding of the objects of the Society that might ensue from the adoption of Mr. Corkran's suggestion. The words in the motion, ‘wherever practicable,’ were important, and, while they left room for the adoption of the motion, suggested the reason for the anomalies of rental that appeared in the statistics.

Mr. Bousfield, citing the Kensington Committee, pointed out the inconvenience that would result from the removal of the office-books to a neighbouring Committee-room three or four times a week.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that after a Committee had established itself it might, like the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee, consolidate its work within one building, but in no case would the separation of the offices from the Committee-rooms be desirable. However attractive a local or metropolitan charity building, such as that at Boston, might appear to be, the adoption of any arrangement for uniting the offices of various charities in one building would involve very difficult relations with the charities.

After a few words from Mr. T. Galabin and Major Prendergast,

Miss O. Hill pointed out how unsuccessful the arrangement had proved in the case of several Committees which, by having carried out what Mr. Langhorne suggested, had reduced their rent to an almost nominal sum. And the Secretary stated that the Districts Sub-Committee had considered Mr. Langhorne's proposal, but were unwilling to adopt it, both because it had not been found convenient hitherto, and because a second room was useful for the work of the Hon. Secretary, and allowed each applicant to tell his story separately.

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson said that the National Penny Bank had taken eleven houses, at the average rental of £55, but that some of the rooms in each house were sublet, or used as residences for officers. In this way the net expenditure in rent was reduced to about £20 in each case.

Mr. Langhorne, in reply, said that he believed that the inconveniences consequent on the adoption of his proposal would be fewer than had been anticipated. He was, however, quite satisfied with having drawn attention to the subject, and would not press his motion. The motion was then withdrawn.

DISTRICT OFFICES.*

The Rev. R. J. Simpson having, with the consent of Council, slightly modified his motion, moved:—

That the Council desires to remind the District Committees that it is highly desirable that the District offices should be kept open for ordinary business throughout the summer months.

He said that it was an obvious condition of the work of the Society that it should be continuous; and it was of great

* See *Reporter*, No. 185.

importance that the public should feel that they could *always* refer cases to our Committees, and obtain the assistance of the Society.

The motion was seconded by Sir Charles Trevelyan, and carried *nem. con.*

The Council then adjourned.

The following business stands for Monday, July 24:—

I. The following recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—
(1) That the grant of £50 made to the Newington Committee on the 6th instant, and the grant of £57 made to the St. Olave's Committee on the 22nd ultimo, be confirmed; (2) that a grant of £55 be made to the Stepney Committee; (3) and that the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants during the recess to District Committees, in accordance with the estimates submitted by them.

II. To consider the following recommendations of the Collection Sub-Committee: (1) That with a view to obtaining the sums required for the relief of special cases, and to interest charitable individuals in the work of the Society, District Committees should make it extensively known that they will be glad to obtain the names and addresses of those who may be willing to relieve deserving cases; (2) that the collector of each district should receive a percentage on all contributions paid towards any branch of the Society by residents in his district which can be traced to his agency, as this would encourage him to put forward prominently the claims of the whole Society; (3) that the members of each Committee should keep themselves informed of the work of their collector, and lose no opportunity of supplementing his efforts in a systematic manner, so as to make known the claims and wants of the Society to those whom he may fail to interest in the work; (4) that in the first instance the Council appoint at least one collector of a superior class to collect funds on its own behalf, and to assist Committees in breaking fresh ground, or in working up a district in which there has been hitherto a very partial canvass made.

III. Mr. W. W. Wood to move:—

That any collection made by the Council be on behalf of the General Fund and of the District Committee Aid Fund; each fund to have a first claim on 50 per cent. of all sums so collected.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

At their meeting to-morrow (Thursday) the Administrative Committee will consider the Report of the Sub-committee on the *Reporter*; and some practical suggestions of the Collection Sub-Committee for collection by the Council and by District Committees.

The following contributions were received during the week ending July 16, 1876:—*Donations:* H. Bousfield, Esq., £5; F. W. Brind, Esq., £1. 1s.; Dennistoun, Cross, & Co., £2. 2s.; R. Jardine, Esq., £5; A. A. Ranken, Esq., £1; S. Scott, Esq., £50; The Drapers' Company, £21.—*Annual: Messrs. Sewell & Edwards, £1. 1s.; The Clothworkers' Company, £10. 10s. District Committee Aid Fund:* John Griffith, Esq., £25; the Hampstead Committee, £21. 13s.; Mrs. Arthur Whately, 10s.; J. Hornsby Wright, Esq., £5.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The Special Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles and Harmless Lunatics held its thirteenth meeting on Wednesday, July 12, at the Central Offices. There were present: Lord Wrottesley (in the chair), the Honble. C. H. Strutt, Sir John Ogilvy, Bart., Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., the Rev. R. J. Simpson; Drs. Brewer, G. W. Grabham, D. Hack Tuke, Fletcher Beach; Messrs. Millard, A. Sperling, W. M. Wilkinson, Courtenay Boyle (Poor Law Inspector), F. D. Mocatta, Danby P. Fry, and Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary.

Papers relating to the Blind Asylum at Amsterdam, received through the Foreign Office, were submitted to the Committee.

Returns of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics needing public administration, according to districts, prepared by Mr. Millard, Superintendent of the Eastern Counties Asylum, were distributed.

The Committee then resumed the discussion of the 1st and 4th heads of the 5th section ('Ways and Means'), and resolved—

'That the education and care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics must, as at present, be mainly provided for by local administration and local rates; but, as every member of the community is interested in the object, and this national obligation has already been acknowledged in several ways, assistance should be given out of the public revenue; and

'That the best mode in which such assistance can be given is by advances for the necessary buildings on easy terms, liberal capitation grants for young people under training, and grants of less amounts for adults.'

Under the 2nd head of the same section it was moved:—

'That union houses and gaols which are no longer wanted, owing to the

diminution of pauperism and crime, might, when the circumstances are suitable, be adapted as Training Schools and Asylums for Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics.'

To which the following amendment was moved, and unanimously carried:—

'That, although many workhouses and gaols are likely soon to be available for other purposes, yet, having regard to adaptability, sanitation, and economy, it is desirable to erect new buildings for the institutions contemplated by the Committee.'

Under the 3rd head it was resolved—

'That families which, although able to pay their way under ordinary circumstances, would be reduced to destitution if required to defray the entire cost, should be charged at such rates as their means will allow for an Idiot, Imbecile, or Harmless Lunatic member admitted into a Training School or Asylum; and that the privilege accorded by Act of Parliament to the Blind and Deaf and Dumb—viz., that relief given to children should not be deemed to be parochial relief given to their parents—should be expended to Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 15th, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as		Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by		Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Unfavourable Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise indigible	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans Employment Letters for Hospital, &c.				
Kensington	1	1	4	6	5	7	12	18	2	4
Fulham	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	3
Paddington	7	2	7	16	8	4	16	38	21	7
Chelsea	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	9	8	1
St. George's:—										
St. George's Division	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	19	19	2
Westminster do.	1	2	4	7	2	1	3	6	1	2
Westminster:—										
St. James's & St. Anne's	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	1	2
St. Marylebone	1	2	3	6	4	10	4	19	9	8
Hampstead	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	1	2	3	3	3	3	5	2	5
South St. Pancras	4	2	7	13	9	6	15	1	29	1
Islington	2	1	3	6	13	13	1	20	8	8
Hackney	1	2	1	4	3	1	4	8	7	7
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	9	13	10
Strand	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	21	14
Holborn	2	1	1	4	1	11	2	14	2	3
City	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	3	3
Shoreditch	1	1	7	9	1	1	1	11	2	5
Bethnal Green	1	1	7	9	1	1	1	8	1	1
Whitechapel	4	1	2	7	1	1	1	10	1	1
St. George's-in-the-East	2	2	2	1	1	2	4	4	9	12
Stepney	4	4	5	1	1	1	1	7	6	1
Mile End Old Town	1	2	1	4	2	2	1	4	4	7
Poplar	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	9	1	7
St. Saviour's	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	13	1	6
Newington	1	1	4	6	6	5	1	1	1	2
St. Olave's	1	1	5	7	2	1	3	12	3	1
Lambeth:—										
North	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
South	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Wandsworth & Putney	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	6	2	1
Battersea	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	6	1	11
Clapham	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	1
Camberwell:—										
Grove Lane	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	8	2	2
Peckham	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greenwich	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	4	1	1
Deptford	1	1	1	3	4	1	1	5	1	4
Woolwich	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
Lewisham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	6
Eltham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	45	19	71	135	4	68	31	103	40	6
									13	29
									88	326
									126	142
									70	

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of July 1876 was 33,735, and 43,763 received out-door relief, making a total of 77,498. This was a decrease of 950 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 5,974, 15,956, and 22,531 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 436. This was a decrease of 135 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 70 on the corresponding day of last year.

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, June 24, 1876:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Elton	Glasgow	Horsham	Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbledon	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	6	2	..	..	26	..	1	2	3	2	..	1
2. Underserving	13	23	8	2	108	..	..	5	4	14	..	5
3. Cases for Poor Law, or otherwise ineligible	25	25	9	..	..	..	1	7	2	26	..	1
	44	50	17	2	134	..	2	14	9	42	..	7
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	10	1	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	7	..	..	2	24	..	..	12	..	..	..	..
3. Private Persons	6	13	8	8	78	..	..	3	1	..	..	1
	23	14	5	6	103	1	..	15	1	..	..	1
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	50	43	4	2	16	3	..	16	2	15	3	1
2. Loans	..	..	1	3	5	1	..	27	..	3	..	1
3. Employment	17	..	27	3	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
4. Letters for Hospitals, &c.	..	16	..	..	14	..	1	1	..	1	..	..
	67	59	32	8	39	4	1	44	3	19	3	2
	134	123	54	16	276	5	3	73	13	61	3	10
Reports sent out	11	72	32	..	144	75	..	23	1	2	5	..
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	4	12	..	..	..	3	..	5	2	1	..	..
Vagrants dealt with	5	950	54	632	..	80	52	212	14	42	517	..

OBJECTIONS TO THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

The following is an extract from a letter lately written by Mr. C. E. Maurice in the *Workmen's Club Journal*, in answer to objections raised against the Charity Organisation Society by a workman writing under the nom de plume of 'Rasp':—

'Mr. "Rasp's" chief objections to our society are—(1) that it wastes too much money on mere machinery; (2) that it does not restrain mendicancy; (3) that it fails to reach cases most deserving of help; (4) that, being a "distant organisation," even its inquiry cannot be as effective as that made by people nearer the spot; (5) that it makes relief a mechanical thing; (6) that it offends the spirit of independence of the poor (I presume Mr. "Rasp" means that by its "assault on natural pride"); and (7) that the work to be done would be better done by individual effort.

'Now, with regard to the first complaint, I would remind Mr. "Rasp" that the first object of the Society when originally started was to provide a machinery for inquiry which should prevent people from either relieving the undeserving or from giving inefficient help of a similar kind to that which was being given by others. It was found by careful inquiry that this help was needed, not, as Mr. "Rasp" supposes, only by those who wished not to take trouble, but by those who were taking trouble, but who, from want of co-operation with other charitable people, were not able to arrive at the truth in many cases. Many impostors were carrying on their work in different parts of London who could not be detected by isolated individuals, and many absolutely fraudulent "charities" were taking advantage of the generosity of charitable people for the purposes of the vilest form of swindling. Mr. "Rasp" will, I think, admit that considerable "machinery" was necessary to carry out these objects. At the same time I am not, I think, guilty of any breach of confidence in stating that there is considerable difference of opinion among the members of our Council as to the desirability of part of that machinery, and as to the wisdom of our taking up the question of prosecuting fraudulent charities. The objection, therefore, even if sound, does not touch the principles of our Society.

'As to the second charge—of our failure to restrain mendicancy—I can only answer that here, in Hampstead, we have succeeded in nearly suppressing street-begging, while the central office has exposed many of those swindlers who have lived on the public. Of course in seven years (the time of the Society's life) even this part of the work is not complete.

'The third and fourth objections it will be more convenient to consider together. It is evident from the phrase, a "distant organisation," and from his suggestion at a later place in his letter of what might be done by those "resident on the spot," that Mr. "Rasp" imagines that the offices and Council at Buckingham-street are the whole of the Charity Organisation Society. Now, there are thirty-seven Charity Organisation Committees established in different parts of London, and composed (except in the poorer districts, where men of sufficient leisure cannot be obtained) of

persons "resident on the spot," and interested in the relief of the poor in its widest sense; and, while these committees are in constant intercourse with each other, and send representatives to the central Council, their formation has, in many cases, been due almost wholly to the efforts of local people. The inquiry, therefore, is not conducted by a distant organisation, but by people resident on the spot; partly by the agent of the committee, partly by the honorary secretary, and partly (in the best organised committees) by other members of the committees. We are thus able, in many cases, to reach cases of sudden calamity, where help, to be efficient, must be prompt. We (in Hampstead) have in many cases found work for people out of work; found convalescent tickets for those needing to go to Homes; or hospital letters for those needing such treatment; have in two recent cases found outfits for those requiring emigration; and supplied the means of work (sewing-machines, mangles, &c.) in others. A committee, in a district much richer than ours, has started a pension fund for widows, and has, I believe, made large use of it. But this is not the chief work of the committees, and we must generally leave cases of special urgency to private relief; but even our after-inquiry will be a guide to the relieving person for the future.

'As to Mr. "Rasp's" fifth objection, I must meet it with a most direct denial of his statement; and also with the complaint that, in saying I did not meet his objections in my former letter, he overlooked the sentence in which I touched on this point. We do not profess to be in any but the last resort a relief agency; and why not? Because, amongst other reasons, we wish to act through the personal agency of clergy, district visitors, and all who already know the poor personally. But our great wish is that they should act together, and act wisely; and it is because they have not acted together, and not acted wisely in the past, that our Society is needed. We wish to make their intercourse with the poor not less personal, but more efficient; more really friendly, because the result of thought and consideration and common action, not of the hasty conclusion that the giving of sixpences, and possibly coal-tickets, is always the most real relief.

'As to the sixth objection, I can tell Mr. "Rasp" of an instance here in Hampstead, in which we found work for a man who was merely needing work, but whom some benevolent people in Hampstead were doing their best to pauperise by giving him money and soup-tickets; and in another case we saved a woman from having money thrust on her *without her wish, and which she did not need*, by our advice to the lady desiring so to help her. Which does Mr. "Rasp" think most offended the "natural pride" of the poor—we, or the well-meaning but ignorant benevolent? But, indeed, I must again refer Mr. "Rasp" to my former article for a more complete answer on this point.

'The last objection to which I have alluded is one which I have been trying to answer throughout this letter; but, as Mr. "Rasp" has referred to me personally in so kind and complimentary a manner, I am bound very specially to reject the compliment. I am a man with none of those advantages of circumstances, still less with those special advantages of character which enable some men to gain an influence in settling matters between poor and rich; and if I had not joined the Charity Organisation Committee in Hampstead, I should never have obtained any knowledge of the poor, nor have been able to give even that almost imperceptible amount of help that I have been able to give. Above all, though I might have been able to give a small subscription to this or that charity, I should never have had any *locus standi* in going to see any poor person—that *locus standi* I have gained as a member of the Charity Organisation Committee.'

Now Ready. Price 1s.

REPORT ON THE TRAINING OF THE BLIND.
By a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society; with Appendix.

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THE

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 187.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 26, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies at are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

District Committees likely to require grants before the 30th September next are requested to forward, *without delay*, to the Secretary of the Council, their applications, together with the usual balance-sheet.

The *Reporter* will not appear during the months of August and September, as the Council does not meet during those months, though the Administrative Committee sits as usual.

District Committees are requested to send in their weekly returns as usual during August and September.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present: Alsager Hay Hill, Esq. (in the chair); C. J. Stevens, Esq., *Alham*; Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Hollond, Esq., *Paddington*; R. A. Spinall, Esq., Dr. Daniel, Capt. Boyce, R.N., *Chelsea*; W. Bevan, Esq., W. Rusfield, Esq., *Westminster (St. James's and St. Anne's)*; Miss Octavia Hill, *Marylebone*; Hon. W. Warren Vernon, *St. Giles's and Bloomsbury*; Rev. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill, Esq., *Strand*; G. Barrington Baker, Esq., *Holborn*; Rev. H. I. Cummins, *City*; Rev. H. G. Henderson, *Shoreditch*; Hon. R. Scott, *Mile End*; R. Ellis, Esq., *Poplar*; Capt. Noyes, *St. Olave's*; Galabin, Esq., *Camberwell*; G. Parker, Esq., *Lewisham*; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., *Vice-President*; Sir Charles Trevelyan, C. A. Miner, Esq., W. Willisond, Esq., W. Wightman Wood, Esq., *Additional Members*; total, 26. S. Loch, Esq., *Secretary*.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending July 15 the receipts had been 96. 14s. for the General Fund, and £52. 3s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £762. 10s. 7d. and £159. 16s. 1d. respectively.

GRANTS.—That they had made grants of £45 and £30 to the Bethnal Green and Islington Committees respectively.

'REPORTER.'—The Committee had adopted the following report of the Sub-Committee* on the *Reporter*, with one or two slight alterations and additions:—

Report of the Sub-Committee of the Administrative Committee on the *Reporter*:—

Your Sub-Committee have held three meetings, at which the following members have been present, viz.: Mr. Alsager H. Hill, Mr. Du Pré Thornton, and Major Nares.

They have confined their attention to the consideration of the practical questions referred to them by the series of Resolutions passed on the subject by the Administrative Committee.

They beg to submit the following suggestions on each of these Resolutions:—

They suggest on Resolution 1.—That the names of members attending Council be inserted in columns parallel to the names of the several Committees which they represent. That there should be double columns in the space allotted to these names, and that the word 'Esq.' be omitted, in order to economise space.

That, under ordinary circumstances, the report of Council Proceedings be limited to three columns; and that, considering the pressure of work on the staff, the *Reporter* should not be sent to press till noon on Wednesday, and that 'advance copies' be sent to Committees meeting on Wednesday.

On Resolution 2.—That the insertion of matter under the general heads of 'Questions of Interest to District Committees' and 'Details of Special Prosecutions' be left, as at present, to the discretion of the Secretary.

On Resolution 3.—That half a column of the *Reporter* be devoted to subjects under the head of 'District News,' and that postcards directed to the Secretary be supplied to Hon. Secretaries of District Committees to facilitate their supplying information for insertion under that head. That at least half a column be allotted to General Topics bearing on Charity Organisation; and that Country Charity Organisation Societies be invited to send in suggestions and memoranda.

That Mr. Purdy, of the Statistical Department, be requested to supply the return of Metropolitan Pauperism monthly for insertion in the *Reporter*, parallel with the Charity Organisation Society's returns of similar date. That the District Committees be invited to furnish brief abstracts of more than usually interesting cases illustrative of the working of the Society.†

On Resolution 4.—That letters and correspondence may be received for insertion under the following conditions, viz.: That letters in criticism of Council Proceedings or containing personal remarks should not be inserted; nor appeals for money, direct or indirect; also that a notice should be inserted at the head of 'Correspondence,' stating that the Council does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed in the correspondence; and that the Secretary should, when he thinks necessary, submit letters to the Administrative Committee before insertion.

On Resolution 5.—That cases submitted by District Committees should be inserted at the discretion of the Administrative Committee, under the head of 'Correspondence and Cases,' with a view to eliciting suggestions for appropriate treatment.

On Resolution 6.—They recommend that a certain number of selected Advertisements be inserted in such parts of the *Reporter* as are not required for the necessary reports of the Society's business and other matters to which space is allotted in the paper from week to week. That the rate of charge for Advertisements be invariable—1s. a line or 9s. an inch. That such Advertisements be submitted, with the other contents of the paper, to the Administrative Committee, and that, by way of experiment, the selec-

* See *Reporter*, No. 183, June 28, 1876, vol. v., p. 109.

† This resolution was not a recommendation of the Sub-Committee on the *Reporter*.

tion of Advertisements for the present rest with the Secretary. They also recommend that the size of the *Reporter* should for the present continue the same as heretofore.

A SPECIAL DONATION.*—The following arrangements for the distribution of the donation of £100 for convalescent cases had been adopted by the Administrative Committee:—

That £6 be given to each of the five following Committees, viz.: South St. Pancras, Islington, St. Giles's, Newington, and Lambeth; that £7 be given to each of the ten following Committees, viz.: Holborn, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, St. George's-in-the-East, Stepney, Mile End, Poplar, St. Saviour's, St. Olave's; that the distribution of the money be subject to the following restrictions, viz.: that no letter of admission to a convalescent home be purchased for an applicant, except after the receipt of a medical certificate duly filled up; that the form or medical certificate made use of by the Paddington and Marylebone Committees be forwarded to the Committees receiving parts of the donation, and that the applicants themselves take the certificates to the medical men. And lastly, that a list of Convalescent Homes, notice of which had been from time to time inserted in the *Reporter*, be sent to each of the above District Committees, to post up in their Committee-rooms.

GRANTS.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Administrative Committee (See Bye Law No. 27, section iv.), grants of £50 and £57 to the Newington and St. Olave's Committees respectively were confirmed.

The consideration of the grant of £55 to the Stepney Committee was postponed.

The following recommendation of the Administrative Committee was adopted:—

That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants during the recess to District Committees, in accordance with the estimates submitted by them.

SUB-COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON THE COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

Mr. Miner moved the following recommendations of the Sub-Committee, which it was agreed to take *en bloc*:—

II. To consider the following recommendations of the Collection Sub-Committee: (1) That, with a view to obtaining the sums required for the relief of special cases, and to interest charitable individuals in the work of the Society, District Committees should make it extensively known that they will be glad to obtain the names and addresses of those who may be willing to relieve deserving cases; (2) that the collector of each district should receive a percentage on all contributions paid towards any branch of the Society by residents in his district which can be traced to his agency, as this would encourage him to put forward prominently the claims of the whole Society; (3) that the members of each Committee should keep themselves informed of the work of their collector, and lose no opportunity of supplementing his efforts in a systematic manner, so as to make known the claims and wants of the Society to those whom he may fail to interest in the work; (4) that in the first instance the Council appoint at least one collector of a superior class to collect funds on its own behalf, and to assist Committees in breaking fresh ground, or in working up a district in which there has been hitherto a very partial canvass made.†

The first recommendation had been, he said, already carried into effect with very good results in some districts. The object of the second was to remove any excuse for inertness on the part of the collector in urging upon those whom he visited the claims of the Society as a whole. The third was most important: members of District Committees should consider it their duty to assist in explaining the objects of the Society and the results which it has accomplished. Their aid was required, not for the collection of funds only, but above all for the purpose of securing more complete and hearty co-operation. With regard to the fourth recommendation, an intelligent man was required, well versed in the practical work of the Society, who should be, as it were, a missionary on its behalf, and remove much of the misunderstanding and prejudice which at present existed respecting it.

Rev. H. J. Cummins, in seconding the recommendations, said that in consideration of the difficulties which might arise from the second resolution, he would have preferred the omis-

sion of the words 'which can be traced to his agency;' and as the question of salary was not touched upon, he would propose that it be left in the hands of the Administrative Committee.

Mr. Bousfield suggested that it might be advisable, in the interest of a reformed system of charitable administration, to attempt to continue without appointing a collector.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, referring to the third recommendation, said it was very desirable to retain the power of discriminating between sums for which percentage should be paid by Council and others for which no percentage could be levied. It was true that hitherto the Council had been able to obtain funds without employing such a collector as that proposed in the fourth recommendation, but it was now proved to be absolutely necessary to give assistance in collection to some District Committees. The selection of the collector must be conducted with the greatest care; for he would, to a certain extent, have the reputation of the Society in his hands. In the first instance, he should perhaps be appointed for a year only. The last clause of the fourth recommendation was specially important. It was essential that those responsible for the work of the Committee should remain responsible for the collection of funds in the district of the Committee. Many contributions which would not find their way to any more distant body would be paid to the District Committee, in consequence of good local work; and the work of collection would force members to make themselves acquainted with their constituencies, and oblige them to explain difficulties and meet objections. It must not be understood, therefore, that any transference of the burthen of collection was proposed by the recommendation.

After a few words from Mr. W. Bevan and Sir R. M. Stephenson, Mr. Miner said that it was the object of the recommendations to assist and co-operate with District Committees only. Nothing could be further from the intention of the Sub-Committee than to assume the responsibilities of the Local Committee, or displace local influence and effort in the collection of funds.

The recommendations were then put and carried, together with a further resolution—

That the amount of the salary of the Collector be determined by the Administrative Committee.

COLLECTION BY THE COUNCIL.

Mr. W. W. Wood moved:—

That any collection made by the Council be on behalf of the General Fund and of the District Committee Aid Fund; each fund to have a first claim on 50 per cent. of all sums so collected;

adding, with the permission of the Council, the following words, viz.:—

which are not specially assigned by the donors either to the expenses of the Central Office or to the District Committee Aid Fund.

The collection of funds on behalf of the Council and of the poorer District Committees was undertaken by the Council, while, since the recent decision of Council, District Committees collected on their own behalf and on behalf of the whole Society. At the discussion on the second recommendation of the Collection Sub-Committee he had proposed that their should be some specific division of the sums collected by each District Committee—that a part should be set aside for its own wants, and a part paid over for the work of the whole Society. The arrangement he had proposed was rejected; but it was even more obligatory for the Council not to accept money both for itself and for the District Committees without arranging that the money received should be fairly divided according to the requirements of each. His motion dealt with cases in which money had been received by the Council, but the donor had not specially stated how his donation should be expended.

* See *Reporter*, No. 186, p. 123.

† See *Reporter*, No. 180, vol. v., p. 97, May 31, 1876.

Mr. A. H. Hill seconded the motion.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that the views expressed by Mr. W. W. Wood seemed to indicate a belief that Committees would be inclined to consider the collection made by them as the private property of the Committee, and not as a sacred trust fund. The Committees in the richer districts had undertaken; so far as was possible, to provide for the wants of those in the poorer districts, in order to compensate for the limitations which the division of the area of the Society into separate districts entailed on the collection of the poorer Committees. The Council also had undertaken to collect both for its own more special work and for the work of the poorer districts; the nature of the work in each case was totally different, and as the claims of each would vary in different years, a different yearly apportionment of the funds available would have to be made. The Council must claim that a trust similar to that imposed in the District Committees should be placed in it.

Rev. H. I. Cummins thought the question of collection had been already sufficiently discussed. Council was appealing on behalf of the poor districts, on the understanding that it conducted its work as economically as possible. He would suggest the abolition of the District Committee Aid Fund. He moved the previous question.

After a few words from Rev. R. J. Simpson and Mr. A. H. Hill.

Mr. J. R. Hollond said that the Administrative Committee made it a principle never to allow the wants of the Council to interfere with the distribution of money which was required by the District Committees. At the same time their decision turned not merely on the question whether the Committee was in want of money, but whether the grant was likely to be applied beneficially. During the present year £187. 13s. 10d. had been handed over as a grant from the General Fund to the District Committee Aid Fund; and £481 had been transferred as a loan, which would never, in all probability, be repaid.

After a few words from Mr. W. W. Wood in reply, the previous question was put and carried.

The Council then adjourned.

The following business stands for Monday, July 31:—

1. That a grant of £55 be made to the Stepney Committee.
2. Sir Charles Trevelyan to move—
'That the price of the *Reporter* be doubled, and that the size be increased to the extent required by the changes ordered by the Administrative Committee.'

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson to move—

- 'That the *Reporter* be distributed gratis to all subscribers of not less than £1.'

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

At their meeting to-morrow (Thursday) the Administrative Committee will consider if any arrangements should be made for sermons and lectures on behalf of the Society during the ensuing winter.

The following contributions were received during the week ending July 22, 1876:—*Donations*: Messrs. Quilter, Ball, & Co., £3. 3s.; A. Sim, Esq., £5. 5s.—*Annual*: Major C. C. Fitz-Roy, £2. 2s.; The Earl of Leicester, K.G., £10; L. Taylor, Esq., £1. 1s.—*District Committee Aid Fund*: 'Anonymous' (for convalescent cases in the poorest districts), £100.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of July 1876 was 33,603, and 43,630 received out-door relief, making a total of 77,233. This was a decrease of 265 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 6,061, 16,368, and 21,861 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 493. This was an increase of 57 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 63 on the corresponding day of last year.

ERRATUM.—The return of the Horsham Association, on page 126 of *Reporter* No. 186, should have been as follows:—Recommended to Guardians, 1; assisted by grants, 3; assisted by loans, 1; total, 5. Vagrants dealt with, 76.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, JULY 22nd, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with			
	Not requiring relief	Un- der- serving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise in- eligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants					Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.
Kensington	5	3	4	12	1	2	3	2	1	..	3	18	9	4	3	
Fulham	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	4	..	..	4	6	1	3	4	
Paddington	1	..	4	5	..	2	2	6	2	1	9	16	9	2	1	
Chelsea	1	..	1	2	..	1	1	2	1	1	3	6	9	10	3	
St. George's:—																
St. George's Division.	1	2	..	3	..	2	2	2	1	1	4	17	6	1	4	
Westminster do.	1	2	2	5	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	..	..	2	..	
Westminster:—																
St. James' & St. Anne's	..	1	3	4	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	5	2	3	..	
St. Marylebone	..	5	5	1	9	2	12	1	1	..	2	19	3	3	..	
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
North St. Pancras and	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Highgate	1	2	..	3	..	8	1	9	..	1	1	13	3	4	..	
South St. Pancras	..	7	7	..	2	1	3	..	1	..	1	10	..	6	..	
Islington	5	1	4	10	..	16	..	16	..	..	..	26	6	6	..	
Hackney	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	2	2	..	7	1	8	1	1	..	2	12	..	2	..	
Strand	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	5	7	8	5	..	
Holborn	..	2	2	..	21	..	21	..	..	..	..	23	2	6	..	
*City	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Shoreditch	..	..	..	..	7	..	7	3	3	..	6	13	2	5	..	
Bethnal Green	..	3	2	5	1	..	1	2	..	..	2	8	3	3	1	
Whitechapel	..	1	1	..	2	1	3	..	1	1	1	5	3	3	..	
St. George's-in-the-East	..	1	1	1	1	2	4	..	..	1	2	8	..	4	..	
Stepney	2	2	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	2	3	4	1	..	
Mile End Old Town	..	4	4	..	3	..	3	..	..	1	1	5	..	2	..	
Poplar	2	1	3	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	..	..	
St. Saviour's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Newington	1	1	2	..	1	1	2	3	..	3	6	14	7	..	..	
St. Olave's	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	3	1	2	..	
Lambeth:—																
*North	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Wandsworth & Putney	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	3	..	5	..	
Battersea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	6	6	2	..	4	
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	6	6	2	..	1	
Camberwell:—																
Grove Lane	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	1	..	
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Greenwich	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	1	2	3	5	5	..	1	7	
Deptford	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	..	1	2	
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	3	..	3	6	4	..	3	..	
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	3	9	
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Totals	21	18	61	100	4	87	13	104	35	16	6	71	276	85	81	57

* No returns received from these Committees at the time of going to press.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

The Special Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles and Harmless Lunatics held its thirteenth meeting on Wednesday, July 12, at the Central Office. There were present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair), the Honble. C. H. Strutt, Sir John Ogilvy, Bart., Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., the Rev. Canon Hopkins, the Revs. R. J. Simpson and H. I. Cummins; Drs. D. Hack Tuke, Brewer, Grabham, Boyd, J. Langdon Down, Ireland, and Fletcher Beach; Messrs. W. M. Wilkinson, W. Millard, F. D. Mocatta, and Danby P. Fry.

A statement by Dr. Ireland on the bearing of the Scottish Lunacy Acts upon the condition of Idiots and Imbeciles in Scotland was distributed.

The 6th section of the Agenda, entitled 'Provision for Idiots and Imbeciles of the Lower-Middle and Upper-Working Class,' was then considered, and the following resolutions were passed:—

1st. 'That persons belonging to the lower-middle and upper artisan class, who are so unfortunate as to have an imbecile child, are in a less favourable position than any other for obtaining proper education and care for it, because, while they can rarely afford to pay the full cost of maintenance and education, they cannot well appear before their respective Boards of Guardians to claim the benefit of the legal provisions for destitute imbecile children.'

2nd. 'That institutions mainly supported on the voluntary principle are best adapted to the needs of the class specified in the foregoing resolution, provided all suitable cases are admitted at the proper age, at rates suited to the circumstances of their respective families.'

3rd. 'That the Government may assist in the formation and maintenance of such Institutions by removing unnecessary legal restrictions.'

ALLEGED STARVATION IN WESTMINSTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE TIMES.'

SIR,—The accompanying letter contains the decision of the Local Government Board respecting the case of Charlotte Hammond, deceased, and I am directed to request that you will publish the same in your next issue.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS WORLOCK,

Clerk to the Guardians.

Clerk's Offices, Mount Street, W., July 19.

'Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.,

July 18, 1876.

'Sir,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have received from their Inspector, Mr. Hedley, a report of the official inquiry recently held by him into the circumstances attending the death of Charlotte Hammond, of No. 3 New Square, Orchard Street, Westminster. The Board have also received a copy of the evidence of the witnesses examined at the inquiry. On a careful consideration of the Report and evidence the Board have arrived at the following conclusions:—1. That Charlotte Hammond died from a complication of diseases, and not in any sense from starvation caused by inability to procure the necessaries of life. 2. That her husband, with the aid of his sons and daughters, were of sufficient ability to provide her with what she required. 3. That, from the nature of her illness, she was for some time before her death able to take very little nourishment. The first of the above conclusions is supported by the evidence of the father, two sons, and three daughters, who all testified that there was no destitution, and that food was plentiful. In fact, Louisa Hammond, who nursed her mother throughout her illness, swore that "she never wanted for anything;" and Henry Hammond, the husband, swore that "relief was not required." The second of the above conclusions is founded upon the evidence of her husband and sons, which showed that their gross earnings were about £2. 16s. a week, of which £1. 17s. was paid directly to the mother for housekeeping purposes. The third conclusion is amply borne out by the medical testimony. As regards the conduct of the officers concerned, and the general bearing of this case upon Poor Law administration, the Board direct me to state that they doubt extremely whether medical relief—that is to say, an order for the attendance of the medical officer—should have been given in the first instance. The Board observe that the application for that relief was made, not by a member of the family, but by a stranger, and that throughout the relieving officer does not seem to have acquainted himself with the circumstances of the family. In these respects the Board consider that the conduct of the relieving officer is open to question, and calls for animadversion from the Guardians. But the relieving officer, having exercised his judgment and decided, rightly or wrongly, that he ought to give relief, was, in the opinion of the Board, justified in letting that relief take the form of an order for admission to the workhouse, inasmuch as both certificates exhibited to him stated on their face, in the handwriting of the medical officer, that Charlotte Hammond was able to be removed to the workhouse. If, however, the conduct of the relieving officer in failing to make proper inquiries was lax, that of the medical officer was, in the opinion of the Board, still more reprehensible; for it is quite clear that Charlotte Hammond was not in a fit state to be removed to the workhouse when he certified that she was able to be removed, and, indeed, he had previously told her daughter that she was sinking rapidly. It is true that the medical officer offered the explanation that in so certifying he was carrying out instructions which he had previously received. Those instructions he believed to have been verbal, but he had no recollection when they were given, nor by whom. Under these circumstances the Board doubt very much whether the medical officer, in point of fact, ever could have received any such instructions. The Board request that the Guardians will caution the medical officer to exercise in future the greatest care in filling up his medical certificates, and will remind him that upon the accuracy of the information which those certificates should convey must depend in great measure the action of the Guardians and of the relieving officer in dealing with applications for relief. The Board also desire to draw the attention of the Guardians to the incomplete and careless manner in which the District Medical Relief Register has been kept. It contained no record of certain medicines which the medical officer states that he ordered for Charlotte Hammond, nor of an alleged change of the medicine of the patient on the 12th of May, and he himself admitted that he does not, except in cases of death, fill up the column headed "Result (as relieved, cured, died, discharged)." The Board request that the Guardians will require the register to be in future filled up in such a manner as will render it a trustworthy record of the attendance of the medical officer in each case, and will show in every instance the result of the medical treatment.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

'J. F. RORTON, Assistant Secretary.

'Thomas Worlock, Esq., Clerk to the Guardians of St. George's
'Union, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, W.'

Times, July 20, 1876.

CHARITY IN CHINA.

The Chinese have earned for themselves amongst Europeans a reputation for cruelty and for a stoical indifference for the sufferings of their fellow-men. We have found them to be treacherous in war, and merciless in punishment. Their prisons are known to be dens of the vilest description, where too often the sufferings of the culprits are looked upon with indifference, even if they are not aggravated, by the jailors; and the sword of the executioner is seldom allowed long to slumber in its scabbard. These and similar facts are naturally attributed to innate cruelty, when, perhaps, with greater justice, they should be put down as the results of the national traditions and surroundings. Besides this, these evils exist on the housetops. There is no attempt made to conceal them. Every visitor to China comes away with tales of the horrors he has witnessed in the Land of Han, and he seldom has any counterbalancing instances to adduce of acts of kindness performed or deeds of mercy done. The evil stares him in the face, and the good lies buried from his gaze. But, notwithstanding this, there is a vast deal of quiet charitable work being done in China. Almost every large town and district has its asylums for the aged and the orphans, and establishments for the relief of the poor. A Chinese work on these and similar institutions has lately been presented* to the London Charity Organisation Society, and its pages afford a very good insight into the scope and direction of Chinese charities. The author gives an account of some of the existing charitable institutions, and lays down rules for the guidance of those who may be desirous of establishing similar ones. His object in so doing is no doubt highly to be commended, but his views are precisely those to combat which the Charity Organisation Society was especially established. Indiscriminate largess to the poor, and a wide-spread distribution of food and raiment to those in want, are the ruling maxims which guide his recommendations, on the principle that to relieve the poor, no matter whether the object be worthy or unworthy, is a sacred duty.

The first charitable institutions to which he refers are not precisely similar to any that exist among ourselves. 'Farms of righteousness' he calls them, and he illustrates their objects by referring to two such farms, which were established by a Mr. Fan in the Prefecture of Soo-chow Foo. The said Mr. Fan, being desirous of benefiting his relations, purchased two blocks of land, and by deed covenanted that the produce arising from them should be distributed either in money or kind among his kindred for ever. Each household was daily to receive a certain quantity of rice per head, and, in the winter, a suit of warm clothing was to be distributed in the same way to every member of the family above ten years of age, and half a suit—whatever that may mean—to all children between that age and five. A male relative, on his marriage, was to receive thirty strings of cash (= about thirty dollars), and if he should enter the bonds of wedlock a second time, a further gift of twenty strings; but widows were not to be encouraged to marry again, and so, though twenty strings were to be given to each maiden at her wedding, she was to be portionless if, after having become a widow, she were to take a second husband. Liberal contributions were also to be given towards the expenses of burying members of the family, and provisions were made to meet any sudden or unavoidable emergency which might present itself.

Orphan asylums are also prominent among the institutions of which the author writes, and his history of these establishments furnishes very plain testimony of the recognised and habitual existence in many parts of the country of the crime of infanticide. Colleges, schools, societies for the preservation of life, for the burying of the dead, for relieving the destitute, for encouraging husbandry, and for many other charitable objects, are fully described; and however mistaken may be the means which are, in most instances, employed, yet the very existence of such institutions is enough to correct many erroneous impressions, and to stamp the Chinese as a civilized and not unmerciful people.—*Athenæum*, July 15.

*By Mr. Thomas Jenner, of Norwood Road, S.E.

REPORT OF A DRAWING-ROOM CONFERENCE ON THE BOARDING-OUT OF PAUPER CHILDREN. Long- mans, Green, & Co. Price 1s.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 188.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 2, 1876.

[WITH EXTRA HALF-SHEET.]

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

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NOTICES.

The Reporter will not appear during the months of August and September, as the Council does not meet during those months, though the Administrative Committee sits as usual.

Monday, August 7, being a Bank Holiday, the Central Office will be closed.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 p.m.

Present: Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the chair); C. J. Stevens, Esq., Fulham; Dr. Daniel, Capt. Boyce, R.N., Chelsea; Major Prendergast, St. George's; W. Bousfield, Esq., Westminster; Miss Octavia Hill, St. Marglebone; Miss Collett, South St. Pancras; T. Copeman, Esq., Hackney; Hon. W. Warren Vernon, St. Giles's; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Strand; Capt. Fortescue, Tulse Hill; Rev. H. G. Henderson, Rev. H. P. Kelly, Shoreditch; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Whitechapel; F. B. Montgomerie, Esq., St. Saviour's; T. Galabin, Esq., Camberwell; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq., Vice-President; A. H. Hill, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Sir C. Trevelyan, C. A. Miner, Esq., Additional Members; total, 21. C. S. Loch, Esq., Secretary.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending July 22 the receipts had been £32. 1s. for the General Fund, and £100 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £509. 2s. 6d. and £86. 16s. 1d. respectively.

GRANTS.—That they had made Grants of £40 and £20 to the Fulham and St. George's East Committees respectively.

QUARTERLY FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.—The Finance Sub-Committee had held their Quarterly Meeting. It appeared from their Report that during the past quarter there had been an increase of £831 in the receipts on the General Fund as compared with the receipts for the corresponding quarter of last year; and that on the District Committee Aid Fund there had been an increase of £19 for the same quarter. District Committees had contributed £150 to this fund, and £250 had been transferred to it from the General Fund.

The recommendation of the Administrative Committee that

a grant of £55 be made to the Stepney Committee was again unavoidably postponed.

The notices of motion which stood on the paper in the names of Sir Charles Trevelyan and Mr. W. M. Wilkinson were postponed.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

Sir Charles Trevelyan asked leave of the Council to bring forward the following motion as urgent:—

That the 'Day Feeding and Clothing Industrial Schools,' provision for which has been made in the Bill for the amendment of the Education Act, would seriously aggravate the relaxation of the feeling of parental responsibility caused by outdoor relief, indiscriminate charity, and the numerous institutions whereby fathers and mothers are enabled to relieve themselves of the care of their children, and would therefore be injurious both to parent and child.

That this resolution be submitted to the Presidents of the Local Government Board and the Council for Education.

The Chairman moved that the Bye-law by which notice of every motion is required be suspended. Sir Charles Trevelyan, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Captain Fortescue, and others stated the necessity for the immediate consideration of the motion, as Lord Sandon's Bill had already passed the second reading, while the Rev. H. P. Kelly, Rev. H. G. Henderson, and Dr. Daniel urged that, though this was the last meeting of the Council for the session, it was undesirable that so important a question should be discussed and formally voted upon by so small a Council without previous notice.

The motion for the suspension of the Bye-law was put and lost, 12 (out of 19) voting in favour of it.*

Sir Charles then made the following statement on the clause of the Elementary Education Act regarding 'Wastrel Children.'† He said that the machinery of public and private charity for providing for poor children during the last few years had grown so fast that it was necessary to review it and estimate its extent. The means of giving assistance were (1) Outdoor relief—the normal insurance against all the poor man's ills; (2) indiscriminate charity, as yet but partially checked; (3) institutions dependent on subscriptions, such as orphanages and homes; (4) institutions supported by rates, such as Reformatories and Industrial Schools; and lastly, Ragged Schools. All these were gradually producing a new state of things, and our people had sufficient worldly wisdom to adapt themselves to the circumstances of their time. It was proved to our working class that the best and cheapest mode of educating and providing for children was to turn them into the streets in a dirty, ragged, half-fed state. The children were harboured and educated; and after they had been brought up at the public expense, the parents could calculate upon their getting them again when their labour became valuable. The statistics of the Middlesex Industrial School

* Bye-law 20 requires that 'at least twelve members be present, and at least two-thirds vote for such suspension.'

† The clause referred to—the 15th of the Elementary Education Bill, as amended in Committee—will be found at length on page 131.

at Feltham proved this from the fact that out of 803 boys discharged in the years 1872-3-4, 165 were claimed by their friends, 'who determinately refused all offers of provision'; and of the 165 more than 18 per cent. relapsed into crime. To quote another instance: three years ago Mr. Longley, a Local Government Board Inspector, made a report on outdoor relief, and recommended that when a widow applied for such assistance, one or more of her children should be taken off her hands and be placed in a district school; it appeared that, in the Metropolitan area, so large a number as 1,100 children had during that period been received in accordance with the Local Government Board order.

Sir Charles then read the following extracts from a letter:—

To relieve parents from their responsibility is as bad for them as for their children; but of late years this has been done upon such a scale that it has become the principal source from which the class of neglected street children is recruited. Each case ought to be separately investigated, and dealt with according to its merits: either prosecuting the parents for neglecting their children if they are able to provide for them; or assisting them if they are unable to do so; or taking the child entirely in hand if it is a real orphan. Mr. Peek's Fund is administered on this principle; and it has already brought to light the fact that even well-to-do artisans, receiving from 30s. to 40s. a week, spend their earnings at the public-house and throw their children upon charity. If we are to make the next generation better than the present, we must direct our attention to this prolific root of the prevailing evil. So far from being more expensive than wholesale feeding and clothing, it is only by testing and discriminating that the available funds can be made to go as far as possible. If the children said to belong to this class were scrutinised and dealt with in the manner proposed, they would soon be brought within manageable limits; but of this, at any rate, there can be no doubt—that to isolate such children is to perpetuate their degradation; whereas, if they are educated with the class immediately above them, they rapidly become absorbed into it by the force of emulation, example, self-respect, and other elevating motives. The way out of our present dilemma has to be sought in this direction, and not in that of making rags and dirt and semi-starvation credentials for a special description of charity, till they have lost much of the disgrace which ought to attach to them, and are even regarded with interest and favour, as if they were the badge and order of merit.

Whatever we may say about the importance of enforcing parental responsibility, there can be no doubt that to dispense parents from the primary duty of feeding and clothing their children, and from the habits which the regular performance of this duty engenders, taking our chance of recovering the cost from them after their children have been cared for by others quite independently of them, is not the way to encourage the growth of parental feeling. In endeavouring to make things better than Nature has made them, we have seriously impaired the divine institution which is the masterkey of all human improvement—the family. While, on the one hand, we are laboriously providing a substitute for it in the boarding-out system, on the other we are breaking down the thing itself by our Ragged Schools, Soup Kitchens, and Orphanages which are really Orphanages only to a limited extent, being in the main vast establishments into which families are broken up and dispersed, leaving the mother to go her own way without motherly responsibility or affection.

Properly handled, the School Board system offers an opportunity of re-knitting the family tie—which has been miserably unravelled by the misuse of Poor Law and Charity, especially in our large towns—and of reabsorbing our lapsed class into the body of the community; but this advantage, which, in a country like ours, is not inferior to the primary object of giving to all classes a good education, would be seriously impaired by the revival of the Ragged School system under the name of 'Day Feeding Industrial Schools.' The original founders of Ragged Schools deserve all honour for having led the way in taking up the cause of our neglected street children. They did all that could be done at the time; but a more comprehensive and perfect remedy has now been provided, and the former cannot be continued without injury to the health of the patient.

He then quoted extracts from the account of the debate in the House of Commons, as reported in the *Times* of the 19th ultimo, showing that several members were apprehensive of the evil that might ensue from the adoption of this experiment, and finally he read the following letter, taken from the *Times* of the 24th ultimo:—

Mr. John Macgregor writes to us from Blackheath: 'Perhaps I may be allowed to suggest a few thoughts about day industrial schools, as the

result of long acquaintance with the general subject and of nearly six years' experience as Chairman of the Industrial Schools Committee of the London School Board, which has dealt with 5,300 children, and has more than 2,000 of them in 40 industrial schools, including four ships. The Day Industrial School, as defined in the Bill before Parliament, would receive children for, say, ten hours daily, and would teach them, employ them industrially, and partially feed them. The children would be sent "home" for 14 hours daily, and, it is presumed, for all Sunday. Therefore, the children would be 60 hours at the school and 108 hours at "home" every week. Such a plan will, therefore, evidently be unsuitable for children who wander, or beg, or steal, because they will do this out of school hours; for children whose parents are "unable to control" them, or are unable or unwilling to supply clothing, or who are of the poorest class in bad localities and with shifting addresses. Who is to select the children, and what child can be refused? Who is to induce them to come for ten hours' schooling if they will not come now for five hours? Who is to bring them to school daily? How are they to be fed on Sunday and in holiday time, and will they come on Saturday, when all other school children have a holiday? Now, what will be the expense of such a school? About 4s. per child per week, according to the careful estimate of the Committee I have above alluded to. What kind of industrial work will be suitable for children who come for a few weeks and who spoil at least half of the materials as beginners? How can "one simple meal" be enough for a child with ten hours of work and school? What will be the cost of the school buildings, necessarily in dense localities, and with playgrounds and workshops? How many of these schools would be needed for London, when two miles each way is the furthest one can expect the children to walk? What will it cost to collect parents' payments? From experience in collecting such payments (for the Home Office) during the last 18 months from some hundreds of parents, I venture to say that the operation would cost in mere machinery one-half of what is received. Finally, what would be the effect of the system upon other children and other parents? If the schools are "pleasant" they will attract thousands. If they are punitive, even in appearance, they will deter anything like regular attendance. Day Industrial Schools established and worked by voluntary agency and without compromising the policy of the State, might be useful for some children in small towns; but if they are established and managed in London by official agency, necessarily cumbersome and costly, these schools will be a most expensive and demoralising failure.'

Mr. A. H. Hill thought that under the circumstances Sir Charles Trevelyan should be contented with having called the attention of the Council to the clause in the Education Bill, and suggested that a deputation, consisting of a few private gentlemen—members of the Society and others—would have more weight than the resolution passed by the Council, and transmitted as Sir Charles proposed. The Report of the Society on Soup Kitchens, and the other publications of the Society, had fully expressed the views of the Council on such questions. He had recently come across several instances of men in the receipt of good wages who were not ashamed to avail themselves of charity and every other means within their reach, in order to set aside their natural obligations. With regard to Industrial Schools his experience was that real 'industrials' were seldom produced by them.

Rev. R. J. Simpson thought that two bad results must necessarily ensue, if the clause became law. There would be a very strong temptation to tolerably 'well-to-do' people to send their children to these feeding schools, which would be in many cases the first step to the pauperisation of the parents. On the other hand, it was evident that the family tie should, if possible, be in all cases preserved, or should, by the system of boarding out, be renovated. But by the proposed scheme children, whose parents were of so bad a character as to contaminate their morality, would be allowed, at one and the same time, to receive the maintenance provided by the State and to remain in daily contact with vice.

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson referred to a conference with the School Board held in 1872.*

Mr. Bousfield thought that so grave an error must necessarily work its own cure. The 'maintenance' would involve a considerable addition to the rates.

The Rev. H. G. Henderson said that the advantages of the

* See p. 135.

clause were, that there would be less inclination to send children to school as 'half-timers'; that there would be a better provision for the punishment of children; and lastly, he considered that there would be no great inducement to send children to these schools, as such children would in all probability be a marked class.

Mr. Miner drew special attention to the remarks that had been made by several members of the House of Commons, in the debate on the clause. He thought it would be very desirable to have a Parliamentary Sub-Committee, to watch the progress of bills touching on matters connected with the work of the Society, and to suggest, when necessary, the best method of drawing public attention to questions of importance. He proposed that the statement made by Sir Charles Trevelyan be referred to the Administrative Committee.

His proposal was adopted *nem. con.*, and the Council then adjourned to the 9th October.

The following business stands for Monday, October 9:—

(1). Mr. J. R. Holland to move—

'That Bye-law No. 1 be amended as follows:—

'The Council shall meet on the first Monday in every month (except August and September) at 3 P.M., and on any other day and at any other hour to which the Council may, for special reasons, adjourn.

'Exception.—If the first Monday in the month shall fall on a bank holiday, the Council shall meet on the next Monday following.

'In case of emergency, the Administrative Committee, on the requisition of a District Committee or at its own discretion, shall have power to summon (through the Reporter) a special meeting of Council to discuss a particular subject.'

[Bye-law No. 1 is at present as follows:—

'The Council shall meet every Monday at 3 P.M. throughout the year, except during the months of August and September, and on any other day and at any other hour to which the Council may at any time for special reasons adjourn; but it shall be open to members to move that the Council shall adjourn over any Monday.']

(2). Major FitzRoy to move—

'That the Bye-laws from No. 21 to the end, relating to the Administrative Committee, be amended as follows:—

'No. 21. The Administrative Committee shall consist of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of Council and twenty members, and shall be elected annually at the first meeting of Council in the month of January; the names of those willing to serve being previously submitted, either directly or through the Hon. Secretaries of the District Committees. All members to be eligible for re-election. Any member of Council shall be at liberty to attend the meetings of the Administrative Committee, or those of its Sub-Committees, and take part in the proceedings, but not to vote.

'No. 22. The Committee to have power to fill up all vacancies, but to report the same for confirmation at the next meeting of Council.

'No. 23 to stand as it is.

'No. 24. That every member of the Administrative Committee who proposes being absent for more than two meetings shall give due notice thereof, in order that the Committee may appoint a substitute or fill up the vacancy.

'No. 25 to stand as it is.

'No. 26. Omit the words following "of the Committee."

'Nos. 27, 28, 29 to stand as they are.

'No. 30. The Administrative Committee shall divide itself into four Sub-Committees, viz.: 1. Finance; 2. Mendicity; 3. District work; 4. Co-operation.'

[The following are the Bye-laws which it is proposed to change, as they at present stand:—

'21. The Administrative Committee shall consist of not fewer than nine members, and shall be elected annually within one month after the Annual Meeting, members being eligible for re-election. Any member of Council shall be at liberty to attend its meetings, and to vote.'

'22. All new representative members of Council shall be placed on this Committee, unless they have served upon it at some previous time, and their names shall be kept upon the list for at least three months, provided they continue members of Council.'

'24. If a member of the Administrative Committee has not attended for thirteen consecutive weeks, it shall not be necessary to send him notices when such are issued.'

'26. If no quorum be present at the time of meeting, any member present shall be at liberty to transact business, but all orders passed under such circumstances shall be specially confirmed at the next meeting of the Committee or of the Council, whichever may first take place.'

(3). Sir Charles Trevelyan to move—

'That the price of the Reporter be doubled, and that the size be increased to the extent required by the changes ordered by the Administrative Committee.'

(4). Mr. W. M. Wilkinson to move—

'That the Reporter be distributed gratis to all subscribers of not less than £1.'

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

At their meeting to-morrow (Thursday) the Administrative Committee will consider the statement submitted to Council by Sir Charles Trevelyan on the 31st ultimo.

The following contributions were received during the week ending July 29, 1876:—*Donations*: C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., £5; The Duchess of Cleveland, £2; The Dowager Lady Shakerley, £5; W. M. Wilkinson, Esq. (special), £10. 10s.—*Annual*: Messrs. Barnetts & Co., £10. 10s.; R. M. Bland, Esq., £1. 1s.; Lieut.-Colonel A. Lyon Fremantle, £3; Lieut. J. G. Uppleby, R.A., £1. 1s.—*District Committee Aid Fund*: The Hampstead Committee, £15.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, JULY 29th, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Authorities	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans					Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.	Class total	
Kensington	2	2	1	5	..	1	1	1	1	5	..	6	12	6	3	1	
Fulham	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	3	4	4	3	4	
Paddington	1	3	4	8	..	5	5	4	1	3	1	9	23	15	4	1	
Chelsea	1	2	2	5	2	2	..	4	2	2	3	3	10	19	..	1	
St. George's:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. George's Division.	..	4	4	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	19	6	6	1	
Westminster do.	1	1	1	3	2	7	1	10	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	
Westminster:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. James' & St. Anne's	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	
St. Marylebone	3	2	5	..	7	3	10	..	1	2	3	6	21	4	8	..	
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	..	1	..	6	..	6	..	1	..	..	1	8	1	3	..	
South St. Pancras	2	2	6	10	..	11	5	16	1	..	..	1	27	3	2	..	
Islington	..	1	1	1	19	4	24	..	..	2	2	2	27	15	3	..	
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	1	..	1	..	4	..	4	2	..	..	2	2	7	..	1	..	
Strand	2	1	3	..	4	..	4	1	1	3	5	13	12	7	4	1	
Holborn	1	..	1	2	..	15	1	16	1	..	..	1	19	2	10	1	
City	..	3	3	3	..	3	..	3	3	3	6	12	18	4	41	1	
Shoreditch	..	1	1	..	5	..	5	..	1	..	1	2	8	..	6	..	
*Bethnal Green	1	1	..	2	..	1	2	3	..	..	3	3	8	1	1	..	
Whitechapel	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	9	10	2	4	..	..	
St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	1	3	1	..	2	3	..	6	1	1	7	6	2	..	
Stepney	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	8	1	6	..	
Mile End Old Town	2	5	7	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	8	1	6	..	
Poplar	1	1	2	4	..	4	..	4	..	..	..	3	8	1	5	..	
St. Saviour's	2	2	4	..	2	2	..	2	1	2	3	9	4	..	1	..	
Newington	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	..	2	6	2	3	4	..	
St. Olave's	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	4	..	
Lambeth:—	1	..	1	1	2	..	2	1	..	1	2	3	9	2	5	..	
North	..	1	1	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	
South	..	1	1	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	
Wandsworth & Putney ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Battersea	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	2	6	1	5	..	
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	
Camberwell:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Grove Lane	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	3	..	..	3	3	5	1	1	..	
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	10	
Greenwich	1	2	3	..	2	..	2	2	2	4	6	11	1	1	10	..	
Deptford	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	2	1	..	1	3	1	1	2	..	
Woolwich	1	1	2	4	..	2	3	5	2	2	2	6	10	..	3	..	
Lewisham	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	4	5	1	..	24	..	
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	
Sydenham	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	
Totals	22	20	49	91	12	100	27	139	29	19	18	40	106	336	96	128	86

* No return received from this Committee at the time of going to press.

RETURNS OF SCHOOL BOARD CASES, FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 1876.

Seven District Committees had no cases:—

Paddington
Hampstead
Lambeth (South)
Clapham
Camberwell (Peckham)
Lewisham
Eltham.

Two District Committees had cases, but expended no money on relief:—

Marylebone
Wandsworth.

Thirty District Committees expended money on the relief of cases:—

No money expended	Money expended	Total number of cases		Amounts expended. £ s. d.
2	6	8	Kensington	9 11 0
4	8	12	Fulham	28 0 0
3	5	8	Chelsea	14 4 0
0	1	1	St. George's (Hanover Square)	1 4 0
5	5	10	Westminster (St. James's & St. Anne's)	6 0 0
3	0	3	Marylebone	Nil.
2	4	6	North St. Pancras	5 2 10
12	16	28	South St. Pancras	51 16 11
1	4	5	Islington	6 5 0
4	14	18	Hackney	8 11 9
0	4	4	St. Giles's	1 15 6
0	11	11	Strand	14 16 11
8	6	14	Holborn	2 5 0
3	3	6	City	3 3 10
8	8	16	Shoreditch	4 15 0
12	10	22	Bethnal Green	6 11 10
4	4	8	Whitechapel	4 8 2
0	4	4	St. George's (East)	14 15 7
6	6	12	Stepney	9 3 6
4	7	11	Mile End	10 19 9
3	2	5	Poplar	1 5 6
7	12	19	St. Saviour's	8 14 2
6	6	12	Newington	3 8 0
9	6	15	St. Olave's	10 10 0
9	4	13	Lambeth (North)	7 12 6
1	0	1	Wandsworth	Nil.
5	3	8	Battersea	2 15 0
2	12	14	Camberwell (Grove Lane)	6 0 4
0	7	7	Greenwich	2 8 2
14	11	25	Deptford	6 13 4
1	6	7	Woolwich	3 10 11
0	2	2	Sydenham	0 16 0
138*	197	335	Total	£257 4 6

July 29, 1876.

C. S. LOCH, *Secretary.*

* Of these:—

22	were Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on as	'Not requiring relief'
36	do. do.	'Undeserving'
65	do. do.	'Ineligible'
3	were Recommended to the Guardians	
6	do. Institutions or Local Agencies	
1	do. Private persons	
3	were Assisted by Loans	
1	do. Employment	
1	do. Letters for Hospital.	

Total 138, being the number of cases upon which no money was expended.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The 15th clause of the above Bill is as follows:—

'15. If a Secretary of State is satisfied that, owing to the circumstances of any class of population in any school district, an industrial

school in which children are not lodged is necessary or expedient for the proper training and control of the children of such class, he may, in like manner as under "The Industrial Schools Act, 1866," certify any such industrial school in the neighbourhood of the said population to be a certified day industrial school.

'Any child authorised by "The Industrial Schools Act, 1866," or by this Act, to be sent to a certified industrial school, may, if the court before whom the child is brought think it expedient, be sent to a certified day industrial school, and may during the period specified in the order be there detained during such hours as may be authorised by the rules of the school approved by the said Secretary of State.

'A certified day industrial school shall be deemed to be a certified efficient school within the meaning of this Act.

'In the case of a day industrial school—

'(1) A prison authority within the meaning of "The Industrial Schools Act, 1866," and a school board shall respectively have the same powers in relation to a certified day industrial school as they have in relation to a certified industrial school; and

'(2) There may be contributed out of moneys provided by Parliament towards the custody, maintenance, and training of children sent by an order of a court to a certified day industrial school, such sums not exceeding one shilling per head per week, and on such conditions as a Secretary of State from time to time recommends; and

'(3) Where a court of summary jurisdiction orders a child to be sent to a certified day industrial school, the court shall also order the parent of such child, if liable to maintain him, to contribute to his maintenance and training in the school such sum not exceeding two shillings per week, as is named in the order; it shall be the duty of the local authority to obtain and enforce the said order, and every sum paid under the order shall be paid over to the local authority in aid of their expenses under this Act; if a parent is unable to pay the sum required by the said order to be paid he shall apply to the guardians, who, if satisfied of such inability, shall give the parent sufficient money to pay the said sum, or so much thereof as they consider him unable to pay, and the money so given shall be a separate charge upon the parish as provided by this Act; and

'(4) The managers of a certified day industrial school may, upon the request of a local authority and of the parent of a child, and upon the undertaking of the parent to pay towards the maintenance and training of such child such sum, not less than one shilling a week, as a Secretary of State from time to time fixes, receive such child into the school without an order of a court; and there may be contributed out of moneys provided by Parliament in respect of that child such sum, not exceeding sixpence a week, and on such conditions as a Secretary from time to time recommends.

'It shall be lawful for Her Majesty from time to time, by Order in Council, to apply to a certified day industrial school the provisions of "The Industrial Schools Act, 1866," and the Acts amending the same, with such modifications as appear to Her Majesty to be necessary or proper for adapting such provisions to a day industrial school, and bringing them into conformity with this section; and such order may provide that a child may be punished for an offence by being sent to a certified industrial in lieu of a certified reformatory school, or may otherwise mitigate the punishment imposed by the said Act.

'It shall be lawful for Her Majesty from time to time, by Order in Council, to revoke and vary any Order in Council made under this section.

'Every such Order shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within one month after it is made if Parliament be then sitting, or, if not, within one month after the beginning of the then next session of Parliament, and while in force shall have effect as if it were enacted in this Act.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of July 1876 was 33,673, and 43,244 received outdoor relief, making a total of 76,917. This was a decrease of 316 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 6,363, 15,342, and 21,765 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 421. This was a decrease of 72 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 9 on the corresponding day of last year.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS AND IMBECILES.

Special Committee on Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles and as Lunatics held its fifteenth meeting on Wednesday, July 26, at the Central Office. There were present: Dr. Brewer (in the chair), the Hon. C. H. Strutt; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B.; the Rev. H. I. Jones; Drs. G. W. Grabham, D. Hack Tuke, R. Boyd, Fletcher Beach, Langdon Down; Messrs. W. M. Wilkinson, W. Millard, and Sydney Turner; Doctor Joseph Lalor (Richmond Asylum, Dublin), Visitor; and S. Loch, Secretary.

Reports were read from the Foreign Office, transmitting documents relating to the education and care of Idiots and Imbeciles in Germany, France, and Norway; and from the Colonial Office, relating to the same in Jamaica.

A following resolution having been moved by Mr. Wilkinson in reference to the resolution which was passed, under the 3rd head of the 5th section, to the effect that families which cannot defray the entire cost in the maintenance of their children should be required to pay to the Guardians as their means may allow:—

‘Considering the great want which now exists of efficient training for the young, and of custodial institutions for adults, it would be desirable that persons able to pay the entire expense of their maintenance should be received into these institutions, on such payment by themselves or friends as the managers may approve.’

On which the ‘previous question’ was moved, and carried by seven votes to three.

The 11th section of the Agenda, entitled ‘New Legislation,’ was then discussed, and it was resolved:—

‘That the legislative provisions required for Idiots, Imbeciles, and as Lunatics should be consolidated in a single Act distinct from the provisions applicable to Dangerous Lunatics; but the details of such legislation should be left to the measures which may be actually adopted.’

It was then resolved that a Sub-Committee should be appointed to draw up a draft of the Report, consisting of the following Members:—Hon. C. H. Strutt, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Dr. Langdon Down, Dr. Grabham, Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. Macgregor.

FOOD FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Following is a report to the Council of the Charity Organisation on the Conference with the Industrial Schools Committee of the School Board, as to providing Food for School Children*:

Conference was held on the 9th April 1872, and consisted of four members from each of the following: The Poor Law Guardians, the Ragged School Union, the Ragged School Union, and the Charity Organisation Society, and several members of the School Board. Mr. Sydney Turner was also present.

Mr. Macgregor was in the chair, and opened the proceedings by a short address, and then read a paper which he had prepared, consisting of a statement of the several classes of children to whom the question of providing food applied, and of a series of questions which arose, and which put in a convenient form all the main points and difficulties, and concluded by a statement of food should be paid for by the parochial rate, by a general rate, by voluntary aid, or by a combination of these or other means.

Sydney Turner, who was understood to be present only in his capacity, and to express only his personal opinions, gave most valuable information as to the working of the industrial schools, and on the constantly increasing amount disbursed by the Treasury in order to maintain the children, whose total cost is £13 per annum each. He stated that in the assistance paid last year by the Treasury was £25,000, or about one-fifth of the number of the objects, if the same class were maintained, it might increase to £500,000 per annum. His opinion was, that there might be intermediate feeding day schools, and that the School Board would be the proper authority to maintain them, and to provide proper objects. The food, he thought, need not cost above 1½d. per child, with the school fees in addition, or, at all events, not above 2s. per week.

With the exception of Mr. Sydney Turner, nearly every other speaker was of opinion that it would be most unwise to create any new machinery to administer food or school relief, and that by law the Guardians should have the power and the requisite machinery for dealing with applicants for relief, and that they only were the proper persons to do what was required.

Warren Vernon, for St. George, Hanover Square, and several other

Guardians for Marylebone, Paddington, &c., informed the Conference that with respect to the large class who are receiving outdoor relief, they make it their practice to insist on the production of weekly cards, signed by the schoolmasters, of the attendance of the children at school, and that if they found the attendance unsatisfactory, they would refuse the outdoor relief and compel the family to come into the house, when, of course, the children would be sent to the Union schools. It seemed to be a surprise to Mr. Sydney Turner and to others that so easy a means of compulsory education, and of providing the necessary food by means of the outdoor relief afforded to the parents, was already in actual operation in several of the most important Unions of the Metropolis, and the hope was expressed that through the example thus afforded, and the inspection of the Poor-law Authorities, backed by public opinion, the children of all the large class which is in receipt of outdoor relief would thus be easily brought within the operation of the School Board instruction.

‘It was also generally thought that instead of the Guardians paying the school fees direct under Denison’s Act, they should encourage the rather more independent mode, of paying a similar sum as additional out relief to the parents, in order that they might pay the school fees themselves. The Guardians would thus seem to have in their own hands the whole question of school fees and necessary food for all who are in receipt of outdoor relief, and the duty should be left wholly with them, without the interference of charity in any form.’

‘Taking it that all these children are thus provided for, there would only remain the children of those who refused to receive or to apply for relief, and those children without parents or guardians, who are making a home in the streets.’

‘Hitherto it has been impossible to deal with these two classes of children, because the Guardians have no power to compel them to receive relief, and thus to bring them within their authority, neither have they power to take up the gutter children, and detain them for school and other purposes.’

‘The School Board now, however, has the power of compelling, by proceedings against the parents, both classes of children to attend schools, and it was thought it would be desirable that the Guardians should be empowered, under magisterial supervision and order, to take hold of these children in separate schools where food would be provided, and that in case of their non-attendance they should be liable to detention in the Industrial Schools, which would thus operate as the ultimate compulsory school, and deter the children from neglecting their attendance in the Guardians’ schools.’

‘It was recommended that all the Union schools should be more of an industrial kind than at present. The bringing out of a plan of apparently so easy accomplishment, and with so little additional legislative powers to be asked for, appeared to be very satisfactory, as laying a basis for the settlement of one of the most difficult questions for both the School Board and the Guardians. If it be capable of being carried out, it would open great facilities in the application of other adjuncts—such as cooking-kitchens attached to all the Board schools, where meals, wholesome and well cooked, and at a price to cover the cost, should be provided for all to purchase them.’

‘The boarding-out system would be easy of application to children without parents. Indeed, the raw material, being once brought under authority, and with power of detention, might be manipulated in any way most likely to reclaim the lowest class, for its own and the general good.’

‘The most cordial thanks are due to the School Board and to Mr. Macgregor for calling together the Conference, and for so earnestly taking part in it.’

The following arrangements, made by the Edinburgh Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor with the School Board, for the feeding and clothing of destitute school children, are taken from the 4th page of the last report of the Association:—

‘1. That the feeding of children be confined to those attending schools under Government inspection. 2. That the Association make arrangements with the Night Asylum, or such other places as may be required, for giving a breakfast and dinner to such children as may be approved by a Joint Committee of the School Board and the Association. 3. That the food given be porridge and milk, or porridge and treacle, for breakfast; and bread and soup for dinner. 4. That the teachers be furnished with a list of children attending their schools authorised to be fed; and also with brass tickets, which they shall issue to such of these children as are in attendance, authorising each to receive a breakfast or dinner. Such tickets to be issued only to children marked as present in the school. 5. That if a child is absent on two days in any week without proper excuse, no ticket shall be issued, and the master shall report to the School Board. 6. That the list of those receiving food be revised monthly by a Joint Committee, to be appointed from time to time by the School Board and the Association, who shall have power from time to time to alter these details. 7. That as these meals will be attended by children of all denominations, it is necessary that the religious services be restricted to a grace before and a thanksgiving after the meals.’

* See Reporter, No. 13, Vol. i., p. 69, April 17, 1872.

giving after food. On the subject of clothing, Dr. Wood reported to the Sub-Committee that the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor are aware that the distribution of clothes to necessitous persons, whether children or adults, is a kind of charity very liable to be abused. They, however, undertake to put any really necessitous children in a state to attend school; it being distinctly understood that any articles of clothing supplied be only lent, and that parents or others pawning them will be liable to prosecution for theft.

CASE OF CHARLOTTE HAMMOND.

The following, which is taken from the *West Middlesex Advertiser* of the 22nd of July, is part of the debate at the St. George's Union on the 19th of that month, on the reading of the letter (which appeared in our last number) from the Local Government Board on the case of Charlotte Hammond.

After the letter had been read, Col. Freemantle said he hoped they would never hear the end of Charlotte Hammond's case; he hoped it would be kept in mind, as it showed the demoralisation and degradation caused by the lax administration of the Poor Law under the sanction of an unwise public opinion. What was the condition of this pauper family? According to their own statements, all that Hammond earned over £1 a week he considered his own, and not counting the private money of the father, they had £150 a year to start with. A family earning at least that fell on the parish when the mother was on her death-bed! That was not the worst part of it. Public opinion was actually on the side of the family, and the Guardians could not shut their eyes to the fact that it was against them. He could hardly believe his eyes when he read an article in the *Daily News*, which was usually one of the most intelligent papers, admitting the earnings of the family, and then going into a long story as to whether the relieving officer and doctor were right. What could this have to do with it, if the family were earning £150 a year? Public opinion was evidently in favour of a lax administration of the Poor Law, and unless Guardians could show the public that this added to the difficulty of properly administering it, they would always be open to such attacks. The coroner's jury heard the evidence on oath, and they actually rejected the testimony that showed there was money enough, and all they wanted was to censure the relieving officer and the Guardians. They did not or would not know that it was the bounden duty of the poor to support their own relations if they could do so. . . . Having alluded to the suppression of one part of the evidence by the reporters, and to the leading articles that had appeared in the papers, he said, that was not the worst part of it, for one of their own body—he should be sorry to say anything disrespectful, but one of themselves—when the first meeting on the subject was held, got up and said that if they were going to give orders for admission to the workhouse in the way they had done, he would no longer remain a member of the Board. That was extremely important; he hoped that member did not carry the opinion of the majority, or anyone else, but it was very important that one Guardian should have said such a thing, for nine people out of ten outside approved of what he said, and probably thought he was the best Guardian of the lot. If the family had £150 or £200 a year, and were to be relieved, where was outdoor relief to stop—at £300, £400, or what? That was the practical point. If outdoor relief was to be given in that sort of way, the ratepayers would soon feel it. And there were many ratepayers who were poor, and miserably poor too. It was a most disagreeable duty for him, as a magistrate at the East-end of London, to have widows and cripples brought before him, in order that the collector might sell them up for taxes. To take the money from these poor wretches and squander it was a most disgraceful thing (hear, hear), and it was infinitely worse than throwing it into the Thames, because then it would do no harm. But with many people who were earning good wages it was the custom, when sickness or old age came, to fly to the parish. The system had taught them to rush off to the relieving officer for outdoor relief. He had always been in favour of restricting the outdoor relief, but the Guardians could not restrict it unless public opinion helped them. He hoped members of Parliament would consider it when questions of outdoor relief came on. While this degraded state continued the poor could not be improved, and neither schools nor anything else would give the people that self-respect and self-reliance which they ought to possess.—Sir Rutherford Alcock said he had lived in many countries, and he had no hesitation in saying that as far as his experience went, the labouring poor of England, though as laborious as the Chinese, were the most improvident and the most intemperate race on the face of the globe. They must be shown that it was incumbent on them to do their part when sickness occurred. The Guardians ought seriously to consider whether in such cases as that under consideration, they should not insist on the workhouse, and then it would be said that people were left to die, or waive the test—a most important and valuable test—and in all such cases of doubt give outdoor relief. He should be glad if any member of the Board could throw any light on this, which to his mind was the most complicated problem of the Poor-Law.

. . . .—Mr. F. Morris believed that the shutting up of free dispensaries had much to do with a certain class of pauperism. It was absurd to suppose that a man earning 30s. a week, and having to keep a wife and children, could afford to pay the doctor's fees. Perhaps if there had been a dispensary in the neighbourhood the man Hammond would have gone there, and the Guardians would not have heard of the case. Sir Rutherford Alcock wished it to be known that there was a free dispensary within a few hundred yards. The motion for reference to the Committee was then carried unanimously. Mr. Z. D. Berry said he felt bound to move a resolution with the consent of his colleagues, because he did not think a moment ought to be lost. It was, that the Local Government Board be written to, requesting that Mr. Fenton should be removed from his office in consequence of his adverse mode of acting with the proceedings of the Relief Committee, and also because of his conduct as shown by the letter received from the Local Government Board.

TRUE CHARITY BENEFICENT AS WELL AS BENEVOLENT.

The following is an extract from a paper recently written by Miss Octavia Hill:—

'Again, we have got our population into a state of semi-pauperism, from which they cannot be raised by individuals and societies merely abstaining from gifts, and Guardians withdrawing out-relief. We have accustomed them to trust to external help, and only by most patient individual care shall we raise them. Neither can we persuade donors unaccustomed to study the future results of their acts to abstain from distinctly unwise charity unless we are among them—unless we are ready, too, to consider with them about each human soul, which is to them and to us inexpressibly precious, what is, at the moment, the wise thing to do. Gentlemen, have you any idea how much this work needs doing in the poor districts of London? The Charity Organisation Society came forward, now some years ago, to try to get the donors of London to meet and consider this question in detail in every district in London. It undertook to look carefully into all cases brought to its offices, and to report the results of its inquiries. It did not undertake to make additional gifts except where they might secure enduring benefit; but it said to the donors, "Associate yourselves; relieve after due thought, after investigation, and in conjunction one with another." That Society has made great way; that Society has established offices in every district; and has provided an investigating machinery of inexpressible value of which every Londoner may avail himself. But, I ask, where are the donors? Where are the representatives of the various relieving agencies? the clergy? the district visitors? There are, of course, a certain number who have co-operated heartily; but, as a rule, I am forced to reply very mournfully, after all these years, they are, for the most part, going on with their ill-considered relief very much the same, not using the machinery, and reproaching the Charity Organisation Society that it is not relieving largely, and that it is not composed of themselves! Now, till these relieving agencies come in and take their share, and give their gentler tone to the somewhat dry machinery, are these offices to be places where mere routine business is done by an agent who cannot have much individual care for the applicants? Or is there to be anyone to watch over each applicant with real charity, questioning him gently, thinking for him sympathetically, seeking for him such help as will be really helpful? In some offices in the poor districts we have found honorary secretaries to do this, and splendid work it has been. Wherever such help has been forthcoming the poor have been well served, and the old-fashioned donors have been some measure won to wiser courses of action. But many more such honorary secretaries are needed, and that imperatively and immediately. Are there no men of leisure among you, with intellect and heart, who will come forward? I have known no such urgent need as this in the many years I have spent face to face with the poor since I came to London, a little girl of eleven years old—the need of advice, of sympathy, of thoughtful decision for poor man after poor man as he comes up to our offices at a crisis in his life.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 189.

THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 12, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday the 23rd instant, at 3 p.m.

District Committees are reminded that their Annual Reports should be made up to September 30, and should be issued as early in November as possible.

The Stepney Committee have removed their offices to 3 Arbour Cottages, Arbour Street East, Commercial Road, E.

The Shoreditch Committee will hold their Annual General Meeting on October 13.

The Rev. J. Johnson has been elected one of the representatives of the St. Olave's Committee.

Captain Wallack has been appointed Acting Hon. Secretary of the St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee during the absence of the Hon. R. C. Moreton.

The South Lambeth Sub-Committee of the Lambeth Committee is now formed into a separate Committee, called the Brixton Committee. The honorary officers of the Committee are Mr. J. T. Hart, Treasurer; Mr. P. E. Nicholson and Rev. Robert Duke, Secretaries. The offices of the Committee are 21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton.

There is now at the Central Office an In-patient's Letter for the Hospital for Consumption at Brompton.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—ALSAGER HAY HILL (in the Chair).

FULHAM:—Rev. Alfred Scott.
 PADDINGTON:—J. R. Hollond.
 CHELSEA:—Miss Courtenay.
 ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Major Prendergast.
 Major FitzRoy.
 WESTMINSTER (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho):—W. Bevan.
 ST. MARLBOROUGH:—Miss Octavia Hill.
 HAMPSTEAD:—C. E. Maurice.

SOUTH ST. PANCRAAS:—Miss Collett.
 ISLINGTON:—F. Burdett Roberts.
 STRAND:—H. Hay Hill.
 CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins.
 STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
 ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. B. Montgomerie.
 CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
 LEWISHAM:—A. Annesley.
 ELTHAM:—Capt. Gardner.
 ADDITIONAL MEMBER:—S. Fuller.
 TOTAL:—19.

SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending September 30 the receipts had been £10. 3s. for the General Fund, and £200 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £308. 2s. 10d. and £215. 16s. 1d. respectively.

GRANTS.—That they had made the following Grants during the recess: Islington, £10; Shoreditch, £56; Stepney, £105; Mile End, £23; Poplar, £105; St. Saviour's, £25; Newington, £30.

'WHITE SLAVES.'—A letter had been written to the *Times* on the subject of the 'Italian kidnappers,' and the Secretary reported that a special meeting would be held at 3 P.M. on Wednesday next, the 11th instant, to consider the best means of checking the traffic.

The Secretary drew the attention of representatives of District Committees to the following extract from a letter dated May 21, 1875, from Miss Selwyn, Sandwell, near Birmingham:—

'If, therefore, any deserving cases come before you of children above 12, deprived of both parents, we will gladly admit every year two, a boy and a girl, free, and others on our reduced terms of 4s. weekly for girls and 5s. for boys.'

He also mentioned a letter received from Miss M. J. Gregory, giving particulars of an orphanage for the daughters of clergymen or professional men at Vauxhall. The children were taken in at the ages of from 12 to 14; they were trained to get a livelihood as pupil-teachers or otherwise.

He also read the following extract from the rules of the Royal Alfred Aged Merchant Seamen's Institution, Belvedere, Kent:—

'The Committee having the right, at all elections, of nominating one-fifth of the number to be admitted, either into the House or for an Out-Pension, will exercise it by giving their nominations to those men who appear to them to be the most deserving of the Candidates for the Charity.'

He read part also of a letter from the Refuge of the Good Shepherd, East End, Finchley, N., a refuge certified by Government to receive convict women (Roman Catholics)

during the last nine months of their penal servitude. Freed prisoners would also be received, and if they remained a year, they would, if found deserving, be recommended to service or employment.

THE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL.

Mr. J. R. Hollond moved—

'That Bye-law No. 1 be amended as follows:—

'The Council shall meet on the first Monday in every month (except August and September) at 3 P.M., and on any other day and at any other hour to which the Council may, for special reasons, adjourn.

'Exception.—If the first Monday in the month shall fall on a bank holiday, the Council shall meet on the next Monday following.

'In case of emergency, the Administrative Committee, on the requisition of a District Committee or at its own discretion, shall have power to summon (through the Reporter) a special meeting of Council to discuss a particular subject.'

He said that while it was questionable whether so important a motion should be dealt with by Council at the first meeting of the session, yet the subject of his motion had been discussed on the 24th of January last, and the minds of members had by that discussion been prepared for the change he proposed. This change implied economy, not by a decrease in the expenditure of money, but, as he believed, by a more profitable investment of it. Times had changed since the Council was first instituted. The Society had then to decide on principles and methods of work: for this the machinery of the Council was most suitable. Now the principles were decided, and the strength of the Society must centre in its executive: administration must take the place of discussion. The work of the Society was now, generally speaking, threefold: the reform of existing charities, the suppression of mendicity, and the improvement of the District Committees. This division included many large subjects, such as the questions brought to the notice of Council by Mr. Wilkinson, the action of the Medical Charities, the detailed work of District Committees. The Society should now aim at giving practical effect to its principles in questions of this nature. Its labours would thus have a more direct and more 'telling' effect, and the work of its paid staff would be turned to the best account.

The following were some of the objections raised to his motion: Arrangements and changes affecting District Committees would, if advocated by Council, a body representative of the District Committees, be likely to gain a readier assent from the District Committees. To this he would answer that the last clause of his motion, vesting in the Administrative Committee, on the requisition of a District Committee, the right to summon special meetings, was a sufficient guarantee that in important cases the opinion of the whole Society would be obtained by the vote of Council. Again, it was said the Council was a parliament of charity. This was true in a sense; but there was a tendency to debate, not questions of general interest, but the affairs of the Society. It was also said that the debates of Council were valuable as means of educating the members of the Society. In reply to this, he must state his opinion that a really good discussion on an important subject once a month would be infinitely more suitable for this purpose. At the same time, should any questions of importance require long and full discussion, the Council were able to adjourn the debate from week to week.

Major FitzRoy seconded the motion. The use of a weekly Council meeting had now, as Mr. Hollond stated, passed away; and it would be sufficient that, as a rule, only one meeting of Council should be held in each month, other meetings being convened when, on account of the business of the Council, they were necessary. Weekly meetings, he believed, made work; while motions were brought up for discussion without a notice long enough to enable any but the mover to

acquire sufficient information on the various bearings of the subject of debate. Most members were so busy that they found it difficult to attend both on Mondays at the Council and on Thursdays at the Administrative Committee.

Mr. C. E. Maurice considered the advantage of the weekly meetings of Council was to be found, not in the discussion of special problems, but in the interchange of experiences and in the questions that were asked at Council with a view to meeting new and occasional difficulties.

After a few words from Mr. W. Bevan, Mr. S. Fuller, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Major Prendergast, Mr. H. H. Hill, and others, Mr. Hollond obtained leave to withdraw his motion and reintroduce it on the 6th of November.

The remaining notices of motion on the paper were postponed, and, on the motion of Mr. Hollond, seconded by Mr. Bevan, it was resolved—

'That the Council adjourn to Monday, October 23.'

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received from July 29 to October 7, 1876:—*Donations*: Messrs. Baring Bros., £100; Sir Graham Briggs, Bart., £5; Messrs. Brown & Wingrove, £1. 1s.; per the City Committee, £61. 8s. 6d.; H. M. Cotton, Esq., £5. 5s.; The Earl of Derby, £25; A. C. L. Fitzwilliams, Esq., £5; C. J. Hambro & Son, £50; E. Hubbock, Esq., £1; Dr. W. Vawdrey Lush, 10s. 6d.; Messrs. S. Montague & Co., £21; J. S. Morgan, Esq., £50; Messrs. Rothschild & Sons, £100; Mrs. E. M. Sedgwick, £25; H. M. Simons, Esq., £1. 1s.; Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Co., £50; Rev. W. Sykes, 5s.; Miss Ward, £20; Hon. Lady Welby-Gregory, £10; Miss Jane Wilson, £10; Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse, £5.—*Annual*: H. Bonham Carter, Esq., £3; Mrs. Bonham Carter, sen., £2; Messrs. F. Class & Co., £1. 1s.; Messrs. Louis Cohen & Sons, £10. 10s.; J. B. Dalton, Esq., £1. 1s.; Capt. Eastwick, £1. 1s.; Messrs. Hall & Son, £1. 1s.; T. J. P. Jodrell, Esq., £15; Mrs. Lawton, £2. 2s.; Rev. H. F. Mallet, £1. 1s.; Messrs. McCulloch & Co., £10. 10s.; H. J. V. Neale, Esq., £1; J. Sebag, Esq., £5; W. Hulbert Wathen, Esq., 10s.—*Quarterly*: Hon. W. Warren Vernon, £5.—*District Committee Aid Fund*: St. George's Committee, £200; Dr. W. Vawdrey Lush, 10s. 6d.; Francis Peek, Esq. (4th instalment of £3,000), £250.

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, September 30, 1876:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Eton	Glasgow	Horham	Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimborne	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	6	5	1	..	16	2	..	4	1	..	2	1
2. Undeserving	20	25	14	..	83	1	..	4	7	..	3	3
3. Cases for Poor Law, or otherwise ineligible	20	24	22	..	8	..	..	7	7	..	3	..
	46	54	37	..	107	3	..	15	15	..	6	4
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	9	..	1	..	3	..	..	10	..	..	1	..
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	11	4	..	2	28	..	..	10	..	..	..	..
3. Private Persons	18	8	3	4	41	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
	38	12	4	6	72	..	..	13	..	..	1	..
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	41	22	3	..	11	6	..	7	4	..	5	1
2. Loans	..	1	..	..	3	2	..	26	..	..	..	3
3. Employment	10	..	20	7	..	..	..	2	2	..	1	..
4. Letters for Hospitals, &c.	2	10	..	..	3	..	..	3	1	..	1	..
	53	33	23	7	17	8	..	37	7	..	7	3
	137	99	64	13	196	11	..	65	22	..	14	7
Reports sent out	10	60	38	..	128	..	..	30	1	..	18	..
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	7	8	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	1	..
Vagrants dealt with	4	1123	31	426	..	26	..	222	15	..	443	..

* No returns received from these Associations at time of going to press.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, OCT. 7, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans					Employment	Letters for Hospitalise.	Class total	
Kensington	5	1	3	9	..	2	..	2	7	..	5	..	12	23	9	1	20
Fulham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	1	12	12	..	3	4	9
Paddington	..	1	3	4	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	3	4	..	..	4	2
Chelsea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. George's:— St. George's Division.	1	..	1	2	1	..	1	2	5	..	..	5	..	27	14	3	..
Westminster do.	1	..	6	7	..	1	1	2	6	2	1	9	..	..	1	..	..
Westminster:— St. James' & St. Anne's	..	2	1	3	..	3	..	3	1	..	..	1	7	6	7	..	..
St. Marylebone	3	1	1	5	..	5	4	9	3	2	..	5	19	6	13	..	..
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	..	1	3	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	6	..	2	1	..
South St. Pancras	2	1	3	6	..	9	5	14	..	..	1	1	21	5	7	2	..
Islington	1	1	2	4	..	10	2	12	1	..	..	1	17	10	8	..	..
Hackney	2	1	..	3	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	2	6	..	..	..	..
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	..	2	2	..	3	..	3	2	..	..	2	7	1	7	..	..
Strand	3	..	1	4	..	2	..	2	1	2	..	3	9	14	9	1	..
Holborn	3	2	..	5	..	10	..	10	3	1	..	4	19	3	11	..	..
City	..	1	1	2	..	2	..	2	1	2	..	3	6	2	21	..	..
Shoreditch	..	1	1	2	..	4	..	4	2	1	..	3	8	..	5	..	..
Bethnal Green	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	6	8	4	4	..	..
Whitechapel	1	3	1	5	..	1	1	2	1	1	..	3	9	..	12	..	..
St. George's-in-the-East	1	..	3	4	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	6	..	5	..	..
Stepney	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	6	..	..
Mill End Old Town	..	..	3	3	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	2	6	..	1	..	..
Poplar	2	..	1	3	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	5	1	2	..	..
*St. Saviour's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Newington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Olave's	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	2	..	1	3	6	2	1	2	..
Lambeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
Brixton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	3	..
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	..
Battersea	2	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	5	2	3	..	..
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	3	3	3	16	..
Camberwell:— Grove Lane	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	3	1	4	..	..
Peckham	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	1
Greenwich	2	..	1	3	..	1	2	3	4	..	1	5	11	5	1	29	..
*Deptford	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	2	15
Woolwich	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	4	..	..	..	..
Lewisham	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	4	2	..	23	..
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	3	..	1	10	..
Totals	33	17	38	88	2	60	20	82	58	24	12	9	103	273	102	154	179

* No return received from these Committees at time of going to press.

BOARDING-OUT.—The following is taken from a report of a Drawing-room Conference on Boarding-out Pauper Children, published by Sir Charles Trevelyan in June last:—“A crucial test of the soundness of the boarding-out principle is the light in which it is regarded by the relatives of the child; for although best for the child, this system is least attractive to the relatives. Under the “aggregate school” system the poor see a vast institution, in which the children are dressed in uniform, and the whole managed on a very expensive scale. . . . But when the children are put out as boarders it is a totally different thing, for the children remain in the face of day, and their presence in the homes of other persons of the class from which they came is a constant protest against their desertion and abandonment; and it must be said for our poor people that, corrupted as they have been by the Poor Law, they are not, after all, sunk so low as to permit their children to be entrusted to their equals. This, then, is at the bottom of this singular problem: the poor will not allow their children to be boarded-out in their own class, though they are quite willing to hand them over to large aggregate schools to be brought up in the uniform of an institution.”

It appears from the Fifth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, that since the General Boarding-out Order of the 25th November 1870, 66 Boarding-out Committees have been formed; that, of these, 33 were in operation in 1875; and that the number of children boarded-out were 287 in that year as compared with 256 in 1874.

DORSET MENDICITY SOCIETY.—The number of vagrant admissions to the thirteen unions of Dorset during the quarter ending 30th June last, amounted to 661, being an increase of 76 admissions as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, and a decrease of 71 per cent. as compared with the same quarter of 1869—the year previous to the formation of the Society.

QUARTERLY RETURNS.

The following is the Quarterly Tabular Statement of Cases for the three months ending Saturday, September 30, 1876, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment				
									Letters for hospitals, &c.				

CHARGE OF ILLEGAL PAWNING IN HACKNEY.

Articles and correspondence regarding the following case appeared, during the recess, in several of the papers.

On August 9, Matilda Trueman, of Fann Place, Homerton, a laundress, was charged before Mr. Bushby, at the Worship Street Police Court, with pawning some shirts entrusted to her to wash.

The woman admitted that she had pawned the shirts, and in her defence made a statement to the following effect:

“She was a widow left with three children, and during the last three years supported herself and them by washing and charring. On Saturday, August 12, her landlady put the brokers into her rooms for rent due, 9s. 6d. The brokers made a further charge of 6s. 6d. for their costs, and told her if she paid that money they would go out and give her another week. The shirts in question were in her possession then, and to get rid of the man in possession she pledged them for 6s. She paid the man out, and had 6d. left for food for her children. On the following Thursday the man came again, asked for the rent due, and when she could not pay it, said that the brokers would be in again. On Friday she came to this court for advice and assistance from the poor-box. It is the practice at this court to refer all cases to the Charity Organisation Society, and the woman was referred accordingly. She went with her ticket to the Town Hall, Hackney. She was sent from there with a letter to one of the committee of the Society. Having tramped to his place, he being out, she was directed to Mr. Blatch, the letter stating her case as “urgent and deserving.” Mr. Blatch was out, and for a fourth time she was directed to someone else—Mr. Thompson, of Shepherd's Lane, Homerton. Again she was unsuccessful, Mr. Thompson being out; and her fifth reference was to Mr. Miller, M.D. He told her he could do nothing for her, but gave her the address of the relieving officer of her parish. It was then eight o'clock at night, and the woman had been walking about all day. Her children were at home, and she went to the relieving officer, but he, too, proved to be out. Then she returned home.

On Saturday morning she went again to Mr. Thompson, and saw him. She was then told to get a letter as to her respectability and poverty; after that she got a letter to go before the Board of Guardians of the parish on Monday. She went on Saturday night again to Mr. Blatch, and he gave her 1s. 6d. to get food and assist her over Monday, and a note to go before the committee of the Charity Organisation Society. On Monday she was apprehended for the pledging, and she said that she had intended, if the committee granted her assistance, to have redeemed the articles.

The report goes on to say:

'The prisoner handed to the magistrate letters bearing out her statement, and giving her the character of an honest, industrious, and hardworking woman.

'Mr. Bushby said that the case was a painful one, and deserving the deepest sympathy. She had, however, broken the law, and for that must pay a fine of 1s., and 6s., the amount of the pawning.

'The prisoner, who cried all through the hearing of the case, was led from the dock to the cells, but presently a gentleman in court paid the money and released the woman.'—*Daily News*, August 23.

In the *Times* of August 28, it was stated that subscriptions amounting to upwards of £27 had been sent to the magistrate for the woman, and handed to her. It also appeared that on the previous Saturday, August 26, the agent of the Hackney Committee attended at the Police Court, and made statements showing that the case was of a most unsatisfactory character. He was, however, stopped by Mr. Bushby, who invited the Society, for whose work he expressed great respect, to make in the newspapers any explanation they thought necessary, and, while repeating his favourable opinion of the case, he said that he thought the subscriptions should now be discontinued.

On August 31 and on subsequent days the following letter from the Rev. L. E. Shelford, Hon. Sec. of the Hackney Committee, appeared in several of the daily papers:—

'To the Editor of the Times.

'SIR,—With reference to a case which has provoked a good deal of comment unfavourable to this Society—I mean that of the laundress who was charged last week at the Worship Street Police Court with pawning shirts in order to raise money to pay the broker who had distrained her furniture, and who, it was alleged, had been neglected by the officers of this Society—I have to ask that publicity may be given to the following facts:—The woman was not sent by us to the various persons on whom she called in vain. When she made her first application at our office she was referred to one gentleman, and to one only, who, as visitor of the district in which she resided, has power to give immediate relief, as far as regards food, to those who are in urgent need. This gentleman happens in this instance to be the vicar of her parish, and his house is close to that where she lived. Had she gone to him again after finding him out the first time she called, she would have received the same assistance as was afterwards given by him, when, disappointed in the result of her applications elsewhere, she returned to his house. It was her own doing only that she spent a whole day in going about from one guardian to another. She was not sent by us, and we cannot accept the blame which has been imputed to us in this respect. No more was seen of her at our office for three days, when she again called about the saving of her furniture. At this time the week had not elapsed which the law requires before the sale could be effected. We were informed that the broker was not in possession, and that the furniture had not been removed, but of course we were not told of the means she had adopted to pay out the broker. There was, therefore, time to bring the matter before the committee which met on the following day, when a sum of money was instantly voted sufficient to meet all the expense which had been incurred, and to secure the goods. This action was taken before the committee had any idea of the charge which had been brought against the applicant, and of the statements at the police court. The money was paid the next day in ample time to meet the necessities of the case. It must be obvious to all except the prejudiced that, while we can give instructions to our visitors and agent to grant immediate relief where there is danger of starvation, we cannot allow them to give away considerable sums, or, at least, what are considerable in relation to the limited funds at our command, without the sanction of the committee. What I maintain in this case is that there was no further delay than was absolutely necessary, and that, but for the difficulties in which the woman had involved herself by the pawning of the shirts, the help that was given would have reached her in time.

'I wish that I could stop here; but, as a good deal of commiseration has naturally been excited by the report in the newspapers, I am obliged to add some further facts which have come to our knowledge. The applicant stated at our office that she had no friends able to assist her. It appears, however, that she has several relatives in good circumstances, living in this parish, who assert that they have already helped her, and would do so again if they were satisfied with her character and conduct. One of the children was at one time maintained by a relative, but was sent home in consequence of the mother's behaviour. Further,

the sum of £70, part of the bequest of a deceased relative, has been paid to her and spent within the last eighteen months. The remainder of the money is in the hands of trustees for the benefit of the children. On the whole, I am obliged to express my conviction that the pity which this case has excited is misplaced, and that those who have been so ready to attack the Charity Organisation Society, as well as the benevolent persons who have sent money to the magistrate for this woman, have been led astray by a plausible tale which will not bear examination. I have refrained from writing sooner, in order to obtain the opinion of the committee, which has met to-day, and authorised me to send this statement of facts.

'I am yours, &c., L. E. SHELFORD, Hon. Sec.

'Charity Offices, Old Town Hall, Hackney, Aug. 29.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of September 1876 was 35,104, and 42,503 received outdoor relief, making a total of 77,607. This was a decrease of 275 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 4,032, 13,650, and 20,132 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 775. This was an increase of 271 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 408 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES of the Charity Organisation Society, and their Offices.

KENSINGTON—39 Holland Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—7 Brook Green Terrace, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—20 Westbourne Park Terrace, Harrow Road, W.
CHELSEA—5A Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION (St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Barnsbury, N.
HACKNEY—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur St., New Oxford St., W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBORN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, Clerkenwell, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
SHOREDITCH—56 St. John's Road, Hoxton, N.
BETHNAL GREEN—297 Bethnal Green Road, E.
WHITECHAPEL UNION—194 Commercial Road, E.
ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST—194 Commercial Road, E.
STEPNEY UNION—3 Arbour Cottages, Arbour Street East, Commercial Road, E.
MILE-END OLD TOWN—116 Mile End Road, E.
POPLAR UNION—129 East India Dock Road, E.
ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK—9 St. George's Circus, S.E.
NEWINGTON—230 Walworth Road, S.E.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, SOUTHWARK—172 Tooley Street, S.E.
LAMBETH—Archbishop Sumner's Schools, Kennington Road, S.E.
BRIXTON—21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
WANDSWORTH and PUTNEY—The Plain, Wandsworth, S.W.
BATTERSEA—175 Battersea High Street, S.W.
CLAPHAM—73 Bromell's Road, Clapham Common, S.W.
CAMBERWELL—1 Grove Lane, S.E.; and Meeting-house Lane, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWICH—14 Haddington Terrace, King Street, S.E.
DEPTFORD—Mission Hall, King Street, Broadway, S.E.
WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDENHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 190.

THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 19, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday the 23rd instant, at 3 p.m.

The St. George-in-the-East Committee will, on and after the 18th instant, meet on Wednesdays, at 11.30, instead of on Mondays.

The Newington Committee will meet in future at 3 p.m. on Tuesdays.

District Committees are reminded that their Annual Reports should be made up to September 30, and should be issued as early in November as possible.

In order to carry out the following resolution of Council, dated July 3, 1876, a Balance-sheet Form and an Estimate Form will be sent this week to the District Committees—

That within a month after the 30th September of each year, estimates of the probable expenses of each Committee for the ensuing year, together with the balance-sheet for the past year, be sent to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee, in order that they may as soon as possible have the means of framing the estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

It is requested that these Forms may be filled up and sent to the Central Office as early as convenient before November 1st.

YOUNG ENGLISHWOMEN ABROAD.—The following letter has been received from the British Charitable Fund, 17 Rue des Petits Carmes, Bruxelles:—

'Sir,—At our recent annual meeting several startling facts were disclosed, showing that increasing numbers of young English females are allured to Belgium by deceptive representations.

'Relying on promises of remunerative employment, attracted moreover by the novelty of visiting a foreign land, they often fall into snares prepared for their ruin by established traders in vice. Others engaged for the theatres are often abandoned to want and temptation, and are sometimes rescued and sent home by this Committee.

'We think it desirable that this evil should be more generally known, in order to impress on parties interested the necessity of caution. No offer, however specious, ought to be accepted without due investigation, and a written agreement providing for the payment of the return journey in case of a termination of the engagement. This alone, however, is but a slight security against the practised agents employed in this commerce.

'We look to the Press as the chief means of warning against this danger. Its voice cannot be raised in a better cause. We therefore appeal to you in full confidence that you will give to this matter the publicity of your columns, and the benefit of your remarks.

'I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
 '[for the Committee of the British Charitable Fund]
 'H. BARRON, H.B.M. Chargé d'Affaires.'

HOSPITAL LETTERS.

Letters of recommendation to the following hospitals and institutions can be obtained from the Secretary of the Council by the Honorary Secretary of any District Committee having suitable cases before it:—

In-patients:

Charing Cross King's College London Middlesex North London St. George's Westminster St. Mary's, Paddington British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street General Lying-in Hospital, York Road Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital New Hospital for Women, Marylebone Road Royal Infirmary for Women and Children, Waterloo Road	Hospital for Women and Sick Children, Vincent Square, Westminster Hospital for Diseases of Women and Children Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Chelsea North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road East London Hospital for Sick Children, and Dispensary for Women Belgravia Hospital for Children	National Hospital for Paralytic and Epileptic, Queen's Square Royal London Ophthalmic, Moorfields Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars St. John's Hospital for Skin Diseases, Leicester Square London Homoeopathic
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Out-patients:

Charing Cross King's College London Middlesex, Lying-in Letters North London St. Mary's Hospital Westminster Hospital for Consumption, Brompton City of London, for Diseases of the Chest North London Consumption Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road Ear Hospital New Hospital for Women Royal Infirmary for Women and Children	British Lying-in Hospital City of London Lying-in Hospital General Lying-in Hospital Royal Maternal Charity Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street North-Eastern Hospital for Sick Children Victoria Hospital for Sick Children Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis Royal South London Ophthalmic Royal Westminster Ophthalmic	Royal Orthopaedic, Hatton Garden London Homoeopathic Dental Hospital Public Dispensary, Stanhope Street, Olare Market Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Dispensary Farringdon General Dispensary Western City Infirmary Provident Surgical Appliance Society South Western Provident Dispensary Royal Fimlico Dispensary Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary, Margate
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The Secretary would be glad to receive any letters for the In-patient Departments of Hospitals not mentioned above, and for Convalescent Homes.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending October 7 the receipts had been £74. 1s. for the General Fund, and 10s. 6d. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two Funds on that day had been £346. 12s. 11d. and £86. 6s. 7d. respectively.

ESTIMATES.—The Secretary was instructed to issue to District Committees a balance-sheet form for 1875-6, and an estimate form for 1876-7, to be filled up and returned to the Central Office, in accordance with the resolution of Council of July 3, 1876.

'WHITE SLAVES.'—Two meetings have been held to consider the best means of checking the traffic in Italian Children. At the first, evidence was submitted as to the nature and extent of the evils; at the subsequent meeting, held on Saturday the 14th instant, at 11.30 A.M., some preliminary measures for the suppression of the traffic were determined upon. The following gentlemen, amongst others, were present:—Mr. C. E. Maurice, Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Dr. Pius Melia, Signor Luciano, the Secretary of the Italian Beneficent Society, Mr. Negretti, and Mr. D. Lama.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, October 14, 1876:—*Donations*: J. Hall, Esq., 10s.; Rev. J. E. N. Molesworth, £2. 2s.; Messrs. Wright Bros., 10s. 6d.—*Annual*: H. Brown, Esq., £5; E. Fox, Esq., £2. 2s.

POOR-LAW CONFERENCES.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

The following are extracts from the report of the Sixth Annual Conference for West Midland District, held at Great Malvern on the 10th May last:—

The Rev. H. A. Harvey said of 'convalescents' and of 'the aged and infirm,' in a paper read by him to the Conference: 'We will suppose that a man has been a fit object for out-door relief during serious illness; and that he has become able to the amount of doing some work. It may be said—"Why, of course, you will give him a reduced amount of relief—continue his relief on a smaller scale till he is thoroughly able." But does not the law say, "No"?—Is not this relief in aid of wages?—for no such thing as relief in aid of full wages can possibly be contemplated. Then let us take, next, the case of aged and infirm people, whom to keep in forced idleness as a condition of their receiving relief, when they could just do a little, even if it was only to keep themselves occupied and amused, and the remuneration was a mere trifle, would be obviously cruel as well as unwise. Now, the variety of practice in meeting these cases (and they form a very large portion of out-door paupers) must be very great, in proportion to the very varying opinions on any question so undefinable. "Just a little," and "odd jobs," and "partial," though chronic, "infirmity," are terms which admit of any extension. What is generally done, I suppose, is to grant some paltry allowance, whereby, in conjunction with the trifles picked up, an existence is maintained—bare enough to make the recipients eloquent exponents of their own pitiable condition, and those who listen to these itinerant preachers of dissatisfaction virtuously indignant at the hard-heartedness of the guardians. In looking at either of these cases, I cannot but think, for my own part, that nothing will ever be done to treat them satisfactorily, till a system of co-operation is established between the administrators of the Poor-law and Charity, whether public or private. If Charity Organisation Societies were more general, and the managers of these and the Boards of Guardians could be brought into correspondence, much of the difficulty we feel, and many of the evils we deplore, would be removed. A distinct sphere of action which can, with a little pains and thought, be clearly established between the two, should be recognised on both sides, and a method of co-operation established. The administrators of Poor-law and the various distributors of Charitable Assistance should not be shy of one another, but act in harmony and with mutual understanding. The repression of pauperism and improvidence, which is the object of legislative enactments, might then be attained, while acts of charity and mercy might be exercised in such a manner as to further, rather than, as now too often is the case, to hinder and frustrate that object.'

The Rev. W. Lea said that 'against the system of out-door relief a very strong feeling was growing up in the present day. The items which have led to the prevalence of this feeling among those who have considered the subject, I suppose are some one or other of these: (1) The present advanced

rate of wages in every kind of labour enables working-men to provide for themselves, if they are so inclined, or their children to help to provide for them, under all the accidents of life, and in old age; (2) The example of some few Unions, Atcham for instance, in which out-door relief is almost unknown, and at the same time the example of Ireland, where in many parts there is no out-door relief, and where, in consequence, the ratio of paupers to the population is only one in 72 instead of one in 22, as in England; (3) And lastly, and, from my own point of view, the most important consideration, that out-door relief is a premium on improvidence, and that as long as it is continued, we cannot expect to see those habits of thrift and providence and self-reliance, on which the strength of a nation depends, prevalent in this country.' His conclusion was that some easier way of providing for old age should be devised for the class which had hitherto been depending on parish relief; so that, if out-door relief should, as was not improbable, be withdrawn or diminished, they might be able to provide for themselves on terms within their means, and not be obliged to go into the house. 'How this provision is to be made, on what terms, and by what agencies, is a question which, I take it, has engaged the attention of all who have looked into the subject from the two opposite points of view—from the ratepayers' and from the recipients' position. That it should be provided is only fair to both parties concerned, and consequently various suggestions have been made with a view to its practical solution. Some have proposed that the expenses of the Union houses should be thrown on the Consolidated Fund, and the cost of out-door pay remain with the Unions as before, thinking that if this system were adopted, the granting of out-door relief would be more jealously watched; and if the out-door relief were paid by the parish only, this perhaps might be the case, but the shoulders of the Union are broad. Others have propounded the idea of an universal system of insurance, by which every person shall be obliged to insure for a small annuity after a certain age. The effect of this would be that a large number would be, as it were, honorary members, and never claim their annuity, and their share consequently would be available for those who did require it. Another suggestion has found favour with several Boards of Guardians, and the Luton Board have circulated it, in the form of a petition to the Government, in the following terms: "That the difficulties connected with the question of out-door relief would be materially diminished if an institution were established for insurance against sickness and superannuation, on a plan suitable to the requirements of the labouring classes, under Government guarantee." However desirable this may sound, I suppose all who have had anything to do with the working of clubs would see the weak point of it at once. It would be almost impossible to have an efficient supervision of sick pay; and unless this is zealously watched, it is apt to exceed all calculations, and so produce the bankruptcy of a society. In a club of this kind, the annual loss would probably be so large that Parliament would never continue to sanction it. At the same time, the idea of a club on a national security seems to be a step in the right direction, only on too large a scale. If it is to be carried out efficiently, it must be worked out in a smaller area, over which a strict supervision can be exercised—say, for instance, in individual Unions; and I do not see why the Local Government Board may not devise a scheme to be worked on this system, by which those who wish to insure for sick pay and superannuation pension may purchase it from their own Union, on a scale issued by the Local Government Board, receiving in return for their payments an allowance in sickness, a pension when past work, with the attendance of the parish doctor, and medicine for the duration of life, and this under supervision of the relieving officer and the Board. This too might be granted on easier terms than a strict calculation of averages would justify; and then, after a certain period, out-door pay might be withdrawn, without much hardship being involved, and those who have not cared to make this or some other provision for themselves be received into the House.'

After some discussion, a series of resolutions, restricting the Prohibitory Order of the 21st December 1844, were passed.

INCREASE OF PAUPERISM.—It is worthy of note that, from a comparison of the returns of paupers in Metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of October, 1876, with the returns for the corresponding week of 1875, it appears that the number of paupers has increased in the following Unions. The numbers are:—Chelsea, 1,167, as against 1,096 in the corresponding week of 1875; St. Giles', 1,796, as against 1,606; Holborn, 1,108, as against 1,045. In the East District, Shoreditch has 1,853, as against 1,812; Whitechapel, 1,244, as against 1,239; St. George's-in-the-East, 1,309, as against 1,275; Mile End Old Town, 1,229, as against 1,150. In the South District, St. Saviour's has 5,085, as against 5,038; St. Olave's, 3,478, as against 3,317; Woolwich, 2,755, as against 2,672. At Chelsea there has been a decrease of £2. 17s. 3½d. in the amount spent for outdoor relief, but an increase of 41 persons receiving it. While at Kensington there has been, by comparison with the corresponding fortnight of last year, a decrease of £75. 7s. 10d. in the amount spent in outdoor relief—the largest decrease yet recorded.'

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.

The following are some typical cases of the action of the District Committees of the Society in dealing with School Board cases during the present year:—

(1) St. Pancras, South. Case 1,395:—

This case had been previously known to the Committee, and had been assisted by it between two and three years before. When it was referred as a School Board case, the family consisted of a widow with nine children, the three eldest of whom were daughters in service, but not earning enough to assist their mother much. One girl of 14 was in an orphanage. The mother and her five remaining children, aged 16, 12½, 10, 5, and 3, were all living in one small room, almost entirely dependent on the earnings of the one aged 16, a boy who gained 9s. a week. The ill-health of the mother prevented her going out to work. Nearly everything the family possessed was pawned, and, though their distress was very great, they had never applied for parish relief. The Committee placed the girl aged 12½ in a Training Home for Young Servants, from whence, when she is 13, she will be put into a situation. The girl of 10 they tried to place in a school, but her health not being sufficiently good to pass the medical examination required, she was sent to a sea-side Convalescent Home for three months, as a lengthened stay at the sea-side was said to be the only thing to prevent her becoming a permanent invalid. The child of 5 was enabled to attend school. Sufficient things were redeemed from pawn to restore the family to comparative comfort, and some needlework obtained for the mother, who was thus enabled to add a few shillings to the weekly income.

(2) St. Pancras, South. Case 3,235:—

When this case came under the notice of the Committee, the husband, a shoemaker by trade, who had been some time out of work, had left his wife and children, and had not been heard of for some weeks. The family then at home consisted of the mother and eight children, all sleeping in one room. The eldest girl, aged 19, worked during the day at a dressmaker's, and earned 12s. a week, which then formed the chief support of the family. She was furnished with a necessary change of clothes, and arrangements were made for her to sleep at her employer's. The third, a girl of 15, in service, had previously returned home at night; she was also provided with what was necessary, and afterwards slept at her employer's. The fourth, a girl aged 13, was sent to a Servants' Training Home, and then given clothes and provided with a situation. Three younger children were supplied with boots and clothing to attend school. Employment for a few hours each day was found for the mother as office cleaner at 10s. a week. The husband afterwards obtained work, and returned home.

(3) St. George's, East. Case 431:—

The applicant was formerly a numerical printer. His former employer stated that his earnings were 15s. a week, and that he was a respectable, steady workman. They had had, however, a disagreement about the price of his work. He belonged to no club, but was 'worthy master' of his temperance lodge. His wife earned about 2s. a week, and there were three children, aged 6, 4, and 1 respectively. The two elder went to the Board School, when they had clothes. In January he made his first application, but, as he was unable to obtain work, his case came before the Committee again in May. It then appeared that, unless he was immediately and adequately helped, he would become a pauper. The man was suffering from rheumatism, and was greatly depressed. He was anxious to see if he could find work in Australia, and it was believed that he might succeed in gaining his livelihood there, while his health would be improved by the voyage. £12. 15s. was therefore expended in purchasing a passage for himself and his family.

(4) Fulham:—

The applicant, a tinker by trade, applied to the Committee of the School Board for the exemption of his son, aged 11, from his attendance at school, in order that he might thus assist his elder brother in hawking salt. By the profits thus gained, the clothing necessary for the younger brother's attendance at school would be provided. Investigation showed, that while the relieving officer and others considered the applicant sober and steady, some who gave him this character considered that he was not a suitable applicant for charity, as he made a good living as a money lender, and was in the habit of lending to working men at high rates of interest. Further investigation proved the man to be a drunkard, and quarrelsome.

DORSET MENDICITY SOCIETY.—The number of vagrant admissions to the thirteen Unions of Dorset during the quarter ending 30th September last amounted to 671, being an increase of 307 admissions as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, and a decrease of 69 per cent. as compared with the same quarter of 1869, the year previous to the formation of the Society.

DIFFICULT CASES.

It has been suggested that it would be well to insert in the *Reporter* 'Difficult Cases,' the solutions of which our readers are invited to give. The undermentioned case is one that has actually occurred:—

A. B., aged 55, wife, aged 27, two children, aged 10 and 8. A. B. was a commercial traveller, and bore an excellent character. His health failed him four years ago, and he has not earned anything for two years. He is now blind and paralysed. They have lived on savings and selling their goods, and have had help from former employers. The wife is doing her best to maintain the family by millinery, but having to look after the husband and children, she cannot earn enough for their support. They have no relations able to assist. What is to be done for them?

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, OCT. 14, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief.	Under-servicing Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment Letters for Hospitalizee.					Class total			
Kensington	2	1	4	7	..	2	1	3	4	1	..	5	15	9	3	20	
Fulham	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	4	2	3	9	
Paddington	1	1	6	8	..	1	..	1	4	..	3	8	15	24	12	3	
Chelsea	..	..	4	4	1	1	..	2	1	..	1	3	5	11	..	4	
St. George's:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. George's Division.	2	..	2	4	..	1	1	..	4	1	..	6	25	2	5	1	
Westminster do.	1	..	4	5	..	..	..	..	6	..	1	2	9	3	1	..	
Westminster:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
St. James & St. Anne's	2	..	2	4	..	4	..	4	3	..	..	3	11	2	2	2	
St. Marylebone	..	1	2	3	..	2	3	5	5	4	..	9	17	5	11	..	
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
North St. Pancras and Highgate	2	..	1	3	..	9	1	10	..	2	..	2	15	6	4	..	
South St. Pancras	4	1	5	10	..	9	1	10	..	..	..	..	20	..	4	1	
Islington	3	..	4	7	..	20	3	23	1	..	..	1	31	..	..	..	
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	
St. Giles & Bloomsbury	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	..	..	1	4	..	9	..	
Strand	1	..	4	5	..	1	2	3	..	1	..	1	9	11	8	1	
Holborn	3	..	2	5	..	19	..	19	2	..	1	3	27	7	14	..	
City	..	1	1	1	..	3	..	3	8	3	..	11	15	5	26	..	
Shoreditch	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	3	1	2	..	
Bethnal Green	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	4	8	3	1	..	
Whitechapel	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	6	4	..	
St. George's-in-the-East	..	2	2	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	1	5	..	2	..	
Stepney	1	..	4	5	1	2	..	3	..	..	..	8	11	6	1	..	
Mill End Old Town	..	3	3	..	..	1	1	2	3	..	..	3	7	6	..	..	
Poplar	1	..	2	3	..	1	1	2	2	1	..	2	5	10	2	3	
St. Saviour's	4	1	5	10	..	1	1	..	4	4	..	8	19	1	1	4	
Newington	3	2	2	7	..	2	2	4	7	..	..	7	18	1	2	..	
St. Olave's	1	1	4	6	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	3	9	3	3	..	
Lambeth	..	1	2	3	1	3	..	4	4	..	..	4	11	..	4	..	
Brixton	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	2	..	3	9	1	..	2	
Battersea	1	4	..	5	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	2	2	1	1	26	
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	2	1	1	26	
Camberwell:—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Grove Lane	..	2	2	..	..	1	1	..	5	1	..	6	11	1	1	..	
Peckham	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	
Greenwich	..	1	1	1	1	..	2	..	1	..	1	2	6	2	1	17	
*Deptford	1	1	1	3	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	1	6	1	..	20	
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	29	
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Eitham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	17	
Totals	34	17	73	124	4	86	21	111	74	21	7	30	132	367	108	129	190

* No return received from this Committee at the time of going to press.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of October 1876 was 35,569, and 42,737 received outdoor relief, making a total of 78,306. This was an increase of 699 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 3,150, 12,885, and 19,520 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 827. This was an increase of 52 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 348 on the corresponding day of last year.

OUTDOOR MEDICAL RELIEF.

'The question of Outdoor Medical Relief in all its bearings, whether charitable or official, is one which has of late years received much attention. The Poor Law Dispensary System, initiated by the legislation of 1867, borrowed certain of its administrative features from the analogous system which had been in working for 25 years in Ireland. The difference, however, between the Irish and the London systems is fundamental. In Ireland Official Medical Relief is not considered as implying the pauperism of the recipient. In England no distinction is made between medical and other kinds of relief. It is not necessary to refer at length to the various circumstances which have led to the establishment of an exceptional system in Ireland. It is enough to indicate the dangers which in this country would assuredly follow a relaxed rule in this respect.

'The consideration which has been given recently to the organisation of charity in London has led to the conviction that the extreme facilities with which medical relief is obtained in the out-patient department of many of our public charities is an evil of great magnitude, and is often the first step in the downward progress towards pauperism.

'In one or two instances this tendency has shown itself in the Metropolitan Poor Law Dispensaries. It has been found that relieving officers were giving orders for medical attendance to persons not in the receipt of other relief, and evidently not destitute. The attention of the Guardians was called to this subject, and a stricter administration was promptly substituted. It is obvious that the remedy in such cases must lie with the Guardians themselves; and with the view of rendering their supervision more uniform and unfailing, it would be well if the practice, already adopted by some Boards of Guardians, were to become universal, of granting the medical relief order for a month only.

'But these precautions being taken, there can be no doubt that the establishment of Dispensaries has exercised a most beneficial influence on the administration of medical out-relief. It is an advantage to the patient, who is certain of obtaining his advice and medicine at a fixed hour. To the medical officer, who is no longer burdened with the duty of providing costly drugs from a slender salary, a fixed hour and a public office for the performance of his official duties is not less advantageous. The strictly medical duties of examining and prescribing for the patient are no longer complicated by the labour of dispensing drugs. And, finally, the Guardians are enabled to keep this important branch of relief under control and inspection in a way which before was impossible.'—*Fifth Annual Report of the Local Government Board.*

CHARITY ORGANISATION.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES.—We propose, in the next few numbers of the *Reporter*, to insert, as space may permit, extracts from the writings of Dr. Chalmers, Mr. Walker, and others, who have done much to bring about that change of public opinion in matters of practical charity which is now bearing fruit in the 'Charity Organisation' movement.

The following is taken from a small treatise 'On the Sufficiency of the Parochial System,' by Dr. Chalmers, delivered 'in occasional lectures to students of theology for their instruction in one branch of parochial management—on which should they proceed in after life, it will exempt them from those secularities wherewith the office of a clergyman is too often overlaid, and enable them to give themselves wholly to the ministry of the Word and to such other duties as are strictly ecclesiastical.'

The first section is 'On the Encouragement for holding Inter-course with the Common People, and the various ways of doing them good.' It might be termed an essay on a right manner in district visiting.

'It was in 1822 that I made a round among the poorest houses, which we took at random, in the parish of St. Giles, London, along with Mr. Joseph Butterworth, of Russell Square, who told me that it was only a few months before since they had made the discovery of the movement being safe. We met the same reception that we should experience everywhere: one of perfect civility, even though on our part we had nothing more substantial than civility to offer—a mere question respecting the state of their health, the comfort of their houses, or the scholarship of their children. . . . We affirm nothing so fantastic or sentimental as that our first appearance is to operate like a spell on the affections of the natives; or, with something like the instant force of love at first sight, to bind us together by an affinity of trusty and sworn companionship. We speak not yet of their companionable virtues, but of their companionable manners; and that what is kindly meant on our part will be kindly taken upon theirs. It is to the initial facilities that we are now attending, by which the common people encourage and open up a way for our future household intercourse with themselves and their families; leading to an acquaintanceship convertible, if made to overspread the whole community, into the best results, both on the economies and the morals of the general population. In other words, the barrier in the way of this hopeful and beneficial interchange does not

lie in any unwillingness, or in aught that is ungainly and repulsive on their part; but in our own selfish indolence, our own callous insensibility to the considerations and the calls of Christian patriotism. . . . Having now said enough of the access which there is to familiar converse with the common people, and that in virtue of a welcome and willingness from themselves; having, we trust, convinced the reader that this is not a romance of Arcadia, but a thing of as firm and homebred staple as any of the everyday occurrences in human life; let us now, with all plainness and brevity, unfold our own views of the account to which this intimacy, strengthening by every new visit to a family, or every new movement through an appointed district of families, might be turned. We suppose our philanthropist to have charged himself with a population of from two to three hundred, or somewhere about fifty families; and we shall now specify what a few of the various concerns are, on which, with a very little personal trouble, and with almost no perceptible expense of time or money, he might prove of substantial use to them.'

He then mentions, amongst others, as topics of common interest, 'weekday scholarship both in reading and sewing,' church-going, lending libraries, 'the health and comfort of the inmates,' 'the habit of accumulation.'

THE CHARITIES OF MELBOURNE.

A number of the *Australian Sketcher*, of July 8, 1876, containing an article on the Charities of Melbourne, has been forwarded to us. After referring to three recent cases, in one of which 'the inmate of the Benevolent Asylum proved upon his death to be the possessor of property to the value of £2,000,' while in the others the Asylum consented to receive as inmates two old women of whom one had 'a share in some landed property, but was kept out of her rights by the cruel greediness of a son,' and the other had been disowned by a son well able to support her. The writer adds:—'In each case pauperism was preferred to independent self-help. Charity was chosen in preference to honest industry, merely because it could be obtained with ease, and because, even when obtained by fraud, it was not felt as a degradation. The evidence afforded by these and similar cases as to the way in which the Benevolent Asylum is imposed upon justifies us in believing that the other charitable institutions of the city are similarly defrauded, and, indeed, facts are constantly being made public to prove that such is the case. Here, then, we find that one effect of our lavishly supported institutions is to produce pauperism by the means intended to relieve distress. The minds of numerous classes are familiarised with the receipt of gratuitous assistance, till it is felt to be no disgrace. The duty of self-denial and economy to make provision for the future, and the obligation of aiding, even at the cost of great self-sacrifice, those who have a claim for assistance, are entirely lost sight of. It is seen to be quite unnecessary to make provision for self-help when eleemosynary help can be so readily obtained. Such a system of indiscriminate charity—that is, of charity wanting in the indispensable conditions to ensure that it is not misapplied—is directly hostile to the self-reliant virtues of industry, thrift, and independence. It is not to be wondered at that, under such circumstances, the voluntary contributions to the support of charities thus administered should become of smaller and smaller proportion to the sum given by the State. The public see that the money they are asked to subscribe is wasted by being devoted to the support in idleness of those who ought to be made to support themselves, or of those who have relatives whose undeniable duty it is to support them. Thus, while industry and economy and foresight are being destroyed on one side, the sentiment of charity is being chilled on the other. Such must be amongst the consequences of the undue multiplication or too lax administration of public charities, and there is every reason to believe that these consequences are largely produced by the operation of the charities, the number and enormous revenues of which are often referred to with pride by the citizens of Melbourne.'

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Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 191.

THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 26, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

It is suggested by the Administrative Committee that District Committees should forward to the Secretary the names of applicants suitable for situations as Workhouse Infirmary Nurses, as such situations are frequently procurable. The salary is £20 with annual increments of £1 up to £25, with board, residence, and uniform. No special training is required. Persons aged 50 are often appointed.

The Secretary would be glad to receive the names of any gentlemen, accustomed to business, who would be willing to assist the Society by undertaking the work of auditing the accounts of District Committees.

The St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee have forwarded to the Central Office a list of the cases which, during the year ending 30th September last, they have decided to be 'undeserving.' It is suggested by the Administrative Committee that, with a view to checking imposture, other Committees should furnish lists of their 'undeserving' cases.

The following letter has been received from the Hon. Secretary of the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee:—

I am directed to inform you that a good deal is known by the Committee of the antecedents of a man named Donald Del'Hoste, formerly an officer in the army. He has no fixed residence, and therefore may apply to some other Committee.

ST. OLAVE'S.—Sir Graham Briggs has been appointed representative of the St. Olave's Committee, in the place of Captain Noyes; and Mr. E. Bayley has been appointed Hon. Secretary, vice Mr. B. R. Balfour, resigned.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—The Hon. R. C. Moreton has resumed his duties as Hon. Secretary of the Committee. ISLINGTON.—A second meeting of this Committee will be held, for the decision of cases, on Fridays, at 11.30 A.M.

ST. SAVIOUR'S.—The Rev. W. A. Richmond and Mr. W. F. Smith have been elected representatives of the Committee, vice Mr. S. C. Bosanquet and Mr. A. D. Graham.

STRAND.—Mr. E. W. Garrett has been appointed one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Committee, in the place of Mr. Lionel Robinson.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—ALSAGER HAY HILL (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—Dr. Anderson.

PADDINGTON:—

Sir R. M. Stephenson.

Major Yard.

CHELSEA:—Dr. Daniel.

ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—

Major FitzRoy.

WESTMINSTER (St. James and St. Anne's):

W. Bousfield.

W. Bevan.

ST. MARYLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill.

HAMPSTEAD:—

C. E. Maurice.

Rev. H. F. Mallet.

SOUTH ST. PANCRAZ:—Lady Wilson.

ISLINGTON:—F. B. Roberts.

STRAND:—

Rev. R. J. Simpson.

H. H. Hill.

HOLBORN:—Capt. Fortescue.

CITY:—Rev. H. L. Cummins.

SHOREDITCH:—Rev. H. G. Henderson.

BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford.

WHITECHAPEL:—C. L. Corkran.

STEPNEY:—E. Peters.

ST. SAVIOUR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond.

ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.

CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.

VICE-PRESIDENT:—W. M. Wilkinson.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—

J. W. Willis-Bund.

G. Blount.

S. Fuller.

TOTAL:—28.

SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

VISITOR:—A. Henty.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending October 14 the receipts had been £2.14s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £350.16s. 5d. and £86.6s. 7d. respectively.

GRANTS.—That they had made the following Grants:—To Bethnal Green, St. George's East, Newington, and Lambeth, Committees, £20 each.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS.—That arrangements for carrying out the resolutions of Council on the collection of funds were under consideration, and would shortly be submitted to the Council.

HOSPITAL FOR POOR FRENCH PROTESTANTS.—That the charter and byelaws of the Corporation of the Governor and Directors of this hospital had been forwarded, together with a letter offering to assist suitable cases recommended by the Society. The admission is restricted to poor French Protestants and their descendants. Applicants must be of good character, unable to earn their own livelihood, and not in receipt of any pension or allowance sufficient for their maintenance. A form of petition containing information respecting the suitability of the applicant has to be presented. Vacancies are filled up by the quarterly committee of Directors, who elect from the

register of candidates those deemed most eligible. There is also a pension fund for widows and spinsters over 50 years of age. A new hospital has lately been built at Victoria Park, 'to provide,' as the Report states, 'a peaceful asylum for some of the poor and aged descendants of the French Protestants.'

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW.—Mr. J. R. Hollond drew the attention of the Committee to an article on 'London Alms and London Pauperism,' in the *Quarterly Review* for October.

HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLE CHILDREN.

Major FitzRoy drew the attention of Council to the Cheyne Hospital for Sick and Incurable Children, 46 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. 'It had been established for the reception of children suffering from chronic or incurable disease, who were on that account excluded or discharged from general hospitals. Children were admitted in order of application (between the ages of five and ten) as vacancies occurred, on the receipt of a medical certificate stating the nature of the disease from which they were suffering, and with approval of the medical officers of the Home. Cases of epilepsy and mental derangement were not eligible for admission.' The payment was 4s. a week. Communications should be addressed to the Lady Superintendent.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

With the permission of Council, Major FitzRoy, in giving notice of the motion which stands first for consideration on Monday next, said that the more or less sudden withdrawal of out-relief had, he believed, been the source of considerable hardship in individual cases. He thought that charitable societies should prepare themselves to deal with the question unitedly and effectually. The rule of the Charity Organisation Society was to give 'temporary relief in those cases in which such relief would be of permanent advantage.' It was quite beyond its scope to give pensions such as those the poor enjoyed under a relaxed system of out-relief; but it might co-operate with other institutions who specially undertook the functions of relief, in order that the new and stricter administration of the Poor Law might react with the least possible harshness on the poor.

The following business stands for Monday, the 30th instant:

Major FitzRoy to move:—

1. 'That as it appears that many cases of individual hardship are occurring, especially amongst the respectable aged poor, in consequence of the laudable efforts of Boards of Guardians to do away with the much-abused system of out-door relief, it is the duty of this Society, while cordially co-operating with the Guardians, to ascertain how private charity may best be directed to meet these isolated cases; and that with this view the Co-operation Sub-Committee be directed at once to ascertain from the Society for the Relief of Distress, and other agencies, whether some concerted plan of action cannot be devised.'

2. Rev. H. G. Henderson to move:—

'That if the City, and any of the East End Committees, wish to amalgamate, they shall be allowed to do so.'

THE AFFLICTED POOR.—It is to be noted that 1,690 more lunatic, imbecile, and idiot persons were chargeable on the poor rates in 1875 than in 1874. There were, on January 1, 1875, 1,200 more in asylums, 115 more in registered hospitals and licensed houses, 348 more in workhouses, and 17 more residing with relatives, or in lodgings, or boarded out. The total number chargeable on the rates on January 1, 1875, was 54,571.

THE BLIND.—At a meeting of the Governors of the Sheffield and District Blind Institution, held recently at the Cutlers' Hall, a scheme was prepared by which the committee will be able to obtain £20,000, left by Mr. Daniel Holy for charitable purposes; and this sum they intend to utilise in the erection of a new institution for the blind. The building will cost much more than £20,000, and a town's meeting is to be called, and subscriptions raised in support of the object. It is proposed that the new institution should only give industrial training, which has already been very successful in the town, numbers of blind people educated at the existing institution being able to earn their own living.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, OCT. 31, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vacancies dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
Kensington	2	4	6	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	13	10	2
Fulham	1	..	1	..	..	3	1	..	3	4	8	2	3
Paddington	2	1	4	7	..	7	6	..	5	6	36	16	15
Chelsea	..	2	1	3	1	3	2	1	..	2	13	..	4
St. George's:—													
St. George's Division.	2	..	2	4	..	2	6	..	..	6	32	11	3
Westminster do.	2	1	6	9	..	2	6	1	..	2	9	3	..
Westminster:—													
St. James's & St. Anne's	4	..	2	6	..	4	2	..	..	2	12	6	3
St. Marylebone	1	1	1	3	..	6	2	3	..	3	20	8	7
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	..	1	..	5	2	7	..	..	..	8	5	2
South St. Pancras	2	4	6	12	1	8	..	..	..	..	21	6	7
Islington	2	1	..	3	..	11	4	15	..	..	18	11	11
Hackney	..	2	2	..	3	..	3	..	2	1	8	2	2
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	2	2	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	8	3	..
Strand	..	2	2	..	6	3	9	..	1	2	14	8	5
Holborn	..	2	2	..	22	4	26	3	1	..	32	5	11
City	1	2	3	..	3	3	2	1	..	3	9	6	25
Shoreditch	1	..	3	4	..	2	..	..	1	1	7	2	7
Bethnal Green	4	..	3	7	..	..	4	..	..	2	11	6	1
Whitechapel	1	..	6	7	..	4	4	..	2	2	13	8	8
St. George's-in-the-East	4	4	4	8	..	1	1	1	1	2	11	2	7
Stepney	1	2	1	4	..	1	1	..	1	1	6	11	6
Mile End Old Town	..	3	3	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	5	2	6
Poplar	1	..	2	3	..	3	3	..	2	4	10	2	3
St. Saviour's	2	1	4	7	..	..	3	..	..	3	10	4	3
Newington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Olave's	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	4
Lambeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	10
Brixton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Wandsworth & Putney	3	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	4	..	3
Battersea	1	3	4	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	6	1	13
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Camden:—													
Grove Lane	..	2	2	..	1	1	2	..	2	..	9	..	..
Peckham	1	1	1	3	..	..	1	..	1	..	5	1	1
Greenwich	..	2	2	..	2	..	2	4	1	2	13	2	16
Deptford	1	1	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	5	..	3
Woolwich	1	1	2	..	2	2	2	..	2	..	6	..	22
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	6	6	1	40
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	25
Totals	31	26	69	126	2	91	37	130	63	16	10	26	115
											371	140	179

DIFFICULT CASES.

The following answers have been received respecting 'the difficult case' described in our last number:—

'Referring to the "difficult case" quoted in the last *Reporter*, of the blind and paralysed ex-commercial traveller, aged 55, with a wife and two children, aged respectively 27, 10, and 8, the first point that occurs to me is that there is likely to have been improvidence in the case, as commercial travellers earn large sums, and no mention is made of the amount of savings or of insurances or clubs. Secondly, the fact of the man having married a girl of 16 is not in his favour. It appears to me that if there has been improvidence the husband should go into the workhouse, and then, but not till then, that the wife should be put in the way of supporting herself and children independently. If, however, there has been no improvidence, it appears to me that the wife should be helped in the same way, but that the husband should be provided for in a suitable institution, and that, until this can be done, the relief agencies of the district—or, failing them, the Charity Organisation Society—should make the family a weekly allowance. The Charity Organisation Society ought to be able to find private charity sufficient in amount to provide maintenance in an institution in such cases.—A. G. C.'

'Before the action on A. B. can be properly decided on, much more information is required than that given in your last number. He is 55, and his eldest child is 10. Was he married before? If so, did he have a family, and have they all died? Or was he a single man till 44? Did he provide for parents or others; and if so, to what extent? Unless he had very heavy expenses, could not a commercial traveller, single till 44, or married without a family, with an excellent character—that is, in good situations—provide well for old age for himself and small family, even with sickness? What were his earnings and mode of life? A strange part of

relief is given at all by English guardians, so long, apparently, will the poor consider that they have a legal right to it, and calculate on it.

'One is therefore inclined to think the scheme more hopeful which proposes to abolish out-door relief altogether, so far as the union is concerned, while creating local voluntary organisations which, acting in concert with the guardians, may deal with exceptional cases, and occasionally administer help to the distressed at their own houses. I am aware that such an organisation is to some extent open to the same objections as those which have been stated to the present system. But it is better in two respects. Inasmuch as it is not legal, it could not hold out that definite prospect of relief which has done so much to discourage providence among the poor. Being voluntary, it would be more flexible—could be worked more freely, and adapted to the circumstances and needs of places and persons much more easily than any system depending on Acts of Parliament and orders of a Government Board possibly can be. Doubtless if such a voluntary organisation were suffered to become a mere machine, supported by the subscriptions of people who gave no personal help, but left its work to paid officials, it would rather add to than diminish present evils. In arguing for it, one assumes that it would be managed as it is in Boston, as it was in Glasgow by Chalmers, as the *bureaux de bienfaisance* are now managed in France, by benevolent and public-spirited people, giving their own time and pains to the task, bringing personal sympathy—that most precious part of charity—to bear upon the needy and afflicted, so that "organisation" would not mean a superseding or stiffening of individual effort, but merely a combination of resources, knowledge, and experience for the purpose of enabling such effort to accomplish more.'

Resolutions were passed in favour of the checking the undue bestowal of out-door relief, and of impressing upon the Government the importance of establishing a national sick and superannuation fund with a view to the ultimate abolition of out-door relief.

These are one or two of the suggestions made in the course of the discussion:—In favour of a national friendly society, it was said: 'It may be objected that it would require enormous machinery, and cause no end of difficulty; but I beg to submit that the same machinery now in use for the administration of this injurious system of out-relief would also serve for the carrying on of this institution we venture to recommend.'

Mr. Orlebar said: 'My idea—it is a novel one, and most of you will call it impracticable and utopian—is that by a system of compulsory, universal Government insurance, compulsory upon every man, woman, and child in England over sixteen years of age or thereabouts, pauperism, as it at present exists, may in some years come to be done away with.'

Mr. A. Pell said: 'Those who have studied the question, and enquired thoroughly into it, perfectly well know that the benefit clubs have no worse enemy in the world than the Poor-law; that is, a club out of which people take everything, and into which they pay nothing. You can have no more mischievous benefit society than that. . . . Some such proposal as this might be made: that no person, for instance, who is under twenty—or ten, if you like—on the 1st of this year shall ever be entitled to receive out-door relief. Every year the scale would be raised one higher. Next year it would be twenty-one, the next twenty-two, the next twenty-three, and so on, until the system died out.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of October 1876 was 35,863, and 41,882 received outdoor relief, making a total of 77,745. This was a decrease of 561 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 2,970, 13,281, and 19,694 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 730. This was a decrease of 97 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 85 on the corresponding day of last week.

VARIATIONS IN PAUPERISM.—Last week we pointed out that there was an increase in metropolitan pauperism, the numbers in the first week in October 1876 being considerably larger than those in the corresponding week of 1875, and 699 more than in the last week of September of this year. In the second week of October there was, as compared with the previous week, a decrease of 561, viz., 77,745, as against 78,306. The decrease is in the Central, East, and South Districts. In all the West Unions, except Kensington, and in all the North Unions, except Islington and Hackney, there is an increase. It is noteworthy that in Chelsea there has been an increase from 1,167 to 1,249, and in St. George's from 3,377 to 3,409. What accounts for the sudden increase or decrease in the number of paupers?

AMUSEMENTS versus DRUNKENNESS.—'Philanthropists are alarmed at the spread of drunkenness, and are never weary of devising expedients to lessen it. The salient fact is often lost sight of, that drunkenness is with many people a mere amusement.'—*Echo*.

CHARITY.—*Qui benedicit impinguabitur*: 'He that blesseth shall be fat and wealthy; he that blesseth, not with wagging his fingers, but helping the poor people, he shall be blessed, and ever have enough.'—*Latimer*.

PROVINCIAL.

CHARITY ORGANISATION AT BIRKENHEAD.—A meeting was held in the Music Hall, Birkenhead, on Monday evening, under the auspices of the above association, to hear an address from Mr. C. J. Ribton-Turner, Organising Secretary of the London Charity Organisation Society. Mr. Edward Darbyshire, president of the Birkenhead Society, occupied the chair; and amongst those present were Revs. Saumarez Smith, W. Binns, and W. H. King; Messrs. C. J. Preston, R. Gaskell, J. B. Cooke, C. Willmer, A. Billson, Alsager Hill, Bancroft Cooke, C. A. Wain, H. Whittle, Dr. Lamb, &c.

The Chairman, in calling upon Mr. Ribton-Turner to give his address, stated that the object of the Society was a most important one, and that the dangers of indiscriminate almsgiving, which the Society was established to regulate, were very great.

Mr. Ribton-Turner then proceeded with his address, in which he said that the London Charity Organisation Society was established about seven and a half years ago. The necessity for the maintenance of such an association arose from the fact that charity was badly distributed, and did not in very many cases meet the end desired. He pointed out that as pauperism increased so the decadence of a nation was indicated. It was necessary that there should be reciprocity of action between charity organisation and the Poor-law authorities. Analysis of character was a most difficult study, and before giving relief thorough investigation was necessary. He maintained that relief given by benevolent persons more frequently did harm than good; that it was much more important to teach the working classes cooking and domestic economy than to relieve poverty by alms. There were 749,000 paupers in England, and it was most important to reduce the extent of pauperism, partly that we might compete with other nations, and that crime, which was to a great extent dependent on pauperism, might be also reduced. Facilities were given by almsgiving people encouraging men in idleness. The first object of all aid should be to throw men into the labour market. Charity promiscuously given beats down the rate of wages. It was estimated that in the course of a year £75,000 was given in London alone to fraudulent charities. The Society was instituted, however, more in the interests of the poor than in those of the donors.

Mr. Alsager Hill said that the keynote of charity was personal interest; that it must not be mechanical. He felt sure that charity organisation could not hurt the human instincts towards charity, and that much of the indiscriminate charity which was given was not prompted by human love of the highest type.

In reply to a question on the method of work in London, Mr. Ribton-Turner said that they took the Poor-law cases and investigated them by paid agents or volunteers. They had now in existence 37 committees and 40 offices in London.

The Rev. W. Binns explained at length the operations of the Birkenhead Association; and the proceedings closed with votes of thanks to Mr. Ribton-Turner and the chairman.—*Liverpool Mercury*, October 1, 1876.

THE SUPPRESSION OF MENDICITY IN CARNARVONSHIRE.—At the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions for the county held at Carnarvon on the 19th and 20th inst., Mr. Holland introduced the subject of a mendicancy society. He observed that the question of obtaining the co-operation of all the magistrates throughout the kingdom for the suppression of vagrancy had engaged the attention of the Social Science Congress lately sitting at Liverpool. Mr. Ribton-Turner then addressed the Court, and explained the plan for the repression of mendicancy recommended by the Charity Organisation Society. The Chairman, the Right Hon. Lord Newborough, and Mr. Holland then made some further observations, and it was decided to form a committee for this purpose, which should co-operate with the 'Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicancy.'

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

192.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 2, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

In order to carry out the following Resolution of Council, July 3, 1876, a Balance-sheet Form and an Estimate were forwarded on the 24th ult. to the District Com-

mittee, within a month after the 30th September of each year, estimates of probable expenses of each Committee for the ensuing year, together with a balance-sheet for the past year, be sent to the Secretary of the Society, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee, in order that they may as soon as possible have the means of framing the estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

It is requested that these Forms may be filled up and sent to the Central Office as soon as possible.

GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—Viscount Sudley will act as representative of this Committee during the absence of W. Compton.

BETHNAL GREEN.—This Committee will meet on Fridays, at 8.30, and the office will in future open at 9.30 and close at 4.30 A.M.

ST. GEORGE'S.—The second meeting of this Committee will be for the decision of cases, at 11 A.M.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—**ALFRED HAY HILL** (in the Chair).

TOWN:—
Mr. Anderson.
Mr. Whitcombe.
Mr. Edgcombe.
—Rev. A. Scott.
TOWN:—
Mr. M. Stephenson.
Mr. Yard.
Mr. Holland.
—
Mr. Niel.
Mr. Courtenay.
Mr. George's (Hanover Square):—
Mr. Sudley.
Mr. Prendergast.
Mr. FitzRoy.
Mr. St. James and St. Anne's:
Mr. Asfield.
Mr. van.
Mr. BISHOP:—Miss Octavia Hill.
Mr. LAD:—
Mr. Gairdner.
Mr. F. Mallet.
Mr. T. PANCAS:—Lady Wilson.
Mr. W:—F. B. Roberts.
Mr. S:—
Mr. Lawrence.
Mr. Wre.
—Rev. R. J. Simpson.
Mr. T:—
Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. Baker.

CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins.
SHOREDITCH:—
Rev. H. G. Henderson.
H. A. Herbert.
Rev. H. P. Kelly.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford.
WHITECHAPEL:—
C. L. Corkran.
C. Lavers-Smith.
STEPNEY:—
A. G. Crowder.
E. Peters.
MILE END OLD TOWN:—
Rev. W. H. Langhorne.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—
Rev. W. A. Richmond.
F. B. Montgomerie.
W. F. Smith.
ST. OLAV'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
CANBERYWELL:—T. Galabin.
WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.
SYDENHAM:—A. Hutchins.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—
Sir C. E. Trevelyan.
J. W. Willis-Bund.
METROPOLITAN VISITING AND RELIEF ASSOCIATION:—Rev. M. S. A. Walrond.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loach.
VISITOR:—Miss Astley.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending October 21 the receipts had been £5 for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £229. 12s. 5d. and £6. 6s. 11d. respectively.

GRANT.—That they had made a grant of £20 to the Mile End Committee.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUTDOOR RELIEF.

Major FitzRoy then moved:—

'That as it appears that many cases of individual hardship are occurring, especially amongst the respectable aged poor, in consequence of the laudable efforts of Boards of Guardians to do away with the much-abused system of outdoor relief, it is the duty of this Society, while cordially co-operating with the Guardians, to ascertain how private charity may best be directed to meet these isolated cases; and that with this view the Co-operation Sub-Committee be directed at once to ascertain from the Society for the Relief of Distress, and other agencies, whether some concerted plan of action cannot be devised.'

He said that, since he had given notice of this motion, further study of the subject had led him to realise its importance more fully, and had brought under his notice several cases of hardship. The cause of the evil—the real question before the Council—was, 'How are we to deal with the consequences of improvident habits when the Guardians are withdrawing outdoor relief, and the people have made no provision to meet the effects of its withdrawal?' He then read, from the *Middlesex Advertiser*, the account of a case in the Chelsea District. There might, doubtless, be much to be said on the other side in these cases; but for his purpose it was sufficient to know that such cases were published; for, if the details of these cases came before benevolent people, they would give their money liberally, though often thoughtlessly and wrongly, and not with the charity that suffers long and is kind. This was an occasion for the Charity Organisation Society to act; for it was the special duty of this Society to combine forethought with charity—to guide private charity in the right direction. He then gave the details of another case that had come before the St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee. This case was one suitable for charitable assistance, yet not suitable for assistance by the Society; for the rule of the Society was to give temporary relief which might prove of permanent advantage. It was a case for a pension. There were a large number of pension societies; but these, without more concerted action, would never meet the want. He would propose no plan, but would mention the experience of the St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee. There they had thirty persons on a pension list. A strict investigation was instituted before any name was placed on the list; and it was necessary to show that no relations were able to assist; that the applicant had not been foolishly improvident or worthless; and that it would not be more just to let the Poor Law, rather than charity, support him. There was no pension fund; but the

support of each case was entrusted to one or more individuals, who thus became personally interested in it. Each case had thus to be provided for separately; and this was a check on the laxity of administration which was an evil natural to the pension *fund* system. He did not believe that, in adopting this plan with proper safeguards, the District Committees would find themselves suddenly overwhelmed with suitable applications. There were, after more than a year's trial, only thirty on the St. George's list. It might, of course, be said that it was only possible to do this in a rich district; but, if there were rich people in that district, it must not be at the same time forgotten that the hangers-on of the rich swarmed to it. He then laid on the table papers showing the rules of the St. George's plan, which were to be published in the next Annual Report. In answer to a remark, he acknowledged that the system did lead to the supplementation of outdoor relief. The Guardians could only give a quite inadequate sum, and there was therefore, in many cases, no alternative but to supplement it.

Major Prendergast seconded the motion.

A letter from the Hon. Reginald Capel, the representative at Council of the Society for the Relief of Distress, was then read.

After a few words from Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, Mr. W. Bevan, speaking as a member of the Society for the Relief of Distress, said that that Society had always been disinclined to help chronic cases. It only gave temporary relief; and to give anything in the nature of a pension would be to reverse its well-established policy. Though the resolution were carried, he feared it would be quite inoperative.

Rev. R. J. Simpson, while commending the practical character of the motion, thought that the Society should weigh well the additional responsibilities it might entail. The action of the Society had, he believed, helped to produce the recent contraction of outdoor relief; and it might possibly be under an obligation to meet the want it in part had created. But to do this a vast additional staff would be necessary. Out of his own parish there would be several hundred legitimate claimants, and the Society could not undertake the responsibility of dealing with the whole of the vast amount of poverty lying on the margin of pauperism.

Mr. J. R. Hollond considered that the adoption of the motion would have precisely the reverse effect. It would not increase the responsibility of the Council, but would throw the responsibility on unorganised charity. People ask, What is the Charity Organisation Society doing at this crisis? This motion is a true answer; it states, We are trying to organise charity. It does not require us to sanction a definite scheme, but to arrange a definite scheme. If, then, other Societies will not co-operate, we shall have done what we could.

Rev. M. S. A. Walrond stated that the regulations of the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association were on this point similar to those of the Society for the Relief of Distress. They did not allow money granted by them to be distributed in pensions. Personally, he thought all cases of chronic distress should be left to the Poor Law. Any scheme for assisting them would practically produce more harm than good, and, though successful in St. George's, Hanover Square, in the East End it would be quite impracticable. In times of change the poor must necessarily suffer. He was sure his Society would be glad to co-operate in the consideration of any scheme, but at the same time he believed that the lines laid down by the Charity Organisation Society on its formation should still be adhered to.

Mr. Willis-Bund said, that if there were 30 pension cases in St. George's there would be 60 in Bethnal Green. It was

a complaint against the Society that elaborate inquiries were made, and after all nothing was done. Yet the adoption of the motion would, he considered, raise hopes which the Society was not yet sufficiently well supported to fulfil. The scope of the Society's work was already too great.

Rev. H. P. Kelly, speaking as a guardian and clergyman in Shoreditch, said, that he had watched cases in which out-relief had been withdrawn, and had found the people in just the same condition, as they had been when in receipt of the relief. He believed that little injustice had been done.

Mr. J. Sapsford said, that having an intimate knowledge of the East of London, he was prepared to prove that starvation had in some cases followed the withdrawal of out-relief.

Rev. H. I. Cummins urged the necessity of adhering to well-recognised principles. It was a duty of the Poor Law to take care of the aged and afflicted poor; and, if injury had been done by the withdrawal of relief, it was the duty of the Society to remonstrate with the Guardians, not to undertake duties they had neglected. It was often a very great hardship to force old people into the house. Was it not possible to give them the same amount of relief out of the house, as that they would have had on entering the house?

Mr. C. L. Corkran thought Mr. Cummins had overlooked an important point in the discussion. It was proposed to affiliate, as it were, poor persons deserving of pensions to rich persons having the means of giving relief. This was a real organising, or rather, co-operative arrangement, uniting the sundered classes of rich and poor by a personal bond. He then mentioned the case of a Huguenot weaver, with which he was well acquainted. The earnings of a daughter, 2s. 6d. a week from a church, and a weekly pension of 1s., enabled a father and mother to live decently. If charity had been unable to take its part in this case, the old couple would have had to go into the house, and the family would have been broken up.

Sir Charles Trevelyan pointed out that in the forefront of the Manual was placed the 'co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law,' as one of the means of bringing about the main object of the Society—the improvement of the condition of the poor. Nothing was said there about outdoor relief; but it was hopeless to expect provident habits from the labouring classes so long as outdoor relief was continued, for such relief was a direct discouragement of thrift. It was a penalty to the thrifty; for, having accumulated insufficient savings for their old age, they were not entitled to any supplementary assistance. It was a bonus to the drunken and thriftless; for they were entitled by it to relief which they did not deserve. It was, in fact, a monstrous public evil, and if the Guardians were realising this we should do our best to co-operate with them. It was, it had been said, the duty of Guardians to deal with chronic cases. This was true of chronic cases in which there had been worthlessness and improvidence; for them there was the workhouse. But there was another sort of chronic case, in which the aged and infirm had been industrious and, owing to misfortune, had failed to provide for their old age. Those were proper cases for organised charity; and the means of meeting them were forthcoming. If the Society exercised properly its functions of inquiring and reporting, they would find many who would be thankful to have these cases brought to their notice. Besides individual charity there was also congregational charity. The parochial Councils in the St. George's (Hanover Square) District supported as many as 200 such cases. There were the endowed charities, a correspondence respecting which, between the St. George's Committee and the late Canon Conway, would be found in the *Reporter* of 8th March last. And lastly, there were the subscription charities.

Rev. W. H. Langhorne thought that, after what had been said regarding the action of other societies, it was hardly possible to deal with so large a question. The system, that had been described, was inapplicable to the East of London, where there were none to give the pensions.

Sir R. M. Stephenson considered it would be premature to adopt the motion. There was hardly sufficient information before the Council on the subject; and as the District Committees were actually working in the direction suggested, he would ask Major FitzRoy to withdraw his motion.

Dr. Daniel thought the motion brought to light an evil that must be remedied. Outdoor relief was, in any case, quite inadequate to meet the wants of the poor, unless other assistance was available. The motion did not bind the Council to any positive action.

The Secretary pointed out the immense reduction in expenditure that had taken place in unions in which outdoor relief was being withdrawn, and that the want thus created could not be met by the existing pension and other relief societies, so long as they worked under their present restrictions. Out of eighty-one pension charities mentioned in the *Classified Directory to the Metropolitan Charities*, none were available for ordinary cases, and free from religious, local, and other restrictions. Out of ninety-two almshouse charities only thirteen, supporting 175 persons, were generally available. And out of ninety-five general relief charities, there were—excluding the funds in the Magistrates' poor boxes, the Accident Relief Society, and the Society for Distressed Widows—only eight general charities available; while of these it appeared that the Society for the Relief of Distress and the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association would not be likely to give any but temporary relief. This showed the immense need of extending that co-operation, which was the first work of the Society.

Miss Octavia Hill said that donors looked to the Society to be told what they should do, but at the same time they were, as a rule, more willing to help different cases often than one continuously. She had found it advisable to obtain in some cases a large sum and expend it after the manner of a pension. Other societies should consider whether relief distributed in this way was not often the best form of relief.

Rev. H. F. Mallet, while allowing outdoor relief to be inadequate, showed that, being legal, and therefore expected as a right, it worked injuriously also, where private charity alone could act efficiently. He asked whether Major FitzRoy wished for the withdrawal or the supplementation of out-relief?

Mr. Lavers Smith said that a majority of the Whitechapel Committee were in favour of the continuance of out-relief, believing that it was the duty of the Guardians to give pensions, and that by their withdrawal of out-relief they had paralysed the efforts of charity to co-operate with them. To meet the difficulty the Committee had made special inquiries, and had found the charities of the district to be much more numerous, than they had at first supposed. The greater part of them, however, were for special purposes.

Mr. A. G. Crowder said that if the Guardians attempted to deal with chronic cases adequately, the rates would not be able to bear the burthen. To give such relief as that proposed, the utmost discrimination was necessary; and, while the relieving officer had to deal with as many cases as he did at present, the adoption of such a system would lead to wholesale pauperism. If chronic cases were left to the Guardians they must be met with either the workhouse or 2s. or 3s. a week; and the only use of the 2s. or 3s. would be to assist in producing a state of semi-starvation. Charity must grapple with the difficulty, and the charitable, instead of giving away

half-crowns, must be prepared to give sums of £20 to two or three deserving persons.

After a few words from Major Prendergast, the Chairman said that from what had fallen from members working in different parts of London, he considered that a case had been made out for a further extension of organised charity; for charity was not yet prepared to meet the wants of the poor. It appeared from Mr. Capel's letter, that he thought the Society wished to supersede existing charities. This was altogether a mistake. It was one of the essential principles of the Society that it should co-operate with, and not supersede, other charities. The Society had lately formed a Co-operation Sub-Committee, and it had pledged itself to attempt to introduce co-operation in such matters of practical charity as this.

Major FitzRoy in reply pointed out that since the establishment of the Society new causes had been at work, and the Society for the Relief of Distress, and the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association, might very well be invited to make changes in their administration in accordance with new requirements. If all chronic cases, without distinction, were to go to the Poor Law, what was left for charity to do? If nothing was done by the leading Metropolitan Societies, benevolent persons would take the matter into their own hands and do badly what might with their co-operation be done well. Many safeguards were necessary; no pension fund with fixed rules, and, above all, no law would be sufficiently elastic. But there was not certainly any justification for treating all alike—giving to both the provident and the worthless no alternative but 'the house.'

The motion, having been slightly modified, was then put and carried *nem. con.*, viz.:—

'That as it appears that many cases of individual hardship are occurring, especially amongst the respectable aged poor, in consequence of the laudable efforts of Boards of Guardians to do away with the much-abused system of outdoor relief, it is the duty of this Society, while cordially co-operating with the Guardians, to ascertain how private charity may best be directed to meet these isolated cases; and that with this view the Co-operation Sub-Committee be directed at once to ascertain from Metropolitan and other agencies for the relief of distress, whether some concerted plan of action cannot be devised.'

AMALGAMATION OF DISTRICTS.

Rev. H. G. Henderson moved:—

'That if the City, and any of the East End Committees, wish to amalgamate, they shall be allowed to do so.'

He said that, so far as he could find out, there were no rules to prevent the amalgamation of any two Committees desirous of combining together. In some cases there was delay in deciding cases, or money was wanted; or a definite object was required for which to ask the support of the public, such as, amongst other things, the assistance of the poor in a poor district, to which the richer district was attached. In all these cases the combination of a rich and a poor district would strengthen both.

Rev. M. S. A. Walrond seconded the motion.

Rev. H. I. Cummins, after a few words from the Chairman and from Mr. Willis-Bund, who urged that the motion was out of order, moved the previous question. It appeared to him that it was equally objectionable to approve or negative the motion; for if it was approved the approbation would apply to certain districts only, and, if it was negatived, the principle of an amalgamation, which in some districts would, he thought, be very advantageous, would be weakened.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in speaking for the previous question, said that the motion if carried would be a most grave and revolutionary supersession of the authority of the Council.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 193.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 9, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

District Committees are requested, in consequence of the increased circulation of their annual reports, to furnish the Council with 75 reports with the lists of subscribers and donors, and 100 reports without such lists, making a total of 175 copies.

There are three letters for the Walton Convalescent Home at present at the Central Office.

The Convalescent Home for Women, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, is closed.

WANDSWORTH.—This Committee will meet at 5 P.M., instead of at 5.30, on Wednesdays.

WESTMINSTER UNION.—This Committee will meet in future at 5 P.M. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Mr. C. A. O. Marsham has been elected an Hon. Secretary, *vice* Mr. J. T. G. Faussett, resigned.

WOOLWICH.—This Committee meets at 4.30 on Tuesdays.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—**LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGH** (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON :—F. J. S. Edgcombe.	W. Bousfield, C. A. O. Marsham, W. Bevan.
FULHAM :—Dr. Daniel, C. J. Stevens.	ST. MARTLEBONE :—Miss Octavia Hill.
PADDINGTON :—Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Hollond.	HAMPSTEAD :—C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F. Mallet.
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square) :—Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy.	SOUTH ST. PANCRA'S :—Miss Collett.
WESTMINSTER (St. James and St. Anne's) :	ST. GILES'S :—H. N. Hoare, W. F. Lawrence.

STRAND :—Rev. B. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill.
HOLBORN :—Capt. Fortescue, G. B. Baker.
CITY :—Rev. Harvey Brooke, Rev. H. I. Cummins.
SHOREDITCH :—Rev. H. G. Henderson.
ST. GEORGE'S, EAST :—Lord Dunsany.
STEPNEY :—E. Pet-ty.
MILE END OLD TOWN :—Hon. H. R. Scott, Rev. W. H. Langhorne.
POPLAR :—R. Ellis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S :—Rev. W. A. Richmond, F. B. Montgomerie, W. F. Smith.
NEWINGTON :—F. P. D. Thornton.

LAMBETH :—Douglas Brown.
CAMBERWELL :—T. Galabin.
LEWISHAM :—A. Annesley, R. V. Tidman.
ELTHAM :—Capt. Gardner.
VICE-CHAIRMAN :—A. H. Hill.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS :—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley, W. Wightman-Wood.
METROPOLITAN VISITING AND RELIEF ASSOCIATION :—Rev. M. S. A. Walrond.
TOTAL :—43.
SECRETARY :—C. S. Loch.
VINTORS :—G. Curling, Mrs. C. S. Loch, Miss H. Gurney.

HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED.

Dr. Daniel drew the attention of the Council to an arrangement recently made by the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury. Patients 'who would shrink from entering the general ward of a hospital, and from receiving entirely gratuitous relief, and are so debarred from those advantages which the extreme poor can command,' are admissible to the new 'In Memoriam' wing of the Hospital, on the weekly payment of 12s.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending October 28 the receipts had been £126. 3s. for the General Fund, and £12. 16s. 10d. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £187. 4s. 9d. and £59. 3s. 5d. respectively.

GRANTS.—That they had made a grant of £10 to the St. Giles's Committee, and of £20 to the Islington Committee.

MIGRATION OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.—A Correspondent had pointed out the great want of domestic servants in and around the towns of Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester, and had suggested that the Society might in some cases arrange for the migration of women and girls to those parts. Further information might be had of the Secretary.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS.

The following recommendations of the Administrative Committee on this subject were agreed to, *viz.*: that the City Collection Sub-Committee should be merged into the Finance Sub-Committee; that this Sub-Committee should in future undertake both the work of supervising the collection of funds in the City on behalf of the Council, in accordance with the arrangements made with the City Committee in November 1875, and should also carry out the resolutions of Council of the 29th May and the 3rd and 24th July last, respecting the collection of funds; and that the services of the Assistant-Secretary be placed at the disposal of the new Finance Sub-Committee.

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL.

Mr. J. R. Hollond then moved—*

That Bye-law No. 1 be amended as follows:—

The Council shall meet on the first Monday in every month (except August and September), at 3 P.M., and on any other day and at any other hour to which the Council may, for special reasons, adjourn.

* See Reporter, No. 189, vol. v., p.

Exception.—If the first Monday in the month shall fall on a Bank holiday, the Council shall meet on the next Monday following.

In case of emergency, the Administrative Committee, on the requisition of a District Committee or at its own discretion, shall have power to summon (through the *Reporter*) a special meeting of Council to discuss a particular subject.

He considered that the machinery of a weekly meeting of Council was of too cumbersome a nature to do the executive work which was now the first duty of the Society. That work, in fact, had devolved on the Administrative Committee, with its four Sub-Committees on Mendicity, District Committee work, Co-operation, and Finance; and the whole force of the Council was required to apply and carry out, by their means, the principles which the Council had fixed. His objections to the weekly meetings were: that they took up time and made work; that they led the public to misconceive the practical nature of the Society's work; that questions of principle having been settled, weekly meetings suitable only for the discussion of principles were no longer necessary. His motion threw on those who wished to meet, the responsibility of convening Council more than once in the month. A monthly discussion on important subjects would be a better means of educating the members of Council, and would be more useful to the public. By the resolutions of Council of January last sufficient power had been given to the Administrative Committee, and no change was necessary on this point. The *Reporter*, issued weekly, would, if there were no weekly reports of debates, be more generally useful and interesting. Finally, having pointed out that the rights of District Committees were preserved by the last clause of the motion, he asked the leave of the Council to alter the words of his motion to 'the second Monday in every month.'

Sir R. M. Stephenson seconded the motion.

Letters from Mr. S. Fuller, Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, and Rev. J. D. McGachen were then read.

Mr. A. H. Hill, after alluding to the testimony in favour of the continuance of the weekly meetings contained in the three letters just read, said he feared the tendency of the proposed change would be to place at the head of the Society a mere oligarchic bureau. Members were possibly getting tired of constant meetings; but the interests of the Society were national, and the principles it advocated had to be pressed continuously on the members of Council themselves. The movement which the Society represented, like all other important public movements, was only kept up by public meetings and debate, which, gaining for it new adherents and enlisting the individual sympathies of large numbers of the people, brought to light new sides of the problem, which was as yet but most partially solved. When meetings dwindled away, it was clear that the intensity of conviction that produced the movement was becoming less. Something had indeed been done; but the field of work was so vast, that unless many men and women would, for a long time to come, content themselves with attempting to influence public opinion by constant discussion of the principles of which so few had a complete grasp, it would be impossible to accomplish the enormous work which the Society had before it. He feared that involuntary weariness to which, after their first efforts and successes, the workers in such a cause were likely to succumb. He moved as an amendment:—

That a Committee be appointed to consider and report on the best means of increasing the usefulness of the weekly meetings of Council, and that the Committee consist of Lord Lichfield, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, Major FitzRoy, and Miss Octavia Hill.

That the Committee be requested to report in a fortnight.

Rev. M. S. A. Walrond seconded the amendment.

Mr. W. W. Wood opposed the motion, on the ground that the proposed change would be no economy; that the principles of

the Society were not, as Mr. Hollond stated, settled and decided; that the one monthly meeting could not produce such large results, even under the best arrangements, as the four meetings in each month; that the Council constituted a sort of public opinion in the Society itself, and that in its speeches gained votes and were the only means of explaining to new members, unacquainted with the details of the Society's history, the various bearings of many of the subjects of discussion.

Sir Charles Trevelyan thought that the constitution of the Society, a confederation of autonomous Committees, necessitated the weekly meeting of a Council composed in the main of representatives of the Committees, and entrusted with the legislative work of the Society. The executive power had now been placed in the hands of the Administrative Committee, which, if very largely attended by members of Council, would lose its usefulness as an executive body; while the present distribution of executive and legislative duties gave scope for the conduct of the business of the Society with the least amount of friction, and, as the last two meetings of Council proved, retained to the Council its distinctive features as the legislative and educational body of the Society.

Rev. H. I. Cummins, in supporting the motion, showed how difficult it was for members to give up the time which was required for attendance at their District Committee, as well as at the Administrative Committee and one or more Sub-Committees, while they had also to attend weekly at the Council.

Mr. H. H. Hill considered that, as members of Council were engaged in work on other charitable institutions, the principles of the Society were being gradually disseminated by them. The meetings of Council were thus producing practical results.

Rev. R. J. Simpson, Major FitzRoy, Miss O. Hill, Mr. R. V. Tidman, Mr. Bousfield, and Captain Fortescue having spoken, Mr. Hollond replied that he could not agree to Mr. A. H. Hill's amendment. He did not think it possible to utilise the meetings of Council, if they were continued weekly. The negotiations with charities and the practical work to which Mr. Wilkinson had alluded in his letter was not work for the Council, but for the Administrative Committee and its Sub-Committees. He feared the Council would be guilty of self-deception, if they considered that their debates would achieve what the Society had pledged itself to accomplish.

After a few words from the Chairman, Mr. A. H. Hill having, by leave of the Council, withdrawn his amendment, the motion was put and lost, eleven voting for it and fifteen against it.

The Council then adjourned.

The following business stands for Monday, the 13th inst.:—

I. Major FitzRoy to move:—

'That the Bye-laws from No. 21 to the end, relating to the Administrative Committee, be amended as follows:—

'No. 21. The Administrative Committee shall consist of the Chairman and Vice-chairmen of Council, and of not less than twenty and not more than forty members, and shall be elected annually, at the first meeting of Council in the month of January; the names of those willing to serve being previously submitted, either directly or through the Hon. Secretaries of the District Committees. All members to be eligible for re-election. Any member of Council shall be at liberty to attend the meetings of the Administrative Committee, or those of its Sub-Committees, and take part in the proceedings, but not to vote.

'No. 22. The Committee to have power to fill up all vacancies, but to report the same for confirmation at the next meeting of Council.

'No. 23 to stand as it is.

'No. 24. That every member of the Administrative Committee who proposes being absent for more than two weeks shall give due notice thereof, in order that the Committee may appoint a substitute to fill up the vacancy.

- 'No. 25 to stand as it is.
'No. 26. Omit the words following "of the Committee."
'No. 27, 28, 29 to stand as they are.
'No. 30. The Administrative Committee shall divide itself into four Sub-Committees, viz.: 1. Finance; 2. Mendicity; 3. District work; 4. Co-operation.'

[The following are the Bye-laws which it is proposed to change, as they at present stand:—

'21. The Administrative Committee shall consist of not fewer than nine members, and shall be elected annually within one month after the Annual Meeting, members being eligible for re-election. Any member of Council shall be at liberty to attend its meetings, and to vote.

'22. All new representative members of Council shall be placed on this Committee, unless they have served upon it at some previous time, and their names shall be kept upon the list for at least three months, provided they continue members of Council.

'24. If a member of the Administrative Committee has not attended for thirteen consecutive weeks, it shall not be necessary to send him notices when such are issued.

'26. If no quorum be present at the time of meeting, any member present shall be at liberty to transact business, but all orders passed under such circumstances shall be specially confirmed at the next meeting of the Committee or of the Council, whichever may first take place.]

II. Mr. A. H. Hill to move that Lord Henniker be elected an additional member of Council.

III. Mr. A. H. Hill to move that Mr. W. Bayne Ranken be elected a representative at Council of the Royal Society for the Assistance of Discharged Prisoners.

IV. Major FitzRoy to move that Lord Stanhope be elected a Vice-President of the Society.

V. Mr. H. N. Hoare to move that Mr. G. C. T. Bartley be elected an additional Member of Council.

VI. Rev. H. I. Cummins to move—
'That when a District Committee has before it a case requiring relief, but with which it is unable to deal adequately, it shall, without delay, forward a full report of the particulars of such case to the Central Office.'

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, November 4, 1876:—Donations: Messrs. McCalmont Brothers, £25; W. Kemble, Esq., £10; Messrs. C. de Murrieta & Co., £20. Annual: F. A. Boanquet, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. B. Collyns, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Crown Assurance Company, £2. 2s.; R. Duncombe, Esq., 5s.; F. J. Horniman, Esq., £1. 1s.; Captain Liebenrood, R.N., £1; B. H. Todd, Esq., £1. 1s.; R. Vigers, Esq., £1. 1s.

PROVINCIAL.

CHARITY ORGANISATION AT CRIEFF.—A public meeting of the Crieff Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity was held at Crieff on the 12th September last. The Provost, Mr. MacRisty, took the chair. In the course of his remarks he said it was a curious fact that our forefathers took as deep an interest in the poor and in the repression of mendicity as the present generation, and he produced the Acts of the Scots Parliament, commencing in 1424 and ending in 1621, and from these he read extracts from an Act of 'King James the Sixth, Sixth Parliament XX., October 1579,' intitled—'For the punishment of Strang and Idle Beggars, and relieve of the pure and impotent.' The Act is very interesting, and exhibits great skill on the part of the legislators of the time. In it occurs the following—'And seeing clearlie wald, that the pure aged, and impotent persones, suld be als necessarlie provided, as the vagaboundes and Strang beggars repressed, and that the aged, impotent, and pure people suld have ludgeing and abiding places, throughout the Realm, to settle themselves intil.' He alluded to the fact that the same expressions were used then (300 years ago) as now as to the repression of vagaboundes and strange beggars; and our forefathers did what this Society was trying to do at the present day. The following letter was read from the Bishop of St. Andrews, addressed to Mr. J. Cleland Burns:—

'The Few House, Perth, September 11, 1876.
'Dear Mr. C. Burns,—I am sorry that it will not be in my power to be present at your meeting to-morrow; but you know the interest which I take in your charity organisation movement, and I need not say that I wish you all success in establishing the system at Crieff. In Perth it is now thoroughly organised, and is producing, I believe, the best results.
'Yours very faithfully,
'C. WORDSWORTH, Bp. of St. Andrews.'

Mr. Burns said, as they had heard read from the old Scots Act in regard to repressing mendicity, the principles of that Act had been followed by this Society. It had been acknowledged in London and throughout the country that the principles of these charitable societies were identical with the principles expounded by Dr. Chalmers many years ago. He then read a few figures from Capt. Gordon's (Chief Constable for Perthshire) report. From January 1875 to January 1876 there had been 2,796 vagrants and 887 tinkers challenged, making a total of 3,683, and this in the county of Perth

alone. Mr. Robertson, the Secretary to the Glasgow Society, said: In carrying out these societies great difficulty had been experienced, and he had no doubt they would find here, as in Glasgow, that parties who had hitherto kept aloof were now coming in. In Glasgow alone they had something like a couple of hundred different charities, and he found that there must be close on £200,000, exclusive of Poor Law money, collected every year in Glasgow for the relief of the poor. They were anxious to improve the condition of the poor and give them timely assistance and encouragement. Other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE RETURNS.

CASES RETURNED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES FOR THE WEEK END- ING SATURDAY, NOV. 4, 1876.	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with				
	Not requiring relief	Unfavourable	Cases for Poor-Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or Local Agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment					Letters for Hospitals, &c.			
			Class total			Class total				Class total							
Kensington	3	4	3	10	1	2	1	4	5	1	6	23	8	2	12		
Fulham	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	4	5	2	1	13	
Paddington	2	3	3	8	3	2	5	6	1	3	9	19	11	11	..	..	
Chelsea	1	2	3	6	1	1	2	4	1	3	8	13	..	4	..	..	
St. George's:—																	
St. George's Division	1	6	7	14	1	2	3	6	1	1	8	27	6	5	2	..	
Westminster do.	2	3	5	10	..	..	..	3	3	..	6	27	8	2	..	..	
Westminster:—																	
St. James' & St. Anne's	2	1	5	8	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	11	5	6	2	..	
St. Marylebone	4	3	7	14	1	10	3	14	1	1	3	23	2	13	..	..	
Hampstead	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	2	4	..	3	..	..	
North St. Pancras and Highgate	1	1	2	..	5	1	6	..	..	..	8	2	3	..	..	..	
South St. Pancras	2	4	7	13	15	4	19	..	1	1	33	7	6	2	..	..	
Islington	1	2	1	4	10	2	12	..	..	..	16	8	4	..	..	..	
Hackney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	4	2	1	3	..	..	
St. Giles' & Bloomsbury	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	1	3	2	1	3	..	..	
Strand	..	6	6	12	3	1	4	..	1	1	11	10	6	..	..	..	
Holborn	2	8	10	20	21	2	23	4	1	1	38	9	12	..	..	..	
City	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	6	87	..	..	
Shoreditch	1	1	2	4	2	3	5	1	1	1	6	1	8	..	..	..	
Bethnal Green	2	2	5	9	1	1	1	5	..	..	13	6	2	..	..	..	
Whitechapel	..	6	6	12	1	2	3	..	1	1	9	..	11	..	..	..	
St. George's-in-the-East	1	2	3	6	..	3	3	..	1	1	4	10	4	8	..	..	
Stepney	1	2	5	8	3	1	4	..	1	1	9	2	7	1	..	..	
Mile End Old Town	1	2	3	6	3	3	6	1	..	..	10	9	6	..	..	..	
Poplar	1	3	4	8	1	3	4	1	1	1	10	7	6	1	..	..	
St. Saviour's	..	3	3	6	..	..	..	2	1	1	4	7	1	4	..	..	
Newington	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	2	2	..	4	2	6	4	..	..	
St. Olave's	2	3	1	6	1	1	2	..	1	1	3	11	1	7	..	..	
Lambeth	1	1	1	3	..	..	..	1	1	1	3	4	2	1	..	..	
Brixton	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	3	1	6	..	
Wandsworth & Putney	1	2	1	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	7	6	4	10	..	..	
Battersea	1	2	1	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	4	3	1	16	..	..	
Clapham	..	1	1	..	..	2	2	1	1	1	4	3	1	16	..	..	
Camberwell:—																	
Grove Lane	..	2	2	..	2	3	5	..	1	..	11	1	1	..	..	..	
Peckham	..	2	2	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	6	2	1	2	..	..	
Greenwich	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	3	4	4	1	10	..	..	
* Deptford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Woolwich	1	..	1	2	1	4	5	3	2	5	11	4	..	7	..	..	
Lewisham	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	7	3	..	14	..	..	
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	..	..	
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	..	
Totals	32	26	82	140	6	91	44	141	55	22	4	15	96	337	156	194	136

* No return received from this Committee at the time of going to press.

INTEMPERANCE AND DEPRESSION OF TRADE.—At the recent Congress of the Social Science Association, at Liverpool, a paper by Mr. William Hoyle on 'The Cause of the Present Bad State of Trade' was read. The following is taken from a report of the debate:—'The main cause of depression in trade was the misappropriation of what was produced, especially when coupled with neglect, incapacity, &c., in those who were producers. Mr. Hoyle attributed a great deal of the bad state of trade to intemperance among workmen. Through drink they lost one day's work per week, or £160,000 in wages, which would be a further abstraction from the trade fund. He applied that reasoning to the liquor traffic in general, and stated that that was the main cause of the stagnation in the home trade. He said that last year the nation spent about £143,000,000 in drink. He calculated that the indirect cost and losses through drink were as great as the direct expenditure, making in all a total of £285,000,000. He referred to the fact that not only was the liquor traffic the cause of so much loss commercially, but that it was the great cause of our pauperism and crime. If, he said, our commercial gain from the liquor traffic was equal to our present loss, it would then be too small a price for which to barter the happiness and well-being of the people.'

OUT-RELIEF.—MANCHESTER.

The proceedings of the Manchester Board of Guardians of April 1875, adopted with a view to checking out-door relief, have received the approval of the Local Government Board, and are so important in their relation to Charity Organisation that we take them verbatim from the last Report of the Local Government Board:—

'We have much pleasure in referring to the important proceedings which during the last year have taken place in the township of Manchester, in reference to the administration of out-relief.

'On the 15th April 1875 the Guardians adopted the following Regulations:—

"1. The Standing Orders which may from time to time be adopted by the Guardians, for regulating the administration of relief, shall be strictly observed by the Relief Committees; but if, owing to the special circumstances of any particular case, the Relief Committee shall be of opinion that a departure from the Standing Order applicable thereto is advisable, such case shall be reported by the Assistant Clerk for the decision of the General Board, and in the meantime the Relief Committee shall make such provisional order in the case as to them shall seem necessary.

"2. That the following be made and constituted

"STANDING ORDERS.

"I. Out-door relief shall not be granted or allowed by the Relief Committee (except in case of sickness) to applicants of any of the following classes:—

"(a.) Single able-bodied men.

"(b.) Single able-bodied women.

"(c.) Able-bodied widows without children, or having only one child to support.

"(d.) Married women (with or without families) whose husbands, having been convicted of crime, are undergoing a term of imprisonment.

"(e.) Married women (with or without families) deserted by their husbands.

"(f.) Married women (with or without families) left destitute through their husbands having joined the Militia, and being called up for training.

"(g.) Persons residing with relatives, where the united income of the family is sufficient for the support of all its members, whether such relatives are liable by law to support the applicant or not.

"II. Out-door relief shall not be granted in any case for a longer period than thirteen weeks at a time.

"III. Out-door relief shall not be granted to any able-bodied person for a longer period than six weeks at a time.

"IV. Out-door relief shall not be granted, on account of the sickness of the applicant, or any of his family, for a longer period than two weeks at a time, unless such sickness shall be certified in writing by the District Medical Officer as being likely to be of long duration, or to be of a permanent character.

"V. Where relief is allowed to a parent through the admission of a child or children into the Swinton schools or the workhouse, such relief shall not be granted for a longer period than six months at a time; and if at the expiration of such period a continuance of the relief is required, the relieving officer shall visit and enquire into the circumstances of the parent, and bring the case up for re-consideration by the Relief Committee, in the same manner as if it were a case of out-door relief."

'It was shown from the returns of the number of paupers in receipt of out-relief that in September 1874 the Guardians were relieving 2,319 individuals with out-relief, and in September 1875, 1,429, being a reduction of 890 persons. This result had been obtained, so far as the Guardians were aware, without a single case of hardship arising from the measures adopted, and a hope was expressed by some of the Guardians, that out-relief might still be further reduced, and indeed restricted only to the sick and aged. It was further stated, that as regards the sick, Provident Dispensaries had been established in Manchester, in which the number of members was rapidly increasing, and might in a short time become an important part of the social system.

'We have the satisfaction to add, that the proceedings of the Guardians of Manchester and the result of the adoption of the Regulations above described, have been circulated by them among the Unions in the manufacturing districts, and have led to their adoption in several of the Unions; and we have received copies of the resolutions to this effect passed by the Guardians of the Salford, Wigan, and Fylde Unions.'

RETURNS FOR OCTOBER.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of Cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, October 28, 1876, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I.—Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II.—Recommended to			Class III.—Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.			
Kensington	14	5	14	33	..	6	3	9	22	2	9	..	33	75	41
Fulham	..	3	3	6	..	..	..	7	2	1	..	..	3	21	9
Paddington	5	3	14	22	..	11	7	18	13	6	16	16	51	91	38
Chelsea	..	5	10	15	2	4	3	9	6	2	..	4	21	45	15
St. George's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
G. Committee	6	..	6	12	1	1	5	7	19	1	..	1	21	31	14
W. Committee	5	2	24	31	..	6	2	8	20	5	1	3	31	110	3
Westminster:—															
St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho	7	2	5	14	1	12	1	14	7	..	1	1	9	37	17
St. Marylebone	4	3	6	13	..	19	10	29	13	9	..	5	27	69	21
Hampstead	1	..	4	5	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	7	..
North St. Pancras	7	..	2	9	..	29	5	34	1	2	2	..	5	39	15
South St. Pancras	11	6	15	32	1	37	7	45	1	..	..	3	3	80	10
Islington	6	3	6	15	..	47	12	59	2	1	..	3	3	77	29
Hackney Union	2	1	1	4	1	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	9	14	3
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	1	1	4	6	3	7	2	12	7	1	..	1	9	27	5
Strand	1	1	11	13	..	12	5	17	2	5	..	1	8	41	46
Holborn	8	2	8	18	..	74	6	80	9	4	..	14	14	112	36
City	..	1	4	5	1	8	..	9	12	7	..	19	33	33	17
Shoreditch	1	1	5	7	..	12	..	12	4	2	..	2	8	27	5
Bethnal Green	8	3	10	21	..	..	1	1	13	4	..	1	18	49	30
Whitechapel	2	4	11	17	3	1	6	10	3	1	2	..	5	33	19
St. George's-in-the-East	1	4	11	16	..	3	3	6	2	1	1	6	8	28	8
Stepney	5	3	7	15	1	3	1	5	1	2	1	4	7	24	29
Mile End Old Town	2	..	13	15	..	1	2	3	3	..	1	7	11	25	15
Poplar	6	3	13	22	..	6	3	9	3	4	..	4	11	36	5
St. Saviour's	3	3	4	10	..	4	2	6	10	..	..	10	26	5	1
Newington	5	3	7	15	..	3	1	4	6	..	1	2	9	28	5
St. Olave's	2	4	7	13	1	7	..	8	7	..	..	7	1	28	3
Lambeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wandsworth and Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Battersea	3	6	4	13	..	1	..	1	3	..	..	3	6	20	4
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	3	6	7	1	7	7
Camden:—															
Grove Lane	..	5	5	10	..	1	3	4	8	1	..	9	1	2	1
Peckham	2	2	1	5	..	1	2	3	..	1	4	5	10	1	2
Greenwich	3	..	5	8	1	5	3	9	7	4	1	6	18	35	10
Denton	2	3	..	5	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	6	1	3	7
Woolwich	1	6	4	11	..	2	7	9	2	..	3	10	20	6	1
Lewisham	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	2	1	5	12	13	5
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	5	..	5	1
Totals	132	88	249	469	17	316	113	446	235	80	42	87	444	1359	487

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of October 1876 was 36,206, and 42,214 received outdoor relief, making a total of 78,420. This was an increase of 348 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 4,004, 12,698, and 19,879 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 752. This was a decrease of 39 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 36 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 194.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 16, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

It is suggested by the Administrative Committee that District Committees should, on the receipt of a report on the case of an applicant resident in another district, enter in their Report Book, in the column headed 'Remarks,' the decision of the Committee by whom the report has been issued, before transmitting the report to the person who has asked for it.

A gentleman, aged 56, in very reduced circumstances, is anxious for any kind of employment. There is nothing against his character. The Hon. Secretary, St. George's, Hanover Square, will give full particulars.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGH (in the Chair).

FULHAM:—Rev. A. Scott, C. J. Stevens.
 PADDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson,
 Major Yard, J. R. Hollond.
 CHELSEA:—Dr. Daniel.
 ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Vis-
 count Sudley, Major Prendergast, Major
 FitzRoy.
 ST. MARTLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill.
 HAMPTHEAD:—C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F.
 Mallet.
 NORTH ST. PANCRAS:—W. Legg.
 ST. GILES:—Hamilton N. Hoare.
 STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson.
 HOLBORN:—Sir R. Wilbraham, Capt.
 Fortescue, G. B. Baker.
 CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brookes, Rev. H. I.
 Cummins.

WHITECHAPEL:—Hon. C. W. Fremantle,
 C. L. Corkran.
 MILE END OLD TOWN:—Major Nares,
 Hon. H. R. Scott.
 ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. B. Montgomerie,
 W. F. Smith.
 ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.
 LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
 CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
 DEPTFORD:—H. J. Cornish.
 SYDENHAM:—A. R. Hutchins, C. A. Barry.
 VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.
 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—G. Blount, C. A.
 Miner, W. Wightman-Wood.
 TOTAL:—37.
 SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee reported, *inter alia*, that during the week ending November 4 the receipts had been £263. 1s. 6d. for the General Fund, and that there had been

no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £239. 13s. 9d. and £42. 15s. 4d. respectively.

GRANTS.—That they had made grants of £20 to the South St. Pancras Committee, £20 to the Holborn Committee, and £20 to the St. Olave's Committee.

BYE-LAWS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

Major FitzRoy then moved:—

'That the Bye-laws from No. 21 to the end, relating to the Administrative Committee, be amended as follows:—

'No. 21. The Administrative Committee shall consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Council, and of not less than twenty and not more than forty members, and shall be elected annually, at the first meeting of Council in the month of January; the names of those willing to serve being previously submitted, either directly or through the Hon. Secretaries of the District Committees. All members to be eligible for re-election. Any member of Council shall be at liberty to attend the meetings of the Administrative Committee, or those of its Sub-Committees, and take part in the proceedings, but not to vote.

'No. 22. The Committee to have power to fill up all vacancies, but to report the same for confirmation at the next meeting of Council.

'No. 23 to stand as it is.

'No. 24. That every member of the Administrative Committee who proposes being absent for more than two weeks shall give due notice thereof, in order that the Committee may appoint a substitute to fill up the vacancy.

'No. 25 to stand as it is.

'No. 26. Omit the words following "of the Committee."

'No. 27, 28, 29 to stand as they are.

'No. 30. The Administrative Committee shall divide itself into four Sub-Committees, viz.: 1. Finance; 2. Mendicity; 3. District work; 4. Co-operation.'

He wished to give the Administrative Committee a more defined position, and thus increase both its responsibilities and its efficiency. With regard to the date of election, there was a manifest awkwardness in holding the election within a month after the annual meeting of the Society. By the seventh rule the Representatives of the District Committees were then elected, and the 21st Bye-law, as it at present stood, fixed the same time for the election of the Administrative Committee, a body elected from the representatives. Having obtained leave from Council to modify his motion by omitting the words 'but not to vote' from his proposed amendment of the 21st Bye-law, and making no alteration in Bye-law 24, he dwelt upon the several points on which he proposed a change. He was most anxious to have a large number of members of the Administrative Committee on the four Sub-Committees mentioned in his suggested Bye-law No. 30.

Sir Charles Trevelyan seconded the motion.

Dr. Daniel moved as an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. H. N. Hoare, that the words 'not more than forty' be omitted from the suggested Bye-law No. 21, and that after the words 'all members to be eligible for re-election' be added 'except those who have not attended the meetings at least ten times during the year.'

After some words from Rev. Harvey Brookes, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. C. L. Corkran, Miss O. Hill, Major Prendergast,

Rev. R. J. Simpson, and Mr. J. R. Hollond, Mr. C. A. Miner and Mr. A. H. Hill gave notice of several amendments, proposed with a view to limiting the number of the Administrative Committee, securing the due representation of the Sub-Committees upon it, and conducting the annual election of Administrative Committee by ballot.

Dr. Daniel's amendment having been lost, Major Fitz-Roy's motion, together with the proposed amendments, were, on the motion of Mr. Corkran, seconded by the Rev. H. I. Cummins and supported by Sir Charles Trevelyan, referred to the Administrative Committee, with the request that they report on the whole question at an early date.

NEW MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

Mr. A. H. Hill apologised for not having communicated with Lord Henniker and Mr. W. Bayne Ranken with a view to ascertaining whether they would be able to serve on the Council. The motions on the paper in his name were, with the consent of the Council, postponed, Mr. A. H. Hill being authorised to invite Lord Henniker to become an additional member and Mr. W. Bayne Ranken a representative at the Council.

Major FitzRoy, seconded by Rev. R. J. Simpson, moved that Lord Stanhope be invited to become a Vice-President of the Society.

The motion was carried *nem. con.*

On the motion of Mr. H. N. Hoare, Mr. G. C. T. Bartley was elected an additional member.

DIFFICULT CASES.

Rev. H. I. Cummins moved—

'That when a District Committee has before it a case requiring relief, but with which it is unable to deal adequately, it shall, without delay, forward a full report of the particulars of the case to the Central Office.'

He said it was most necessary to prevent the possibility of a District Committee letting a deserving case drop, when there was unusual difficulty in obtaining for it adequate and suitable assistance. A case of this nature had recently been brought to his notice, in which he considered that the District Committee had not made the effort that, in accordance with the rules of the Society, they were bound to make, to obtain the necessary assistance. If his motion were adopted, it would have the effect of obliging District Committees to send reports of these cases to the Central Office, and this would ensure that, while the District Committees were led to expect suggestions and assistance from the Central Office, no cases would be needlessly set aside.

Mr. A. H. Hill seconded the motion, which, a few verbal alterations having been made, was carried, in the following terms:—

'That when a District Committee has investigated a case and found it to be one with which it is unable to deal adequately, it shall, without delay, forward a full report of the particulars of the case to the Central Office.'

The Council then adjourned.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

At their meeting to-day, the Administrative Committee will consider the amendments to the Bye-laws referred to them by Council on the 13th instant, together with other important business.

The following business stands for Monday, the 20th inst.:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson to move—

'That the *Reporter* be distributed gratis to all subscribers of not more than £1.'

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, November 11, 1876:—*Donations*: Sydenham Committee, £10. 10s.; Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, & Co. £50; G. S. Gibson, Esq. £2. 2s.; W. H. Heaton, Esq. £1; Baroness Lionel de Rothschild, £10; 'A Friend,' £1; *Annual*: W. Awdry, Esq. £1. 1s.; Sir T. Douglas Forsyth, £2. 2s.; *District Committee Aid Fund*: Clapham Committee, £10. 10s.; Francis Peek, Esq. (5th instalment of £3,000) £250.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

STEPNEY.—*District Visiting*.—The following are extracts from the Minutes of this Committee, dated June 13 1876:—

'Resolved, that one or two additional members of Committee should be procured for the purpose of visiting cases relieved by the Charity Organisation Society, where the Society think such visits would be desirable, and for giving periodical information as to how such cases are progressing.'

'Resolved, that it is expedient in the interest of the indigent poor to increase the number of District Visitors, and to organise their efforts into a harmonious whole, in order to produce an effectual personal visitation and co-operation with Poor-law and other officials, and at the same time to leave the action of each free, yet systematised.'

'Resolved, that the principles of the plan of working in operation in the division of the parish of St. Marylebone known as St. Mary's, Bryanston Square, be recommended.'

The following resolutions were adopted on the 17th October, 1876:—

'Resolved, that the Clergy, Ministers of Religion, and acting Lay Agents of the Stepney Union Poor-law District be each supplied with a copy of the pamphlet by Miss Octavia Hill, on the "Work of Volunteers in the Organisation of Charity," and that they be invited to co-operate with the Society in this work.'

'Resolved, that two members of Committee, one being the almoner for Society for the Relief of Distress of the Parish, should call upon the Clergy of the Church, Dissenting Ministers, Roman Catholic Priests, and any Lay Agencies in the district, present the copy of Miss Hill's pamphlet, with the three first resolutions, and urge them to co-operate with the Charity Organisation Society; and it was agreed that Mr. Crowder and Mr. Peters should accordingly call on the Clergy and Ministers in the districts of St. Anne's and St. Thomas's; the Rev. J. S. Whichelow and Rev. H. F. H. Burchell-Herne in St. John's and St. Matthew's; Rev. S. A. Thompson-Yates and (if possible) Mr. Mitchell in St. Paul's, Bow Common; Mr. Mitchell and Rev. S. A. Thompson-Yates in St. James's, Ratcliff.'

Rev. J. S. Whichelow stated, with reference to the first resolution, that Mrs. Whichelow and Miss Lilley would assist and report on cases in St. Anne's District.

PROVINCIAL.

ETON.—The following is an extract from the Report of the Eton Charity Organisation Association for 1876-8. 'The floods of last winter inflicted an amount of distress that was met by a special fund; that fund has already been accounted for; but it may be well to state that the distribution of relief was greatly aided by the Organisation of this Society and the experience of its agent.'

WEST SUSSEX.—From the second Annual Report of the West Sussex Mendicity Society it appears that 'Since the 29th September 1875, 9,443 bread tickets had been presented to the 49 bakers and exchanged for bread, being 4 tons 4 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lbs. In the different Union-houses where the police relieve tramps, in the year ending 29th September:

' 1873 there had been	6247	Tramps relieved.
' 1874	6885	"
' 1875	5264	"
' 1876	7301	"
' Increase, 2,037.		

'There had been 67 persons apprehended under the Vagrant Act, in the year ending 29th September 1876, viz. 24 for begging, three for having no visible means of subsistence, three found in enclosed premises, and 37 for sleeping in the open air and outhouses. Last year, for the same offences, 138 were apprehended, being a decrease of 71 persons. In the year ending 29th September 1875, 58 persons were apprehended for petty larceny; in this year there were only 44.

FOREIGN.

CHARITY ORGANISATION AT WÜRZBURG.

Mr. H. Peto has sent us the following letter:—'I sent last year* from here a short account of the foundation of the Würzburg 'Verein für freiwillige Armenpflege,' and, as I was told it was of interest, I think a further report will be welcome. The Society, at the close of its first year, had 806 members; had assisted 535 persons with money, food, or clothing; and expended 2,481 marks, carrying forward 4,712 marks. Considering the population of the city (47,000), the number of members and the receipts may not be thought indicative of a flourishing society; but the founders are satisfied with the progress made, and think the Verein well established. The state of politics has to be considered, moreover: it is impossible for any society to be started by laymen here without being very jealously regarded by the clerical party. . . . The Verein, whose objects are akin to our own Society, has been started by the Liberals. . . . Every member declares his allegiance to its principles, and affixes to his door a plate with the name of the Verein, and a

* See *Reporter*, No. 151, Vol. IV. p. 128.

note that beggars will receive no alms. Open begging has been almost suppressed, and it is no longer a profitable excursion for beggars to take a trip into Würzburg to ply their trade. There are two points of difference between this and our Society. Here all labour is voluntarily given; there is but one salaried official to collect the subscriptions and receive gifts of clothing. The agents who prepare the reports for the fortnightly meetings of the committees, and the cashier who pays the money from the central office when voted by the committees, all give their services without remuneration. The other difference is the enrolment of members. The object of the founders is to enrol as many members as possible who will pledge themselves to do their best to suppress begging, and whose subscriptions (a small subscription is compulsory) form the source of the Society's income. Compared with the Munich Verein, which in its first year numbered 4,009 members (Munich contains 190,000 inhabitants), the Würzburg Society has started well. I have seen no reports of the Munich Verein since 1873. The report for that year (the fifth) says that during the year 2,110 cases had been relieved, and 35,000 marks had been expended.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following has been received from the Secretary of the Liverpool Central Relief and Charity Organisation Society:—

"The manager of one of the largest iron works in Liverpool having given us permission to send to him any respectable men applying to us for relief, or who were working at our workshops for unemployed men, and having promised that he would give them employment; we accordingly, from time to time, sent him such men as we deemed suitable for the work, and the following copies of letters from the manager will show the result:—

"Liverpool, August 14, 1876.

"The man you sent up for work a short time ago was put on a job where he might earn from 25s. to 30s. in the week, loading pig-iron; he only worked about half-an-hour. It's my opinion he preferred getting his living given to him to working for it."

"Liverpool, September 9, 1876.

"I set on the man you sent with a bad character, but immediately after starting he refused to work, saying that he was to be found an easy job and to do as he pleased. Other two men you sent up; one was a 'tramp,' whom I wouldn't start, the other was offered work and agreed to take it, but never turned up. I think you need not trouble to send any more; the men that come to you are those that won't work."

DIFFICULT CASES.

No. 2.—C. D., aged 51, is a ropemaker, with four children between the ages of six months and nine years. His wife, aged forty, earns 8s. to 10s. a week by washing. The husband's sight has been gradually failing for the last four years. Eight months ago he was obliged to give up his work entirely; a medical certificate states that he is suffering from decay of the optic nerve and that there is no hope of his recovery. He used formerly to belong to his Trade Club. No relations are able to assist. All that the Committee feel able to do is to make inquiry, through one of their members, whether there is a prospect of increased employment for the wife if the family removes to Hampstead from the low neighbourhood in which they are living; as she states she can earn more if she can get more washing. They think it is a case for a pension, but have no means of obtaining one.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fifth week of October 1876 was 36,476, and 42,697 received outdoor relief, making a total of 79,073. This was an increase of 643 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 3,963, 12,500, and 20,374 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 693. This was a decrease of 59 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 176 on the corresponding day of last year.

CHARITY ORGANISATION.

CASE OF 'VETA.'

Under the heading 'Charity Organisation,' the following letters have recently appeared in the *Times*:—

(1)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'TIMES.'

Sir,—Having seen in a recent paper a paragraph headed 'Shocking Death from Starvation,' I have been induced to address you and make known the following facts:—About eight months ago, myself and son, who is 20 years of age, arrived in London. At that time we were

tolerably well off as to money, &c. From that time to the present we have been most indefatigable in endeavouring to procure employment in fair copying or anything else next to menial, but have failed to succeed. Our last shilling being expended, and we being at the time in arrears for lodgings and washing, we received notice to leave. Being compelled to do so, we had to wander the streets for two nights in succession. My son, being in a very delicate state of health, is now considerably worse, owing, I have no doubt, to exposure and want of food. I am advanced in years and very feeble. Some eight or ten days ago, when going down St. James's Street, I saw on the door of No. 21 a brass plate, on which are the following words:—'Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Fund, first floor.' I went upstairs and had an interview with a gentleman who appeared highly respectable. My son waited my return in the street. I briefly stated our sad case, and that we had not tasted food of any description since the previous morning (this was 3 o'clock in the afternoon). My statement was true, to which he appeared to listen attentively. His reply was that no relief could be obtained there, that the only relief given was by the clergy, and they visited the persons on whom it was bestowed. He then said, 'You had better go to the "Charity Organisation," in Buckingham Street, Strand' (which address he put on paper), 'where in all probability you will get some relief.' On our arrival I saw on a board in large letters the words above stated. I there had an audience with a gentleman, who desired me to be seated, and asked me numerous questions, the whole of which I answered correctly. He then asked who it was that recommended us there. I told him, when he said he knew no such place, but if there was it was out of their district. He then said 'I cannot do anything for you,' but gave me the name and address of a relieving officer whose residence was some three miles from there. I said, 'we at present are quite exhausted,' and told him we had not eaten anything since the previous morning; but every entreaty was in vain, and I left the office. My son, as in St. James's, remained at the door. A gentleman, seeing us leave, accosted us, and said, 'You will excuse me—have you been endeavouring to procure relief?' I said 'Yes.' He asked, 'Did you succeed?' The answer was 'No.' He said 'Not likely,' and that scores to his knowledge who were in a most distressed condition had made similar appeals there, but were rejected with the only redress of the name and address of the relieving officer. He commented on the conduct of some four or five who were in the same office (one of them passed at the time) in the most bitter terms, and in language that I forbear making use of. He requested us to remain a short time, and on his return brought some bread and butter folded in a piece of newspaper, and gave us all the money he had—viz. threepence halfpenny. We then wended our way to St. James's Park, sat on a form there, and ate the bread and butter. We remained in and about the Park until one o'clock in the morning. A policeman came to us and said we were not allowed to remain there. I told him we were not bad characters, had nowhere to go, and were destitute. He was remarkably civil, but again said we could not remain there, and told us to go to Covent Garden, where we should be out of the rain. (It was slightly raining at the time.) We went there and saw some scores of men, women, and children lying in groups, and; it grieves me to say, making use of the most blasphemous and dreadful language. A most terrible night it was, and when daylight appeared we had nowhere to go to obtain a mouthful of food. We have had no assistance from anyone in London ever since, but have lived most economically on small remittances sent from the country by some relatives, who, I am sorry to say, are in very indigent circumstances, and these are now, for want of means, discontinued. What to do I am quite at a loss to devise, and am much afraid the fate of the late poor Mr. Arthur French will be mine if no kind friend will come to the rescue in procuring us employment. We have lived in the same town for many years, and our character will bear the most strict investigation as to honesty, &c.; to corroborate which I beg to state that the Mayor and magistrates where we have so long resided will give ample testimony of the same.—I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Oct. 24, 1876.

VETA.

(2)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'TIMES.'

Sir,—I observe in the *Times* of to-day a letter signed 'Veta,' containing the story of an application made at this office. I hope you will allow me to give you what I believe to be a full explanation of the seeming hardship of the case.

The facts are these:—On the 21st of last month a man, whom I believe to be your correspondent, called at this office and affirmed that he and his son were in a state of destitution. A gentleman whom he had seen in a branch office of the society in St. James's Street had, he said, suggested that he should call here. He was told that he must have been mistaken on this point as there was no committee of the society in that street. He was informed that applications for relief were never received at the central office of the society, and, after a few general questions had been put to him, his name and the address of the house at which he stated that he had slept the night before were taken down.

It was too late in the afternoon for him to make an application that day

to the committee of the district (Lambeth) in which he had been residing. He was supplied, therefore, with the address both of the relieving officer nearest the house (the address of which he had given) and of the district committee of the society in Lambeth, and he was asked to apply to the district committee on the following morning.

The reasons for the course adopted are obvious. The applicant was directed to go to the relieving officer, inasmuch as he could thus get the food and shelter which the law affords to the destitute. And he was asked to call at the office of the district committee in order that, having received from the Poor-law authorities the immediate and temporary relief necessary for his existence, he might afterwards, if found deserving, be adequately assisted.

May I add that this society has never professed to be primarily a relief society. One of the principles which it has adopted with a view to improving the condition of the poor is 'to secure due investigation and fitting action in all cases.' This investigation is undertaken in the interests of the poor themselves; for it is only after a careful consideration of the causes of misfortune that the remedies suitable in each case can be devised. Having discovered and weighed these causes, the district committees exert themselves to supply the remedy—to obtain 'fitting action'—with the assistance of private persons, with the aid of benevolent institutions, and, in the last resort, by a grant from their funds.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. S. LOCH.

Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity,
15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, Oct. 24.

Oct. 25, 1876.

(3)

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE TIMES.'

SIR,—I am directed to forward you the following further particulars of the case of 'Veta,' the signature under which a letter, dated the 20th of October, appeared in your columns on the 24th of that month. On the 25th ult. you were good enough to insert a preliminary reply to that letter.

The main facts of the statement made by 'Veta' are that about eight or ten days before writing he went to the 'Charity Organisation, in Buckingham Street, Strand,' that after some conversation with a gentleman at the office he was given the name and address of a relieving officer, whose residence was some three miles off, and notwithstanding every entreaty and his statements that he and his son were quite exhausted and had not eaten anything since the previous morning, he had to leave the office without relief. He afterwards went to St. James's Park, and was there accosted by a policeman, to whom he said he was destitute, and had nowhere to go, for he had received notice to quit his lodgings. Then, after describing a night he passed in Covent Garden, he sums up his story by saying that he had been living on small remittances sent from the country by some relatives who were in very indigent circumstances; that these remittances were now for want of means discontinued; that he would be glad to procure employment in fair copying or anything else next to menial; and that having lived in the same town for many years, his character would bear the strictest investigation as to honesty, &c., in corroboration of which he states that the mayor and magistrates where he and his son had so long resided would give ample testimony.

The Council of the Society regret that they are compelled to make public the following facts, which have been ascertained respecting this statement.

The writer of the letter signed 'Veta' is named M. R. He called at the central office of this Society on the 21st of September—29 days, and not, as he states in his letter to you, eight or ten days before his letter was written. At this office he gave an address in the Wandsworth Road, at which he was at the time residing, and where he has been residing with his son from that time up to the present week. The landlord at these lodgings states that 'Veta' and his son, who have been living there eight or nine weeks, paid him 6d. a night each; that 'Veta' always appeared to have enough to meet his wants, and that he had never been turned out of his lodgings. This, therefore, shows 'Veta's' statement, that he and his son were destitute and homeless, was without foundation.

With regard to his alleged starvation, it is perfectly true that the official who received his application referred him to the relieving officer at Lambeth, and that he saw nothing to indicate any inability on his part to go so far. But the fact that he had always, according to the landlord's statement, sufficient money to pay for his lodgings, confirms the view that the official of the Society took of his case.

It further appears that his statement that his relations are in indigent circumstances is utterly untrue, for in another statement made by him he avers that his wife receives quarterly the interest of £2,200 at 4 per cent., and £1 weekly from her sister. She has, therefore, an income of £140 a year, and this income is irrespective of her earnings as a teacher of music.

With regard to his antecedents, at the request of his wife, he applied in April last to a gentleman who knew his circumstances, and by him he was

given £1 or £2, being told that, if on inquiry he found any grounds for believing that he would conduct himself well in future, he would receive further assistance. Inquiry was then made privately by this gentleman, with results which more recent investigation has corroborated. 'Veta' has, it appears, occupied for 26 years very responsible posts in a country town, but lost his employment through giving way to drink.

Respecting the treatment of the case by this Society, the applicant was, as stated in my letter of the 24th ult., given the addresses both of the relieving officer and of the Lambeth Committee of the Society, and though the above statement of facts will, I believe, be considered conclusive, I must ask you to allow me to draw your attention to one or two important points.

Supposing 'Veta' to have been, as he states, starving and homeless, it is clear, on his own showing, that he did not avail himself of the help which the law had at a considerable cost provided for him, and which charity, on his being found deserving, was ready to give. He has not, to this day, called either on the relieving officer or at the office of the District Committee. He complains that he was referred to a relieving officer three miles off. It may not be generally known that no relieving officer but the one in the district in which he was residing or had slept the previous night would have relieved him, and had he gone to the Casual Ward he would have had food and better and more respectable shelter than Covent Garden or even an ordinary common lodging-house could afford.

Again, supposing him to have been starving, it should be remembered that every announcement of the Society such as those which I enclose states distinctly that applications for relief are not received at the central office, and if you will permit me to use the analogy, the application for relief in this case would be similar to the application of a pauper resident in the Strand Union for relief at the offices of the Local Government Board.

In cases of absolute hunger, persons making applications at any of the district committees of the Society receive bread to be eaten on the spot, and their applications are then investigated and either dealt with by the committees or reported to the persons sending them, if this be requested in writing. But at the central office, except when the official who receives such applications considers the case of such an exceptional nature that he is bound to contravene the rules laid down for his guidance under ordinary circumstances, no relief is there given, but the applicant is at once referred to the proper district committee.

In 'Veta's' case there did not appear to be any reason for departing from the usual course, and the facts that have since transpired appear to the Council to confirm fully the decision of their official.

It must not be thought that even after the false statements made, the Society is inclined to consider the case hopeless as regards the son. For you will agree, I believe, in considering that money given to the father would under the circumstances be worse than useless. The son has already been given the address of a Labour Agency where he is likely to obtain employment, and should he be willing to avail himself of this opportunity, and be proved to be in real need, it is possible that some assistance in providing him with outfit may be well bestowed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. S. LOCH, Secretary.

The Society for Organising Charitable Relief and
Repressing Mendicity.

Nov. 8, 1876.

* * The following contributions have been received by us in consequence of 'Veta's' original letter since the publication of the first list:—'An Englishman,' £5 (cheque); 'F. L. G. O.,' £2; 'E. P.,' per the Charity Organisation Society, 5s. (stamps); 'E. B. R.,' stamps, 1s. 2d.; Baroness De B., £2; Robert Ward, £1; 'A. J. D. D.,' 5s.; 'M. R. C. B.,' 3s. 6d.; 'Hard Up,' 2s. 6d.; 'Salmon,' 1s.; 'Three Fellow Creatures,' 3s. These sums we purpose to hand over to the Charity Organisation Society to apply for the benefit of 'Veta's' son. We shall take charge of no further sums.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 195.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 23, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

District Committees are requested, in consequence of the increased circulation of their annual reports, to furnish the Council with 75 reports with the lists of subscribers and donors, and 100 reports without such lists, making a total of 175 copies.

There is at present at the Central Office an In-patient's letter for the Brompton Consumption Hospital.

The Charity Organisation Society for Brighton, Hove, and Preston, will hold their annual meeting at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, at 3 p.m. on the 27th of November. His worship the Mayor (Charles Lamb, Esq.), President of the Society, will take the chair.

The Charity Organisation Association for Southampton will hold their first annual meeting on Tuesday the 28th instant at 3 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGH (in the Chair).

FULHAM:—C. J. Stevens.
PADDOINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson.
CHELSEA:—Dr. Daniel.
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Viscount Sadley, Major Prendergast.
WESTMINSTER:—C. A. O. Marsham, W. Bevan, W. Bousfield.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill, Major-Gen. Blunt.
HAMPTREAD:—C. E. Maurice.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAZ:—Miss Collett.
HOLBORN:—G. B. Baker.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST:—Russell Barrington.
MILE END OLD TOWN:—Major Nares.
POPULAR:—R. Ellis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
LEWISHAM:—A. Annesley.
VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—G. Blount, W. Wightman-Wood.

TOTAL:—24.

SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE had met on Thursday last. There were present—

J. R. Hollond, in the Chair; Sir Chas. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Major Yard, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Brown, Hill, Miner, Lawrence, and Peters.

And on Friday at an adjourned meeting were present—

J. R. Hollond, Esq. in the Chair; Sir Chas. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, and Messrs. Hill, Lawrence, and Peters.

FINANCE.—The Committee reported that during the week ending November 1, the receipts had been £84. 2s. for the General Fund, and £310. 10s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £258. 13s. 5d. and £29. 13s. 5d. respectively.

GRANTS.—They had made grants of £30 to the Fulham Committee, and £30 to the Mile End Committee.

THE BYE-LAWS.—The proposed changes in the Bye-laws relating to the constitution of the Administrative Committee were discussed at length, and the Secretary was instructed to draft as Bye-laws the resolutions that were adopted, and to report on the whole question at the next meeting.

Various proposals for the improvement of the Meetings of Council were discussed; a resolution was carried that a paper be read at the second Meeting of Council in each month, and other points of detail were agreed upon. It was decided that these and the resolutions respecting the Administrative Committee should come up as recommendations to Council on Monday the 4th of December.

THE REPORTER.—It was agreed that in future all notices of the meetings of Sub-Committees should be given through the Reporter only, and that for this purpose there should be published as a standing notice in each number of the Reporter, a table of the work of the ensuing week; that the names of those present at the Administrative Committee, the Sub-Committees, and the Special Committees of the Council, should be published in the Reporter weekly, and that, whenever expedient, a short notice of the work of the Sub-Committees be inserted. It was further resolved that the returns of cases dealt with by District Committees, and forwarded to the Council weekly, should be published monthly in the Reporter, instead of each week as heretofore; and that monthly returns of Metropolitan pauperism should also be published.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the Meeting of this Sub-Committee on Tuesday the 14th inst. were present—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss Octavia Hill, Mr. Bousfield, Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, and Miss E. Howes, visitor.

The Sub-Committee had, on a reference from the Administrative Committee, recommended that under no circumstances should expenses incurred by District Committees in the distribution of Mr. Peek's fund be paid from that fund; they had also recommended that Major-General Blunt and Miss E. Howes be asked to become members of the Sub-Com-

mittee. The Administrative Committee had approved the recommendations.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee were present—

Hon. H. R. Scott, in the Chair, and Major FitzRoy.

THE CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—This Sub-Committee had met on Wednesday the 15th inst.

Present: J. R. Holland, Esq., in the Chair; Major FitzRoy, Mr. A. H. Hill, Mr. W. M. Wilkinson.

MEDICAL COMMITTEE.—This Committee had met on Friday the 17th inst. Present: Sir Charles Trevelyan, in the chair; Mr. A. H. Hill, Dr. Hawksley, Dr. A. P. Stewart, Dr. Ford Anderson, and Dr. Leo, Visitor.

CORRESPONDENCE AT COUNCIL.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that letters relating to motions to be discussed at Council were frequently received after the meeting of the Administrative Committee on Thursday. By the 5th Bye-Law no correspondence could be read at the meeting of Council, unless it was absolutely urgent, or unless the Administrative Committee had specially directed that it should be read. He urged that for the better conduct of Council business, this rule should be most strictly adhered to.

THE REPORTER.

In Mr. W. M. Wilkinson's absence, Major Prendergast, with the permission of Council, brought up the motion that was on the paper in Mr. Wilkinson's name—

That the *Reporter* be distributed gratis to all subscribers of not less than £1. He considered that viewing the *Reporter* from an educational standpoint, the Council should endeavour to make it a more valuable medium for propagating the principles of the Society. This end would be partly attained by increasing, at a comparatively small cost, its free circulation, and the larger the number to whom it appealed, the higher and more responsible would be the tone of its writing. It was not to be hoped that the *Reporter* would be a 'paying' publication; but as the subscribers to the Society were probably those most in accord with its principles, it was desirable to give them something in return, and to keep them informed of all that we were doing and hoping to do. The Council would thus make them more zealous coadjutors, and, as the *Reporter* was not merely a means of communicating with our District Committees, but a means of furnishing the public with useful information regarding the organisation of charity and the exposure of abuses and imposition, the large expense incurred in printing it would be more effectively utilised. He calculated that of the 300 subscribers to the Council, only 100 subscribed to the *Reporter*.

The motion having been duly seconded, the Secretary submitted papers showing that the *Reporter* cost the Council in 1874 about £254, of which £104 was repaid in the form of subscriptions to the *Reporter*, leaving a net loss of about £150. In 1875, in consequence of the bills not being sent out till late in December, only £68. 15s. 10d. appeared in the balance-sheet for that year as the sum repaid on account of the *Reporter*. Including the sums thus due to the Council, the loss to the Council in 1875 was, approximately, the same as that in 1874.

The income from the *Reporter* was now about £120 a year. Its average circulation, exclusive of the copies printed for the use of the Council, but including the free copies distributed, was about 745 a week. In 1875 there were about 320 'subscribers' to the Council, or 550 subscribers and donors. Of these 550 only 20 contributed less than £1; and of these 20 about half subscribed to the *Reporter*. Of the remaining 530, about 120 subscribed to the *Reporter*. To give

free copies to all subscribers and donors of £1 and upwards would cost the Council about £132. At present all subscribers and donors of £5 and upwards received the *Reporter* free, if they wished it. The Secretary urged that to make the *Reporter* an organ of information worthy of the Society the co-operation of several volunteers in writing for it was absolutely necessary. He had at present statistics and reports on several important subjects closely connected with the work of the Society, which, owing to pressure of work, he was unable to summarise; from these papers, treated from the standpoint of the Society, conclusions were deducible which could not be found in the slight abridgments of parliamentary and other reports that occasionally appeared in the press.

Mr. A. H. Hill considered that the increased free circulation of the *Reporter* suggested by Mr. Wilkinson would be more than remunerative to the Society. It would increase both the interest in the Society's work and the general contributions. He wished to see the *Reporter* improved.

Miss O. Hill moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Dr. Daniel:—

That a good list of names of persons likely to be interested in the objects of the Society be looked out weekly, and that a certain number of free copies of the *Reporter* be distributed to them.

Mr. W. Wood thought that every effort should be made to increase the directly remunerative circulation of the *Reporter*. If the greater number of those who subscribed to the Council were also subscribers to the *Reporter*, it was plainly an unnecessary pecuniary loss to furnish them with free copies. If, on the other hand, but few of the subscribers to the Council were subscribers to the *Reporter*, we gave an undue privilege to subscribers to the Council.

Rev. W. A. Richmond spoke against and Major Nares in favour of the motion, and, Mr. Russell Barrington having given notice of an amendment requesting further statistics, Major Prendergast replied shortly. Miss Hill's amendment was then put and carried, 13 voting for it. The amendment was then adopted as a substantive motion.

The Council then adjourned.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

At their meeting to-day, the Committee will further consider the amendments to the Bye-laws referred to them by Council on the 13th instant, together with other important business.

The following business stands for Monday, the 27th inst.:—

- (1) To receive a report of the Organising Secretary on Charity Organisation in the Country.
- (2) Miss Octavia Hill to call attention to the relations of this Society with the District Visiting Societies of the Metropolis.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, November 18, 1876:—*Donations*: Mrs. F. Brady, £2; H. Clark, Esq., £1. 1s.; E. H., £25; T. R. Fothergill, £1. 1s.; 'R. A.' £1; T. G. Rooper, Esq., £5; Miss Seager, £5; Mrs. Tomlinson, £10.—*Annual*: Edmund Coulthurst, Esq., £3. 3s.; Miss Ewart, £3. 3s.; H. G. Hoare, Esq., £3. 3s.; Mr. and Mrs. Methuen, £1. 1s.; Heathfield Smith, Esq., £2. 2s.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

SHOREDITCH.—*The Annual Report.*—It appears that this Committee has dealt with 515 cases during the year ending September 30, 1876, as compared with 367 during the previous year. Out of the 515 applicants there were 52 labourers, 45 needlewomen, 35 charwomen, 34 shoemakers, 23 cabinetmakers, 21 hawkers, 18 porters, 16 general dealers, and 23 had 'no occupation.'

SYDENHAM.—*The Annual Report.*—The cases dealt with by this Committee during the past year have been 398 as compared with 390 in the year 1874-5; the non-resident cases have been 338, and the resident cases in which relief has been given numbered 44. Of the former, 48 are described as professional tramps, 156 as labourers, and 16 had no occupation.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.—The following is an extract relating to Co-operation with the Guardians, and the question of out-door relief generally, taken from the Sydenham Report:—

'The largest distributor of charity in this district is the Relieving Officer. Parish relief is not the less charity because it is not given, but paid, by the ratepayers for the relief of the poor. The pauperising tendency of out-door relief is everywhere admitted, and the increase rather than its decrease in this district is a mystery. From June 1874 to June 1875 it cost £1,565. 6s. 1d.; and it rose to £1,614. 2s. 2d. for the year ending June 1876. The inquiry system at the Charity Office has been so effective that while the Committee relieved 195 cases in 1871, at a cost of £131. 9s. 8d., and 131 cases in 1875, at a cost of £47. 8s. 11d., only 44 cases were relieved at a cost of £36. 8s. 1d. in the year ending 30th September last.

'This District Committee has for the past seven years cordially co-operated with the Board of Guardians, and not only is the Charity Officer frequently exchanging notes with the Relieving Officer, but a printed list of the persons in this district receiving parochial relief is received from the Board, to whom a list of cases relieved by this Society is sent weekly. This Committee aims, by timely relief of a temporary kind to keep persons from applying to the parish, because those who have once done so are ever after ready to fall back upon Parish relief, while some would die rather than ever touch it. It is, however, so easy to get parish relief, that, rather than answer a few necessary questions at the Charity Office, as to their antecedents, some prefer to go off to the parish. One case may convince the subscribers to this Society, who are also ratepayers, of the necessity of due inquiry into parish cases, to prevent unworthy persons preying upon the poor-rates:—N. C. has been for years on the list of persons receiving out-door relief in money and food, costing the parish 10s. 2d. per week. This Society learned that he and others no sooner got out-door relief than they went direct to the public-house. The fact of men and women who got 3s. to 6s. or more weekly as parish relief, and somehow found means to get drunk, became evident and notorious. It was found out that N. C. not only got 10s. 2d. per week from the parish, but also 8s. weekly from a club in the country, unknown to the Parish Officers. Some of these cases, reported by this Society to the Relieving Officer and to the Guardians, were offered in-door relief, and this test being declined by such persons, the relief was struck off.'

PROVINCIAL.

LIVERPOOL.—The Secretary of Liverpool Central Relief and Charity Organisation Society, in a letter to the Liverpool Mercury, after enumerating several cases of apparent distress that had recently come under the notice of the Society, writes: 'My object in calling attention to these cases is twofold. 1, to show the impossibility of forming a proper judgment from outward appearances, or from the statements of the persons themselves—two of these cases appeared to the recommenders to be so needy as to call for special remark to that effect; and 2, to ask the public either to investigate themselves, or make use of the Liverpool Central Relief and Charity Organisation Society in investigating the circumstances of a case before giving relief, and where this society has refused relief, to withhold judgment upon it until they have ascertained the reasons for such refusal, which we are always ready to give. It should be borne in mind that investigation has the result not only of detecting imposture, but also of enabling us to find worthy objects for our charity, and thereby of increasing the satisfaction and confidence with which we relieve.'

DOVER.—'White Slaves.' The Dover Charity Organisation Association, on the receipt of a letter from this Society respecting Italian children, on the 2nd of this month, on the charge of begging, took before the magistrates an Italian woman, aged forty, and her son, aged ten, who had just arrived from Italy. The magistrate referred them to the Italian Consul, who undertook to provide for them in every way.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—THE AFFLICTED CLASSES.—According to statistics that have just been made known, out of a population of more than 36,000,000 in France there are 37,927 blind and 29,512 deaf and dumb; so that in 950 inhabitants there is one blind, and in 17,123 there is one deaf and dumb person. In Paris alone there are 7,333 mad people, whilst in all France there are 17,123 male and 14,964 female lunatics.—*Sanitary Record.*

A FOREIGN OPINION OF LONDON CHARITY.—The *Bulletin du Bureau Central de Bienfaisance*, published monthly in Geneva, says in its September number, after stating that the London subscription charities amount to about 98,572,025 francs:—'On est frappé lorsqu'on voit traduite en chiffres la générosité de l'Angleterre. Les manifestations de la charité y prennent une variété d'aspect très-grande et c'est un sujet intéressant d'étude que celui de la philanthropie chez cette nation. La misère, il est vrai, y revêt des aspects repoussants et semble défer parfois tous les remèdes, mais la philanthropie infatigable pour la combattre, crée ces nombreuses Sociétés de bienfaisance, d'instruction, d'évangélisation et d'œuvres qui ont pour but de faire le bien sous toutes les formes.

'Que ne peut-elle extirper la racine des maux de cette société: la charité légale.'

POOR-LAW CONFERENCES.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUTDOOR RELIEF.

At the Poor-law Conference for the Metropolitan District held in London on the 17th July last, the following resolutions were passed: 'That out-relief to widows having dependent children should be discontinued in the great majority of cases; maintenance in the pauper schools being offered instead for such of their children as they seem to be unable, with the help of relations, to support.' And, 'that indoor relief alone should be offered to applicants having near relatives able to support them, whether legally liable or not, except in special cases, during inquiry or pending arrangement.'

Mr. Vallance made some practical suggestions as to the mode of treating applications for outdoor relief:—'There are three considerations which have been lost sight of. First of all, the antecedent circumstances of the pauper herself; next, the effect of outdoor relief upon her and her children; and next, the effect of outdoor relief upon her poorer neighbours. And that brings me to this proposition, that it is absolutely impossible to draw any hard and fast line, and I would suggest that it is not desirable. In my own individual practice cases come before me in some such way as this:—A case comes before the guardians for the first time—a poor widow recently bereaved. Of course she excites commiseration, and then relief is given for a temporary period, and before that period has expired the case is probably referred to me. When the woman comes before me I at once enter into the circumstances of her case, and tell her plainly the guardians are disposed to do all they can to assist her, to get her upon her own feet; I tell her plainly that the guardians will not give her a permanent pension, and they will not send her into a poor neighbourhood as a standing advertisement of the evils of outdoor relief, and therefore that any relief that may be given will be sufficient to get her upon her feet; and then I ask her a series of questions as to her antecedents, and of her late husband, and what he has been doing; whether he was provident, and whether he was in a club, or whether anything led him to avoid making the provision for the future which he otherwise would have done; and next I ascertain whether there has been ordinary thrift; then I endeavour to ascertain the address of the employer, and whether any of the children are employed, and then a list of the relatives, with the object of getting assistance for her from them, so as to put her in an independent position. Failing that, she is told plainly that the guardians will only do what her friends ought to do for her, viz., assist in bettering her position by taking the children and putting them in orphanages; and so in that way each individual case is taken upon its merits, and dealt with in that way with the view of terminating outdoor relief, and in that way the woman is made a party to it.'

EDUCATION AT WORKHOUSE SCHOOLS.

Rev. Dr. Clutterbuck, in his Report on the Education of Pauper Children in 1875, which appears in the last Report of the Local Government Board, has published a table of results from evidence supplied by 184 Unions, comprising 12 English counties, and the whole of Wales. The figures are:—Total number of children sent out, 5,999; reported as still in place or doing well, 3,056; doubtful or bad, 273; returned to and still in the house, 178; no information as to present condition, 2,026; dead, 46.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of November 1876 was 36,635, and 43,002 received outdoor relief, making a total of 79,637. This was an increase of 564 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 3,642, 12,392, and 21,026 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 664. This was a decrease of 29 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 111 on the corresponding day of last year.

DIFFICULT CASES.

No. 2.—Referring to the 'difficult case' mentioned in last week's *Reporter* of C. D., aged 51, a ropemaker, unable to work from failing sight (recovery hopeless), and having four young children, and a wife earning only from 8s. to 10s. a week, I beg to remark that it does not seem to me to be a case for a pension. First, it seems to me that unless there are other circumstances of providence and desert besides that of the man having belonged to his trade club, the case should be dealt with by the guardians. The man should enter the infirmary, whence he might be removed to a blind asylum when eligible, at the expense of the rates, and that number of the children which the wife cannot maintain should be taken into the District schools. Ropemakers are not usually of a sufficiently high class to have any fair objection to such a mode of assistance.

Secondly. Presuming that the circumstances of the case do make it incumbent on private charity to deal with it, I do not see that any permanent allowance is required. The almoner for the Society for the Relief of Distressed might assist the family through the winter to supplement the better, work which will, it is expected, be obtained for the wife. The case might, during

the summer, be helped by some private person or from the funds of the Charity Organisation Society, and directly the man becomes eligible for an asylum, his maintenance in one should be paid for by the guardians.

As to the children, it is possible that the wife might be enabled to support them all; if not, the elder ones might be placed in an orphanage and a lump sum paid for their maintenance until of working age, or some charitable person might be found to allow a sum weekly for the same period.

It occurs to me as just possible that the wife might obtain work in which her husband, though blind, might be able to assist; and, if so, there would be no advantage in separating them, unless it were possible for the man, though 51, to learn at a blind institution some means of earning a livelihood.

A. G. C.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES.—III.

SECULAR PHILANTHROPY.—It may be felt that we are now going beyond the limits of a strict secular philanthropy; and, doubtless, such is the close alliance between the moral and the economical—such the intimate dependence which the comfort of a people has upon their character—that we cannot bestow a full entertainment on the one topic without trenching upon the other, and so as to establish a line of continuity in our argument from things earthly to things spiritual. Nevertheless, as there is a real distinction between the two services, so is it of great importance to the wellbeing of a people that, in their behalf, they should be undertaken by separate and distinct agents; or that, in the arrangements of a benevolent association, as that of a church devising for the whole good of the families in a given neighbourhood, they should be vested in distinct office-bearers. But this is a matter which will fall to be adjusted afterwards; and meanwhile we can confidently aver of the philanthropist who limits himself to the services which we have now assigned for him, or who even acquits himself well and in the spirit of kindness of greatly fewer than these, that he will earn by it a mighty influence for good over the people whom he has thus selected as the objects of his care. They will not look unmoved on these his labours of love. It is not in nature that they should; for there is a spell and a sway in human kindness, if it but give the unequivocal tokens of its reality which even the hardest and most ungainly of our race feel to be irresistible. This is a law which has been mainly lost sight of in the innumerable projects of our day for the amelioration of society—the sweetening effect of mere acquaintanceship, though it should amount to no more than courtesy, between the men of higher and men of humbler rank in the commonwealth; and still more should it rise to cordiality, when it will be found that there are a moral action and reaction in the world of spirits, which, like the reciprocities of the material system, have been established by an all-wise Creator to maintain the harmony and stability of the whole.—*On the Sufficiency of the Parochial System*, by Dr. Chalmers.

PROVIDENT HABITS.

The following is taken from the last circular of the National Penny Bank, 269 and 270 Oxford Street:—

‘The first Penny Bank was opened on the 9th October 1875. There are now 43 branches: of these, 10 are open every evening; 13 once or twice a week; 4 are in workshops open once a week; 16 are in schools open once a week.

‘The number of Deposits up to 30th September was 176,180.
 ‘The amount deposited . . . £21,122 11 8
 ‘The amount withdrawn . . . 9,835 7 5
 ‘And the balance in hand . . . 11,187 4 3

‘These results, which far exceed the anticipations of the founders of the Penny Bank, not only prove that it meets a great want among the poorer classes, but that there is every chance of this want being supplied on a commercial basis.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Annual Reports of the Shoreditch and Sydenham Committees.
 Paper on the Boarding-out of Pauper Children in England by W. Tal-lack. Read at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, September 1876. Harris & Co. 4d.
 Manual for Visitors of the Poor, by John W. Kramer, M.D. Appleton & Co., New York.
 A Century of Nursing, with Hints toward the Organisation of a Training School. (Paper No. 11 of the New York State Charities Aid Association.)

MENDICITY.—In the Eighth Annual Report of the South-East London Auxiliary to the City Mission, a Missionary writes: ‘I meet a number of able-bodied men who want no work to do. They appear to thrive. If the people who support this class knew half as much as I know, they would never relieve beggars at the doors.’

VILLAGE CLUBS.

In the *Times* of October 23 will be found an account of a ‘Village Club Association’ started more than a year ago in Suffolk, to supplement, as far as possible, by means of a county organisation parochial and isolated efforts to start and maintain village clubs. It assists existing clubs and reading rooms; it aids in starting new ones; for these it suggests rules, found to work well in practice elsewhere; it provides for an interchange of books and for lectures on subjects other than politics and theology; it supplies in a suitable form information about Provident Societies, Savings Banks, and other kindred institutions; and it stands ready to assist pecuniarily. Such clubs may be affiliated to the central body, share in its management, and receive loans of dissolving views, books, &c. One of the Hon. Secs., Mr. R. Johnson, of Boyton, Woodbridge, with whom the plan of the Association originated, has written a practical little pamphlet on the subject.

S. F.

PUBLIC DAY NURSERIES.

The *Bulletin*, published quarterly by the *Société des Crèches* of Paris has, in its October number, an article on Mr. W. G. Howgrave's report on the Public Day Nurseries of London, which was published by the Charity Organisation Society in 1872. The writer of the article contrasts the *Crèches* of Paris with the Public Day Nurseries of London, and points out that the amount paid daily by the parents of the children in the former city is, as a rule, much smaller than that paid in the majority of the London nurseries. He accounts for this difference by pointing out that in France charitable assistance is still the dominant idea in the minds of those who support the *Crèches* and other charitable institutions, while in England, ‘the country of self-help,’ the dominant idea is to supply to those who are able to earn their living without charitable assistance, an institution in which their children can be taken care of while they are absent at their daily work. He also draws attention to the fact that, even at the higher charge made in the London nurseries, the amounts received from the parents are not sufficient to pay for the rent of the rooms in which the children are received; and he quotes, at length, a paragraph in which Mr. Howgrave suggests that a nursery should be attached to each Board school. He states that the same difficulty has been experienced at Paris, and that the *Société des Crèches* has for a long time been endeavouring to impress on the municipal authority the desirability of setting apart a room for use as a *Crèche*, in the buildings which it constructs for schools or *salles d'asile*, and he insists strongly upon the great advantage it would be to the families of the working population, if they could find in the same building institutions which would receive all their children. He concludes this portion of the article by expressing the hope that in this matter, as in many others, the example of England may be followed by France, and that, when the experiment has been made here, the neighbouring country will profit by it.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION

SOCIETY desire to invite the attention of those interested in the work they have in hand to their Collection of Reports of Charities and works of reference on Poor Law and Charity, which may at all times be consulted at the Central Office, free of charge, together with the Reports and Suggestions of the Society on various Social Questions.

The Secretaries are authorised to furnish particulars with regard to Charitable Societies to persons desirous of such information.

The Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, &c., for distribution to suitable cases through the District Committees.

Contributions to the funds of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C.

Draft Orders on Bankers for annual payments until further orders can be supplied to any who wish for them.

Contributions for the poorer District Committees can be paid to the District Committee Aid Fund of the Council.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

‘THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER’ will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as ‘subscribing till further orders’; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

Post-office Orders payable to CHARLES S. LOCH, at the Charing Cross Post-office. Stamps will be received in payment; but Subscribers are reminded that Post-office Orders for sums under 10s. can be obtained for 1d.

Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 196.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 30, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Nov. 30	...	Administrative Committee, 3 P.M.
Monday, Dec. 4	...	Council, 3 P.M.
Tuesday	5	Mendicity Sub-Committee, 2.30 P.M. Districts Sub-Committee, 3.30 P.M.
Wednesday	6	Co-operation Sub-Committee, 2.30 P.M. Finance Sub-Committee, 3 P.M.
Thursday	7	Administrative Committee, 3 P.M.
Friday	8	Medical Committee, 4 P.M.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, Dec. 4:—

To consider the following Bye-laws recommended by the Administrative Committee in accordance with the resolution of Council of the 14th inst.:—

'Bye-law 21. The Administrative Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-chairmen, Treasurer, and twenty-five members of Council, who shall be elected annually, at the seventh meeting after the general annual meeting of the Society, by the members of Council entitled to vote.

'Bye-law 22. The names of all those willing to serve shall be submitted to Council by the Secretary at the fifth meeting after the general annual meeting of the Society. The election shall be by ballot.

'Bye-law 23. Members of the Administrative Committee shall be eligible for re-election. Members of Council shall be at liberty to attend the meetings of the Administrative Committee as visitors. The Committee shall have power to fill up vacancies and report the same for confirmation at the next meeting of Council.

'Bye-law 24 to be the same as the present Bye-law No. 23.

'Bye-law 29. Add the words "and Sub-Committees of the Administrative Committee."

'Bye-law 30. The Administrative Committee shall appoint, to take charge of special branches of the work of the Society, such Sub-Committees as may from time to time appear to them expedient. Each Sub-Committee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from such of its members as are members of the Administrative Committee. Each Sub-Committee shall, on a recommendation to the Administrative Committee, be empowered to add to its number members of Council or members of any of the District Committees of the Society.'

[The Bye-laws in which alterations have been made are—

'21. The Administrative Committee shall consist of not fewer than nine members, and shall be elected annually within one month after the Annual Meeting, members being eligible for re-election. Any member of Council shall be at liberty to attend its meetings, and to vote.

'22. All new representative members of Council shall be placed on this Committee, unless they have served upon it at some previous time, and their names shall be kept upon the list for at least three months, provided they continue members of Council.

'24. If a member of the Administrative Committee has not attended for thirteen consecutive weeks, it shall not be necessary to send him notices when such are issued. (It is proposed to omit this Bye-law and substitute for it Bye-law No. 23, which is as follows:—'The Committee shall meet on Thursdays at 3 p.m., and at such other times as they may specially adjourn to, or the Council appoint.')

'29. The Chairman of the Administrative Committee shall vote with other members upon all questions, and shall have a second or casting vote in the case of an equal division. This rule shall apply to all Committees of the Council.')

The following letters have been received for the use of the East End Districts:—

One in-patient and one out-patient's letter, City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest;
Three letters for the City of London Truss Society;
Four out-patients' letters for the Royal Maternity Charity;
Three cards for the Provident Surgical Appliance Society;
And one in-patient's letter for the Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary, Margate.

The St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee are dealing with the non-resident cases of Donahue and Evans.

Two letters for the Eastbourne Convalescent Home, not available after December 30 next, may be had on application to the Paddington Committee, 20 Westbourne Park Terrace, Harrow Road, W. A similar letter for the Metropolitan Convalescent Institution can be had on application at the central office.

A letter for the Convalescent Home at Ventnor or at Bournemouth is urgently wanted.

A meeting of District Visitors and others interested in the welfare of the poor will be held at the Townshend Buildings, Vincent Square, Westminster, at 4.30 P.M., Wednesday, the 6th December. Rev. Brooke Lambert will read a paper. Rev. Canon Farrar, Miss Octavia Hill, and others will address the meeting.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—A. H. HILL (in the Chair).

KENNINGTON:—Dr. Anderson, F. J. S.

Edgcombe, Esq.

FULHAM:—Sir T. Douglas Forsyth.

PADDINGTON:—Sir B. M. Stephenson, Maj.

Yard.

ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Major

Prendergast.

WESTMINSTER:—W. Bousfield.

ST. MARYLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill.

HAMPSTEAD:—C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F.

Mallet.

SOUTH ST. PANCRAS:—Lady Wilson, Miss

Collett.

ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare, W. F. Lawrence.

STRAND:—Rev. B. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill.

HOLBORN:—G. B. Baker.

CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brooks.

BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. J. D. McGachen.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST:—Russell Bar-

ington.

STEPNEY:—E. Peters.

ST. SAVIOUR'S:—W. F. Smith.

ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.

ULAPHAM:—G. P. Bidder.

CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.

STDENHAM:—A. B. Hutchins, C. A. Barry.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevel-

yan, Bart., Geo. Blount.

TOTAL:—30.

SECRETARY:—O. S. Loeb.

VISITORS:—Mrs. Bleschley, Miss Gibson.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE had met on Thursday last. There had been present—

J. R. Hollond, in the Chair; Lady Wilson, Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, Major Yard, Capt. Fortescue, Messrs. Barrington, Hill, Miner, Lawrence, and Peters.

FINANCE.—The Committee reported that during the week ending November 18, the receipts had been £56. 8s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of

the two funds on that day had been £213. 4s. 3d. and £176. 19s. 9d. respectively, the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—They had made grants of £20 to the St. Saviour's Committee, and £20 to the Woolwich Committee.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on Tuesday, the 14th inst., had been present—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss Octavia Hill, Miss E. Howes, Mr. Bousfield, and Mr. Barrington.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee had been present—

Mr. Aspinall, in the Chair; Major FitzRoy, Capt. Gardner, and Mr. Barrington.

THE CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At this Sub-Committee had been present—

J. R. Hollond, Esq., in the Chair; Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Mr. W. M. Wilkinson.

DISTRICT VISITING SOCIETIES.

Miss Octavia Hill said that while the District Committees of the Society were trying to benefit the poor by a wise distribution of charity, there were throughout London numerous 'Visitors' by whom the great mass of charity was dispensed, who had not adopted any method of investigation, and were guided by no fixed principles in the bestowal of their alms. The clergy had seldom the time to attend the meetings of the District Committees, and though frequently aware of the injudicious action of their visitors, were unable to pay sufficient attention to the details of parish work and remedy the defects. She suggested, therefore, that one lay member of each body of District Visitors should attend a District Committee of the Charity Organisation Society; that this person should act as secretary to the visitors, and that all communications from the District Committee should be made through her. By this means one of the visitors would gradually instruct the rest, information would find its way to all those personally engaged in work amongst the poor, investigation would be introduced, and the system of giving relief would be reformed by the visitors themselves through the agency of their secretary. The plan she proposed was applicable to the system of distributing relief adopted by Nonconformists and to all Visiting Societies; she did not wish to restrict it to parochial visitors. As a rule the secretary should be a lady.

Rev. H. F. Mallet drew attention to the article written by Miss Hill that appeared in *Good Words* for July last. It seemed to him impossible to reform the relief system except through the visitors themselves.

Mr. Russell Barrington pointed out that in many districts of London there was no real organised system of visiting.

Miss Collett said that at South St. Pancras they had received great help from Mrs. Ranyard's Bible women, in watching cases which the Society had relieved.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that the Charity Organisation Society dealt with special cases; the visitors were brought face to face with the entire mass of pauperism. In the West the visitors formed large active bodies; but in almost every part of London there were Bible women or some local organisation. He then explained the system of Parochial Councils at work in the St. George's (Hanover Square) District. The system was based on the report of a conference of the clergy and ministers of all denominations, held at the Board Room of the Guardians four or five years ago. Twenty Councils were formed. The visitors were made members, and undertook to give no relief on their own responsibility, except in urgent cases, which were reported at the next meeting of their Council. A member of the District Com-

mittee of the Charity Organisation Society served on each Parochial Council. By this means new principles were gradually introduced, and cases of special difficulty were referred to the Committee of the Society. He thought some system such as that proposed by Miss Hill should be adopted throughout London.

Major Prendergast considered that it was extremely difficult to secure effective co-operation on the plan of Parochial Councils. In St. George's they had in most cases become Church Relief Societies. He moved—

That Miss Octavia Hill be requested to embody her suggestions with reference to the relations of this Society to District Societies in a written communication, with a view to the further consideration of the question by Council.

Mr. Bousfield seconded the motion, and described a plan which the Kensington Committee had attempted to introduce in that district. The Committee had made a grant to a body of district visitors, on condition that it should be distributed according to the principles of the Society; and it was arranged that one member of the Committee should attend the meetings of the visitors. But the visitors generally spent the funds entrusted to them in the immediate relief of apparently distressing cases. He believed the only successful plan would be to educate the visitors, as Miss Hill proposed, through members of their own body. In some parts of London, where there were very few visitors, the Society might be able to give the clergy great assistance by obtaining visitors for them.

Rev. J. D. McGachen dwelt on the difficulties of carrying out any metropolitan scheme. In his parish, with a population of 11,522, he could not reckon on having more than £1 a week for relief purposes.

Mr. H. N. Hoare gave the details of an arrangement recently made with Canon Nisbet by the St. Giles Committee.* Each case referred to the Committee was, during investigation, assisted, if there was urgent want, by relief in kind. It was visited by a member of the Committee, and subsequently decided by the Committee on the principles of the Society.

After a few words from Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. H. H. Hill, and others, Miss Hill replied briefly, and the motion was put and carried unanimously.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, November 25, 1876:—*Donations:* E. L. Ames, Esq., £5; F. Calvert, Esq., £10; Miss Susan M. Harrington £1; H. D. Skrine, Esq., £1. 1s. *Annual:* Rev. H. F. H. Burchell-Herne, £2. 2s.; G. Loch, Esq., £1. 1s.; Miss Phillips, £10; Sir John Robinson, £2. 2s.—*D. C. A. Fund:* Mrs. Dunville (a) £1.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

HACKNEY.—*The Annual Meeting.*—The Annual Meeting of the Hackney Committee was held last week, at the Old Town Hall. The Chairman, Mr. Robert King, in opening the proceedings, said they had now arrived at that stage of the history of Charity in this country in which, from its enormous sphere of action, both public and private, it was attracting the gravest thoughts of the public. Public alms were recognised as indispensable; but the proper form of their administration had always been a subject of controversy. Poorhouses formerly were mere prisons. Now there were infirmaries conducted on humane and scientific principles—*poor*, he hoped, to be recognised by the poor as kind hospices into which they might enter. London occupied an area of 78,000 acres; its population was 4 millions; with a yearly accretion of 75,000. It administered a poor rate of nearly £2,000,000. But the private charities of London were estimated, as dispensed, at £7,000,000. Of the great hospitals, and of the large educational establishments, and of most of the 900 charities enumerated in the Handbooks of the Charities of London, he did not speak, but of the many smaller centres of charity scattered broadcast over the whole of the metropolis. A most mischievous system of relief was pursued,

* The details of this scheme will be found on p. 167. A scheme adopted by the Stepney Committee will be found on p. 158, *Reporter* No. 194.

has it consisted for the main part of the small dole system; and when the visitor gave it, was simply a miserable pittance, and a link in the chain which bound down the recipients into just so dependents. There was another system of relief resorted to, which it mischievous, viz.: that of promiscuous almsgiving without object or aim. A tale of woe excited sympathy; the purse was opened, and relief given. But what right had any man thus to show to the poor was better to beg than to work? To parody a well-known saying, it was a game requiring two to play it. Certainly the strength of one of the parties concerned depended materially on the strength or weakness of the other. It might be within their remembrance a few winters ago there was a large amount of distress in the East of London, which attracted attention and sympathy from the West. Numbers of benevolent men came from the West End with pockets full of money ready to help. But it became apparent the more was given the more distress became. Now, there was one amongst those men, whose name must command reverence—he alluded to Mr. Edward Denison—estimated for himself the cause of that extraordinary state of things, the simultaneous increase of distress and of alms-giving. He came to live amidst the misery; and his conclusions were certainly startling. He left a record of his experiences which ought to be a text-book dispensers of charity. One of his conclusions was that sensational and reckless almsgiving were doing terrible evils, by pouring money into the haunts of misery and vice. And that every act, however beneficial, which seemed or defeated a man's responsibility, was an usurpation of the work of Divine Providence. Then came the extraordinary axiom that idleness and pauperism were like two connected reservoirs which always kept at the same level. Charity was indeed a science difficult to study, because it dealt with the ever-shifting, the ever-changing phases of human life and action. What would answer in the one case would not possibly in the very next instance. It could therefore only be pursued by study, by patiently collecting information; and that this Society professed to do. The information collected by the Committee of the Charity Organisation was open to all; and he urged that every body or congregation of men who dispensed alms should have a representative at that Board, not to reveal what they were doing, but to gain information of what others were doing, so as to stop, if possible, the overlapping of gifts. They would then be doing a great good, as one thing: however disappointed they might be because some of their efforts were unsuccessful, yet they would have a bright future before them as the educational movement passed over the country, and washed away the great impediments to progress—ignorance and vice.

Rev. L. E. Shelford read the annual report. It dwelt upon the tendency to misunderstand the aims of the Society, and accounted for the feeling against it from two facts: 1. Charitable people had learned to look upon the glaring evils the Society had already removed, the ground of the beggar being cleared and the overlapping of charity removed; 2. The public heard of every attempt to repress unwise or unneeded charity, but did not hear the continued efforts to help the deserving. Some had been made in the working of the Hackney Committee, chiefly as regulations for visitors, each case being now brought before the committee.

The report mentioned the resignation of Mr. C. Kemp as one of the secretaries. His untiring attention to the office for eight years, his sympathy with the poor, and ability in dealing with cases, would be his loss severely felt. The Committee prayed for enlarged support. The cases brought before the Committees, exclusive of all brought by the visitors before the alterations came in force, were nearly 100 more than last year.

ILES'S AND BLOOMSBURY COMMITTEE.—*District Visiting.*—Following are the terms of an arrangement made by this Committee with Mr. Nisbet:—

at on any case of distress coming under the notice of the Clergy, (according to printed form) be sent by them to the office of the Committee.

at the Committee consist both of gentlemen who undertake to visit personally and of others who only undertake to be present at Committee meetings.

at the Committee undertake that there shall always be one gentleman to visit personally any case the particulars of which shall be sent to the office before 9.30 A.M.

at a rota be kept by the Secretary of Visiting Gentlemen, and a list sent by him, at the beginning of every month, to each Visiting Gentleman, the days on which he will be expected to attend at the office, and visit.

at in the event of any gentleman not being able to visit on his own behalf as soon as possible endeavour to make arrangements with another gentleman to take his duty.

at if the case appears to such gentleman specially pressing and if immediate relief, he be empowered to relieve at once by tickets

not exceeding 2s. 6d. in value, and to bring the matter before the Weekly Relief Committee for further consideration.

7. That if the case be not pressing, it be brought before the next Relief Committee meeting.

8. That if the case appears doubtful, or undeserving, or requiring to be verified, the inquiry to be entrusted to the Charity Agent.

9. That the Charity Agent shall not visit any in the first instance.

10. That the Clergyman who forwards the case to the Committee be expected to attend the Committee meeting next after sending a recommendation, and also that every gentleman who during the previous week has visited any case be expected to attend.

11. In consideration of the valuable assistance rendered by the Committee, and in the hope that they will be able to raise funds for the efficient working out of such a system, the Rector of St. Giles's is willing to give an amount equal to half of the relief given to such cases as are brought under the notice of the Society by the Clergy of St. Giles's. As the plan, however, is tentative, it is to be understood that such aggregate sum given by the Rector will not necessarily exceed £100 before the end of March 1877. He is to be informed, at the end of every month, how much money is due from him.

PROVINCIAL.

OUTDOOR RELIEF AND VAGRANCY.

OXFORD.—*The Annual Meeting, Charity Organisation.*—The annual meeting of the Oxford Anti-Mendicity and Charity Organisation Society was held on the 3rd instant. The Rev. W. A. Spooner, the Treasurer, read the report. It appeared that there had been a large increase in the amount of loans made by the Society. In 1874, £62. 10s. was thus distributed; in 1875, £129. 19s. 5d.; and during the past year, £205. 12s. 6d. The Provident Dispensary, with which the Society is connected, though only opened at Lady Day of this year, had three doctors on its staff and as many as 658 provident members on its books. The report was adopted, on the motion of the Rev. W. H. Duggan, seconded by Rev. A. Acland. The President of the Society—the President of Trinity College—moved a vote of thanks to the Hon. Colonel Sackville West, who was subsequently elected President of the Society for the ensuing year.

Colonel West, in returning thanks, said:—When he came to Oxford he had been at this sort of work in London, and he was naturally anxious to continue it here, and it was a very great gratification to him to be able to do what he had been able to do for the last four or five years. In thanking them, he should like to take the opportunity of saying one or two words about the working of the Society, as it appeared to him. He thought he could cordially agree with that part of the Report which spoke somewhat hopefully of the work of the Society. He thought it had done good service in one branch of the work to which it had directed its efforts; it had done something to encourage provident habits, and he thought it had helped a little to diminish pauperism. He thought that by its rigid investigation of the cases submitted to it, it had detected a great deal of imposture. It had cut off from the undeserving a deal of the help which they ought not to receive. So far that was satisfactory, and it was also in another branch, by the Provident Dispensary, which was working in the same direction of encouraging provident habits.

But looking to the second of the Society's objects, he did not think it was quite so satisfactory. The Society, it appeared to him, was not sufficiently widely known among those who were engaged in charitable work in Oxford to be able to prevent that waste of alms which were to a very great extent given at random. It had been confined, and its operations were known but to a few of the charitable persons in Oxford, and those who had used it would, he thought, be ready to confess the benefit it had been. But there were a vast number who did not use it at all, who scarcely knew of its existence, who did not take the trouble to inquire what it was doing, and if by any means that large class could be reached he thought the Society would be carrying out what was to his mind the most important of its work, the organisation of charity. He thought it was at that time especially important that the Society's attention should be directed to that; as the Report pointed out, here and elsewhere there was a gradual conviction growing that outdoor relief afforded by the Poor Law must come to an end. It had been diminished very much in this place, as they knew, and it had been the greatest of the causes which had produced the diminution of the poor rates of this place to something like 7d. in the pound during the last five years, and that was a great thing. He called on those who worked among the poor to say whether there had been any increase of poverty among them in consequence. He believed not the least, but that there had been an increase of provident habits among them; and if outdoor relief were to cease altogether, and the relief afforded by the rates were to be simply and solely that given in the workhouse, then there was a grand field for organised charity. There must be a large number of cases one did not wish to send into the workhouse; they should be dealt with out of doors, and that could only be done by organised charity—not by in-

dividuals giving away money, as now, to individual cases, and perpetuating all the evils of the outdoor system, but by persons combining together and rigidly investigating the deserving cases, and providing for them properly, instead of letting them go to the workhouse.

Subsequently the following resolution was moved by Colonel West, seconded by the Rev. G. S. F. Glanville, and carried:—'That it be an instruction to the Committee to consider what means they should take for bringing to the notice of the County Magistrates the desirability of introducing some such system into Oxfordshire as prevails in Dorsetshire and elsewhere.'

CROYDON.—The Annual Meeting of the Croydon Charitable Society was held on Thursday evening the 23rd inst., in the magistrates' room at the Town Hall. Rev. Canon Hodgson (Vicar) was in the chair. It appears from the Annual Report that one of the most successful of the Society's undertakings is a 'Boys Employment Brigade.' There are now seven boys in this. The boys are housed, fed, clothed, and trained. During the year three have been provided with permanent situations. Each is obliged to lay by in the bank a certain proportion of his earnings. One boy joined the Brigade on the 2nd January 1876, and though wholly unused to work of any kind, and then only eleven years of age, he has, by continual good conduct and industry amassed in his bank no less a sum than £5. 7s. 7d., besides having paid entirely for his own clothing, schooling, and food, and 3d. a night for his lodging.

BRIGHTON.—*A Begging Impostor.*—The following is taken from the *Brighton and Hove Daily Post* of the 11th inst.:—'A singular application was made on Thursday to the Brighton magistrates by a middle-aged man, who gave his name as Frederick Watkins. He had, he said, been convicted five years ago for fortune-telling, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, which he underwent. Since that time he had been struggling hard to gain an honest livelihood, and could produce weighty testimonials, one being from the Earl of Chichester, to that effect; but whenever he obtained a situation he was dogged by the officer of the local Charity Organisation Society, who made such statements that those who took an interest in him would have no more to do with him, so that he was constantly losing his situation. He therefore asked whether such conduct of the officer could not be stopped. The Bench said the matter did not rest with them, and told him he had better consult a solicitor.'

In the same paper, on the 18th instant, appeared the following:—'At a recent meeting of the Borough Magistrates, Mr. Brandreth, the Solicitor to the Charity Organisation Society, attended to refute a statement made by a man named Watkins, who was before the Bench a few days since, to the effect that in his endeavours to gain an honest livelihood he was continually being dogged by the officer of the Charity Organisation Society, in consequence of which he was always unable to obtain a situation. Mr. Bigge said that the question could not be discussed before him. Mr. Brandreth pointed out that the charge was of a serious nature, and it having gone forth to the public by means of the press, he thought it right to give an entire denial to it. To this we may add, by way of friendly hint to Mr. Watkins and others of his class, that if they will only refrain from sending begging letters and getting tradesmen, who know nothing about them, to write misleading certificates of character, they will have nothing to fear from the Society's agent, who merely does his duty in accordance with his instructions, and can have no motive for "persecuting" anyone in the way represented by the complainant.'

CARDIFF.—The Cardiff Board of Guardians have resolved to distribute, as far as possible, bread instead of money as outdoor relief, it having been noticed that outdoor paupers in receipt of money relief are sometimes summoned for drunkenness.

FOREIGN.

NEW YORK.—We have just received from New York a 'Manual for Visitors of the Poor,' written by J. W. Kramer, M.D. The writer, in the introduction, says:—'A Handy-Book for Visitors of the Poor in London,' by Charles B. P. Bosanquet, M.A., Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, a little work of many valuable suggestions, may not be said to have inspired this effort of mine, but certainly it urged me to the performance of a task that had been put aside. Had it been possible to adapt that book for London visitors to our work, an original Manual would not have been attempted. But the wide differences encountered in so many features of social life made it impracticable to do so.'

These are three of the 'Instructions for a Visitor':—1. There is a radical distinction between *paupers* and those poor who have not been pauperised. The welfare of society, and, above all else, the virtue and prosperity of the individual, demand that the utmost solicitude and care be taken that no man, woman, or child be pauperised. It is a sad fact that you will do this very thing, as there are cases which will most urgently appeal to your humanity, and which you cannot relieve without the disastrous consequence. Let them be as few as possible. Social science has discovered for us that this is the

disheartening feature of the work; and mental and moral philosophers will bear their testimonies to the sure harm that most benevolent work is doing. You have made that person a pauper who begins to lean upon you or anyone else rather than on his own exertions. You have planted the seed of pauperism in a child when you permit that child to know that you are ready to help the child or the parent where one can help himself. "To beg I am ashamed," is one saving principle of humanity. There is a deep and broad truth beneath the prevalent idea that it is disgraceful to be a beggar. When anyone can beg without shame, self-respect is gone, if it ever existed. 2. Money or its equivalent is the last thing to be given anyone who is able to earn for himself. 3. The best service you can render to anyone needing aid is to help him to help himself.'

BOARDING OUT.

Mr. W. Tallack, the Secretary of the Howard Association, in a paper read by him at the meeting of the British Association at Glasgow, in September last, says:—

'There are 563 Poor Law Unions in England, of which 127 have adopted the boarding-out system, in greater or less degree, for some of their children. There are, in addition, forty-seven Welsh Unions, of which thirty have adopted the system. The total number of children thus placed out is about 1,900 in England and 900 in Wales.'

'Perhaps the largest and most successful experiment in this direction has been made in and around Birmingham, mainly through the exertions of Miss Joanna M. Hill and other ladies, forming a Committee of more than fifty in all. They have issued three reports, in the last of which they state that they have eighty children under their care (twenty-five boys and fifty-five girls), located in selected homes, in Birmingham, Bewdley, Malvern, Worcester, Atherstone, &c. The total cost of each child is 4s. per week, or £10. 8s. per annum. The Committee remark—"We have observed a marked improvement in health: the individual care and attention bestowed by the foster-mother upon her charge—an attention impossible where many children are collected together—seems to exercise a most beneficial influence upon their physical welfare."

'Another very successful Committee is that at Clifton, near Bristol. Its Secretary, Miss Woodward, writes to the National Committee (July 29, 1876):—"We continue to feel satisfied with the success attending the boarding-out, particularly in respect to girls, the home-life they lead qualifying them to become useful servants." About thirty-five orphans are cared for by the Clifton Committee.'

'A third very successful Boarding-out Committee is that in Chorlton Union, Manchester, where about forty children are placed out. The total expense of each child is less than £10 per annum. After seven years' experience, the Committee report that the system "affords the best prospect of enabling the children to escape, or throw off, the evil effects of their association with children of the lowest classes constantly passing through the schools, and of placing them in as good a position for making their way in the world, and for fulfilling the purpose of their existence, as the working classes generally enjoy." The foster-parents of the children placed out by this Committee include thirteen artisans, six widows, three policemen, a clerk, a postman, a city missionary, a parish clerk, a schoolmaster, three foremen, and two warehousemen.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of November 1876 was 37,005, and 43,557 received outdoor relief, making a total of 80,562. This was an increase of 925 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 3,178, 11,592, and 20,968 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 681. This was an increase of 17 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and 79 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 197.

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 7, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

In future, members of Committees and Sub-Committees meeting at the Central Office will, as a rule, receive no summons beyond the notices in the 'Calendar of Meetings at the Central Office,' which will be published weekly on the first page of the 'Reporter.'

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Dec. 7	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 11	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday " 12	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday " 13	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday " 14	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, Dec. 11:—

I. To consider the Bye laws recommended by the Administrative Committee (vide *Reporter*, No. 196, p. 165), and the proposed amendments (vide p. 170).

II. To consider the following alterations in the Bye-laws recommended by the Administrative Committee with a view to the improvement of the Meetings of Council:—

(1) That the following words be added to Bye-law 8, viz.:—'Questions may be asked at one meeting of Council and discussed at the next, due notice being given in the *Reporter* in the interval.'

(2) That the following Bye-law be adopted:—'The Administrative Committee shall arrange that at 4 P.M. on the second Monday in each month, during the sittings of Council, a short practical paper be read on some subject connected with the work of the Society. The Administrative Committee may on these occasions invite a Vice-President of the Society, or any gentleman of special experience, to take the chair during the discussion.'

(3) That the following words be added to Bye-law 9, viz.:—'Speeches, with the exception of those of the mover and seconder of a motion, shall be limited to 10 minutes.'

[The following is the Eighth Bye-law as it at present stands:—

8. The questions referred to in Bye-law 5 (D) shall be in writing, and shall relate only to peculiar cases coming under the notice of the District Committees, or to subjects in regard to which the information and experience of other members or Committees are desirable. In these cases the Chairman shall allow short answers to be made, but not more than one quarter of an hour shall be devoted to this head.]

III. To receive from the Administrative Committee an *ad interim* report on the financial condition of the Society and the District Committees, based as far as possible upon the estimates for 1876-7 and balance-sheets for 1875-6, forwarded by District Committees in accordance with the resolution of Council of 3rd of July last.

District Committees are reminded that their Annual Reports should be made up to September 30, 1876, and should have been issued early in November.

We have to thank Subscribers, for Convalescent letters received for the benefit of the urgent case for which we appealed last week.

In-patients' letters for the Hospital for Paralysis, Portland Place, Regent's Park, and the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, may be had on application to the Secretary.

STRAND.—The Annual Meeting of the Strand Committee will be held in the room of the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, on Friday, the 8th instant, at 4 P.M.

FULHAM.—Sir Douglas Forsyth, C.B., has been elected chairman of this Committee, in the place of Mr. E. B. Eastwick, C.B., resigned.

ST. GILES.—Mr. H. M. Keary has been elected representative of this Committee, in the place of Hon. E. F. Kenyon, resigned.

HOSPITAL LETTERS.

Letters of recommendation to the following hospitals and institutions can be obtained from the Secretary of the Council by the Honorary Secretary of any District Committee having suitable cases before it:—

In-patients:

Ventnor Consumption Hospital.	Hospital for Women and Sick Children, Vincent Square, Westminster.	Belgravia Hospital for Children
Bournemouth Sanatorium	Hospital for Diseases of Women and Children	National Hospital for Paralysis and Epileptic, Queen's Square
Charing Cross King's College London	Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street	Royal London Ophthalmic, Moorfields
Middlesex	Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Chelsea	Royal South London Ophthalmic
North London	North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road	Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars
St. George's Westminster	East London Hospital for Sick Children, and Dispensary for Women	St. John's Hospital for Skin Diseases, Leicester Square
St. Mary's, Paddington		London Homoeopathic
New Hospital for Women, Marylebone Road		
Royal Infirmary for Women and Children, Waterloo Road		

Out-patients:

Charing Cross King's College London	British Lying-in Hospital	Royal Westminster Ophthalmic
Middlesex, Lying-in Letters	City of London Lying-in Hospital	Royal Orthopaedic, Hatton Garden
North London	General Lying-in Hospital	London Homoeopathic Dental Hospital
St. Mary's Hospital Westminster	Royal Maternity Charity City of London Truss Society	Public Dispensary, Stanhope Street, Clare Market
Hospital for Consumption, Brompton	Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street	Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Dispensary
City of London, for Diseases of the Chest	North-Eastern Hospital for Sick Children	Farringdon General Dispensary
North London Consumption	Victoria Hospital for Sick Children	South Western Provident Dispensary
Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road	Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis	Royal Pimlico Dispensary
Ear Hospital	Royal South London Ophthalmic	Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary, Margate
New Hospital for Women		
Royal Infirmary for Women and Children		

N.B.—Many of these letters will not be available after the 31st of this month.

The Secretary would be glad to receive any letters for the In-patients Departments of Hospitals not mentioned above, and for Convalescent Homes.

In our last number will be found a list of letters received for the use of the East End District Committees.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—A. H. HILL (in the Chair).

KENNINGTON:—J. Whitcombe, Dr. Anderson.
FULHAM:—Sir T. Douglas Forsyth, C. J. Stevens.
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. Macdonald Stephenson, Major Yard, J. R. Holland.
CHELSEA:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., R. A. Aspinall.
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Lieut. Col. Sandford, Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill.
HAMPTSTEAD:—C. E. Maurice.
SOUTH ST. PANCRA'S:—Miss Collett.
ISLINGTON:—T. Burdett-Roberts.
ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare.
STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson.
HOLBORN:—Capt. Fortescue.
CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins, Rev. Harvey Brooks.

BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. J. D. McGachen.
ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST:—Russell Barrington.
STEPNEY:—A. C. Mitchell, E. Peters.
MILE END:—Major Nares.
FT. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
CLAPHAM:—George P. Bidder, Jun.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
DEPTFORD:—H. J. Cornish.
WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.
Lewisham:—A. Annesley.
SYDENHAM:—C. A. Barry.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., C. A. Miner.
TOTAL:—37.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.
VISITOR:—Rev. J. Graham.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE had met on Thursday last. There had been present—

J. R. Holland, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major Yard, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Douglas Brown, Barrington, Hill, Hoare, Miner, Lawrence, Burdett-Roberts, and Peters.

FINANCE.—The Committee reported that during the week ending November 25 the receipts had been £32. 6s. for the General Fund, and £71. 6s. 7d. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £159. 14s. 9d. and £208. 6s. 4d. respectively, £207. 6s. 4d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—They had made grants of £20 to the Islington Committee, £10 to the St. George's East Committee, and £10 to the Newton Committee.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on Tuesday, the 14th inst., had been present—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss Octavia Hill, Miss E. Howes, Messrs. Barrington and Bousfield, and Sir Douglas Forsyth, Rev. J. D. McGachen, Rev. W. A. Richmond, Messrs. Graham, Smith, and Montgomerie, as Visitors.

THE CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At this Sub-Committee had been present—

Sir C. Trevelyan, subsequently Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the Chair; Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Mr. A. H. Hill, J. R. Holland, Esq.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee had been present—

Capt. Gardner, in the Chair; Major FitzRoy.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—This Sub-Committee had held two meetings.

Wednesday, November 29, 1876.—Present: Major Yard (in the Chair); Sir R. M. Stephenson, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Major Prendergast, Messrs. E. Corrie, A. H. Hill, C. A. Miner (Visitor).—Monday, December 4, 1876.—Present: Major Yard (in the Chair); Rev. H. I. Cummins, Sir Macdonald Stephenson, Messrs. Hill and Miner.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. Whitcombe, before the adoption of the alterations of the Bye-laws, recommended by the Administrative Committee, was moved, rose to order, and stated that the proposed Bye-laws would, if adopted, necessitate the alteration of some of the Rules of the Society at a general meeting.

It was pointed out that if the Council thought it well to adopt the proposed Bye-laws, the constitutional course would be to refer them to the Administrative Committee or a special

Committee to report upon; and to submit to a general meeting of the Society such alterations in the Rules as the Council, on the report of the Committee, might adopt.

Notice was given of the following amendments:—

By Rev. R. J. Simpson—

That the word 'twelve' be substituted for 'twenty-five' in proposed Bye-law 21.

By Mr. C. A. Miner—

That the words of the second clause of the proposed Bye-Law 23 be as follows:—'Members of Council shall be at liberty to take part in the proceedings of the Administrative Committee, but shall not vote.'

By Mr. J. Whitcombe—

That the words 'as Visitors' be omitted from the proposed Bye-law 23, and that the words 'to take part in the proceedings of the Administrative Committee and to vote,' be substituted.

By Rev. R. J. Simpson—

That the second clause of the proposed Bye-law 23 be omitted.

By Major FitzRoy—

That proposed Bye-law 30 be referred back to the Administrative Committee with the recommendation that all members of Sub-Committees be members of the Administrative Committee.

Major FitzRoy, in moving the adoption of the recommended Bye-laws (with the exception of the 30th), said that the Administrative Committee were anxious, as he had been, to make the Administrative Committee more of a reality. At present, since any member of Council could attend and vote, no one could be certain who were the acting members of the Committee as distinguished from the, as it were, *ex officio* members who were members of Council. Only constant attendants knew who were likely to be present. And the uncertainty that prevailed in the composition of the Committee affected also its responsibility. In no published report or paper of the work of the Society did it appear who were the responsible executive Committee of the Council. The unrecognised position of the Committee in the papers of the Society corresponded to the vague and uncertain position which the Committee practically held.

He then dwelt on one or two points. The Committee wished to have a larger and more regular attendance; the definite number of 25 had therefore been fixed by them after considerable discussion. The seventh meeting after the annual general meeting of the Society was chosen for the election, as by that time the representatives of the district committees would have been selected, and due notice of the candidates proposed for election might be given.

Sir Charles Trevelyan seconded the motion. He had at first advocated a more open and liberal principle in the constitution of the Administrative Committee, but after great consideration he had come to the conclusion that the inconveniences that might ensue from the adoption of the proposed Bye-laws would be obviated by the following circumstances. Not more than twenty-five members of Council were likely to be both efficient members of and regular attendants at the Committee. Secondly, the Council had some weeks before passed an important resolution to continue their weekly meetings; and the Minutes of the Administrative Committee were thus subject each week to the criticism and revision of the Council. Lastly, the election of the Administrative Committee was annual, and conducted on the most free and liberal basis.

After a few words from Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. C. A. Miner, and the Chairman, it was agreed to take first the proposed Bye-law 23.

Major FitzRoy then moved the adoption of the Bye-law, saying that its object was, to secure the regular attendance

* See Reporter, No. 194, p. 157.

of at least twenty-five members at the meetings of the Administrative Committee and its Sub-Committees.

Major Prendergast seconded the motion. He urged that the proposed change should not be made unless there was an unanimous vote in its favour. The delegation of the executive work suggested by the Bye-law was of the most usual nature, and was carried out every day by the Executive Committees of the District Committees of the Society.

Mr. C. A. Miner, seconded by Sir Charles Trevelyan, then moved the amendment given at length above; and Mr. J. R. Hollond, in support of the amendment, said that the whole gist of the proposed alterations was to fix the responsibility of the executive on a definite body. The Committee existed as an undefined body at present, and the Society and the public hardly recognised its existence. At times the attendance of the Committee was small; and there was no certainty as to who would be present.

Rev. R. J. Simpson, having given notice of his amendment to omit the second clause of the proposed Bye-law 23, at the suggestion of Mr. G. P. Bidder, the Council gave precedence to the amendment of which Mr. J. Whitcombe had given notice, viz. :—

That the words 'as Visitors,' be omitted from the proposed Bye-law 23, and that the words 'to take part in the proceedings of the Administrative Committee, and to vote,' be substituted.

Mr. Whitcombe said that the Bye-law proposed by the Administrative Committee involved a transference of power from the Council to the Committee. He considered this undesirable, since it was an organic change endangering the relations of the Council to the District Committees, and would necessitate a public delegation of the powers of the Council to a smaller and non-representative body.

Mr. H. N. Hoare, in seconding the amendment, said that the system of administration now in force was that usually adopted by public societies.

Mr. C. E. Maurice pointed out that the proposed change would throw the work of the executive on a larger number than those who at present undertook it. In practice therefore it would be a less exclusive arrangement.

Rev. H. I. Cummins said that there was no question of special delegation. The delegation, such as it was, had already been made. The power to vote at the Administrative Committee, now possessed by all members of Council, destroyed the character of the Committee, and occasioned a fluctuating attendance and a want of responsibility.

Mr. Russell Barrington and Rev. Harvey Brooks questioned whether any practical evils had resulted from the present arrangement.

Mr. Roberts thought that sufficient cause for a change had not been shown. He had been absent for a long time, but, notwithstanding the statements made by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, believed, from his previous experience of its meetings, that there was a sufficiently regular attendance and a fixed responsibility.

Mr. G. P. Bidder then said that the Council was greatly indebted to the Administrative Committee, and that if a more definite recognition of it was desirable, it ought to be given. But he knew, he believed, generally speaking, who composed the Committee and was averse to what appeared to him to be a needless change. He then discussed *seriatim* the headings of Council business set down in Bye-law 4, and held that, as the Minutes of the Committee were not confirmed weekly by Council, the Council, notwithstanding the right possessed by all members to appeal against any decision of the Committee, had no check on the proceedings of the Committee, except by reason of their right to attend and vote at its meetings. The Council by its vote bound its representatives; the Adminis-

trative Committee was not a representative body, and the transference of so much power to the Committee would increase the difficulties of administration.

The adjournment of the debate was then moved by Rev. Harvey Brooks and carried.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, December 2, 1876:—*Donations*: Miss Claydon, 2s. 6d.; Harrockses, Miller & Co., £10. 10s.; Hampstead Committee, £10; Miss A. C. Jackson, 10s.; T. B. Woolley, Esq., 10s. 6d.—*Annual*: Rev. George Ayscough Booth, £1. 1s.; Mrs. Washington Hibbert, £1; Lord Onslow, £3. 3s.

RETURNS FOR OCTOBER.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of Cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, November 25, 1876, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underlying	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.			
Kensington	17	20	14	51	3	6	7	16	15	2	9	2	93	44	14
Fulham	1	2	3	6	1	1	3	5	1	1	1	1	5	11	10
Paddington	6	5	11	22	13	4	17	34	15	1	10	11	37	76	41
Chelsea	1	3	6	10	2	3	3	8	6	2	2	2	12	35	7
St. George's	5	3	23	31	3	2	5	11	11	1	1	1	14	34	15
W. Committee	7	17	24	48	7	1	9	17	13	7	2	2	24	77	3
Westminster:—															
St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho	4	3	14	21	7	1	8	16	4	1	1	1	7	33	20
St. Marylebone	1	1	4	6	2	2	2	6	10	10	1	1	22	30	44
Hampstead	1	1	4	6	2	2	2	6	2	2	1	1	6	11	4
North St. Pancras	7	3	4	14	18	3	21	39	1	1	1	1	3	37	12
South St. Pancras	9	10	22	41	31	11	42	84	1	1	1	1	3	86	20
Islington	8	4	4	16	16	10	57	83	1	1	1	1	2	75	50
Hackney Union	1	1	1	3	8	8	8	24	2	2	1	1	6	21	4
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	2	3	7	12	6	6	6	18	3	3	1	1	8	28	1
Strand	1	3	11	15	11	7	18	36	3	2	1	1	7	42	68
Holborn	5	1	22	28	2	7	87	96	13	2	1	1	17	132	19
City	1	1	8	10	4	4	7	15	7	6	1	1	15	21	17
Shoreditch	3	4	8	15	11	10	31	52	3	2	1	1	7	59	7
Bethnal Green	6	2	9	17	2	1	3	6	14	1	1	1	16	35	15
Whitechapel	4	4	15	23	1	7	8	16	1	1	1	1	4	35	31
St. George's-in-the-East	6	12	18	36	3	3	5	11	3	3	1	1	8	47	17
Stepney	9	2	5	16	5	5	10	20	1	2	1	1	5	31	37
Mile End Old Town	2	3	18	23	11	3	15	29	1	1	1	1	4	39	16
Poplar	1	3	9	13	1	5	11	17	1	1	1	1	4	38	25
St. Saviour's	7	9	23	39	3	6	9	18	1	4	1	1	6	57	14
Newington	1	2	7	10	2	4	2	8	1	1	1	1	4	19	3
St. Olave's	1	4	5	10	2	4	2	8	1	1	1	1	4	26	10
Lambeth	3	3	4	10	6	5	11	22	6	1	1	1	8	29	5
Brixton	1	2	3	6	4	4	4	12	1	1	1	1	4	11	1
Wandsworth and Putney	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	6	5
Battersea	1	4	12	17	2	11	1	14	11	1	1	1	14	26	8
Clapham	1	1	2	4	3	3	4	10	2	2	1	1	6	13	4
Camden Town	1	1	2	4	3	3	4	10	2	2	1	1	6	13	4
Grove Lane	1	7	7	15	12	5	17	34	2	1	1	1	5	37	1
Beckham	1	3	4	8	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	5	4
Greenwich	2	2	4	8	7	11	6	24	1	1	1	1	4	30	13
Deptford	3	2	5	10	2	4	6	12	2	1	1	1	5	19	6
Woolwich	5	1	8	14	4	16	23	43	5	8	1	1	17	61	16
Lewisham	3	1	3	7	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	13	1
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	9	2
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	9	2
Totals	144	103	337	584	35	338	170	543	253	83	34	69	392	1519	648

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

WANDSWORTH AND PUTNEY.—*District Visiting*.—On the 27th ult., at a meeting of Visitors recently held in this district, a Referee and Secretary was chosen to communicate with the District Visitors and the Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. It was also agreed that the office of the Committee should be used for the meetings of the Visitors, and that the Referee and Secretary should be present there one day in each week to meet the Visitors and hand on cases to the Committee.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of November 1876 was 37,415, and 44,265 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,680. This was an increase of 1,118 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 2,776, 11,102, and 20,932 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 629. This was a decrease of 52 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 127 on the corresponding day of last year.

PROVINCIAL.

BRIGHTON.—*The Annual Meeting.*—*Vagrancy.*—The fifth annual meeting of the Charity Organisation Society for Brighton, Hove, and Preston was held at Brighton on the 27th of November. The Mayor, Charles Lamb, Esq., was in the chair. Dr. Hamilton and others addressed the meeting. According to the Report, 266 cases were 'Dismissed or unfavourably reported,' 54 'Recommended,' and 206 'Assisted.' Of these last we regret to find only one case under the head of 'Assisted by Loan.' The Report shows an increase of vagrancy similar to that recorded in the West Sussex Mendicity Society's Annual Report (vide *Reporter* No. 194, p. 155). It says:—'In the Report of last year a great decrease was observed in returns of vagrancy, both at the Society's office and also at the Brighton Workhouse. This year a very considerable increase is observable: an increase of 1,099 relieved at the office and 1,616 at the workhouse. At the same time it must be borne in mind that vagrancy has increased over a great part of England. Depression in trade and other causes may partially account for this, but the ebb and flow of the tide with these unfortunates will be often difficult to account for, until Boards of Guardians are either persuaded or forced to adopt some uniform system in the treatment of this impracticable class.' In speaking on this subject the Rev. R. P. Hooper said that 'the increase of vagrancy had been confined to certain districts, and, in his opinion, to those districts where Poor Law administration is more lax than in others.' In the Steyning Union, where a stone-breaking machine had been introduced, the number of vagrants had decreased. 'It stopped the visits of many there. They knocked at the gate of the house and asked the porter if the machine was at work. If the reply was "Yes," they said, "We will go on to the nearest place," which was fourteen or fifteen miles distant; but these miles they would rather walk, on a winter night even, than do a few hours' stone-breaking in return for their dinner.'

MEDICAL CHARITIES.

PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.—We have received from the St. Giles's Committee copies of a tabular statement of the provident dispensaries of the metropolis, containing evidence on the following points:—The number of years each dispensary has been in existence; their origin; the competition against which they have to contend; the number of their members; their income; the number and position of the medical staff; the medical payments; number of attendances; and amount of subscription payable by members monthly.

It appears that the oldest provident dispensary is that at 104 Star Street, Paddington, founded thirty-nine years ago; the largest is that in Ordnance Road, St. John's Wood, which has 9,649 members. The Camberwell Dispensary, with 7,896 members, has the largest income, viz. £1,430. 18s. 8d. The number of the medical staff varies from three to eleven, and in all but one case the remuneration appears to be considered adequate. The subscription for adults varies from 4d. and 6d. to 8d., and for families from 6d. to 1s. 4d. and 2s.

Out of the fourteen provident dispensaries at present existing in London, six have been converted from charitable to provident dispensaries. In nine instances there appears to be no competition. In three instances the opposition to the dispensaries appears to have been slight, or to be now subsiding. In two instances there is still considerable competition. The following are the totals:—Members, 37,111; income from members in the course of the year, £3,686. 0s. 11d.; total income, £6,712. 0s. 11½d.; medical staff, 81; medical payments, £3,998. 8s. 11d. Attendances—At the House, 28,892; at the Dispensary, 110,125. In no case is it reported that the number of members is falling off. The Dispensaries are, with one exception, well supported by the poorer classes; but in most instances their benefits are confined to persons not in receipt of more than 30s. a week.

DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.

The *Local Government Chronicle*, in an article on the Metropolitan Board of Works, says:—'Under the Artisans' Dwellings Act twenty-two localities were proposed to be dealt with, but a committee has reduced the number by half; and for these detailed schemes are to be prepared at once, and submitted for confirmation to the Secretary of State. They will be at Bedfordbury, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; at Great Wild Street, Drury Lane and Princes Street; at Pear Tree Court, Clerkenwell Close; at Whitecross Street; at High Street, Islington; at Elizabeth Place, Waterloo Road; at King Street, and at Mint Street, St. George's—two desperately ill-conditioned localities; at Old Pye Street, Westminster; at Goulston Street, Whitechapel; and at Flower-and-Dean Street, in the same parish. The unlucky Holborn District scheme, so summarily rejected last year by the Secretary of State, seems to be silently dropped. The aggregate cost is estimated at somewhat under a million, of which half is expected to be returned. These improvements, it is said, will displace 14,314 persons.'

THE AFFLICTED POOR.

THE BLIND.—A Correspondent writes:—'If A. B. was born in a city parish, or is a member of any city company, there are Blind Charities open to him. There are also Blind Pension Charities, such as "Day's Blind Charity," to which application might be made. Failing these there is only the Poor Law that I know of.'

BETHNAL GREEN.—On Tuesday, at the meeting of the Guardians, the Rev. E. F. Coke, in pursuance of notice, called the attention of the Guardians to the increase in the expense for the maintenance of lunatics chargeable to the parish, amounting to £3,000 in one year; and, after some discussion, it was resolved that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report.—*Metropolitan*, Dec. 2, 1876.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES.—IV.

AN AGENT OF CHARITY.—What we most desiderate in an agent of charity is to have one with the taste and the inclinations of a thorough localist—one who rejoices in a home-walk, and would like better that it should be pervaded thoroughly, than that he should scatter his regards among the thousand objects of a wide and distant philanthropy. I would rather that he restrained his ambition for what is great, so as that he might give himself wholly to the little which he can fully overtake. It is not to the magnificent survey of him whose eyes, like those of Solomon's fool, are on all the ends of the earth, that I would look for any solid contribution to the amelioration of our species, but to the humble painstaking of many single labourers, each giving himself dutifully and devotedly to his own manageable sphere, and satisfied that he has not lived in vain, if he have raised the tone of character or added to the comfort by rectifying and improving the habits of fifty families. The result universal is made up of many items, and can only be arrived at by a summation of particulars. For the book of philanthropy, like that of philosophy, is a book of many pages; and it is not to universalists that we look for the completion of either, but to the manifold assiduities of those who, whether by patient study on the one field or persevering action on the other, each fill up a single leaf or a single line of them.—*On the Sufficiency of the Parochial System*, by Dr. Chalmers.

DIMINUTION IN PAUPERISM.—The return for the quarter ending September 29, 1876, shows that the number of paupers in receipt of relief from the rates in England and Wales (*minus* about 3 per cent. for lunatic paupers in asylums and vagrants not included in these returns) was 647,710 at Michaelmas last. This is less than the number at Midsummer by 10,135, or 1·5 per cent. It is also less than the number at Michaelmas 1875 by 27,303, or 4 per cent., and less than at Michaelmas 1874 by 73,828, or 10·2 per cent. The comparison of Michaelmas 1876 with Michaelmas 1875 shows a decrease of 4·9 per cent. in the metropolis, 6·4 per cent. in the South-eastern division, 4·9 in the South-western, 6·3 in the South Midland, 7·7 in the Eastern, but only 1·5 in the West Midland and 2·7 in the Welsh division. In the North Midland division (Notts, Derby, &c.) the decrease is as much as 5·2 per cent., but farther north a much smaller improvement is shown. In the North-western division (Lancashire and Cheshire) the number of paupers is less by 2·3 per cent. than at the same period last year; but in Yorkshire the decrease is only 0·4 per cent., and in the Northern division 0·7 per cent. No division, however, shows any increase of pauperism.

ERRATUM.—*District Visiting Societies.*—Sir Charles Trevelyan writes that twenty Parochial Councils have not been formed in the St. George's, Hanover Square, Union, but that, in six of the twenty-two ecclesiastical parishes in the Union, the District Visitors have been formed into local Committees, under the name of Parochial Councils, acting under rules framed on the principles of our Society, and that in some of the remaining parishes, although no formal change has been made, the spirit of these rules is understood and more or less acted upon.—Vide *Reporter*, No. 194, p. 166.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

173

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 198.

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Dec. 14	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 18	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, " 19	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday, " 20	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday, " 21	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, Dec. 18:—
To consider a report on the arrangement with the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street. (*Vide Reporter*, No. 178, p. 91.)

Information respecting the cases of Charles Wilkinson and John White can be obtained from the Central Office. Application has been made by them to the Brighton Charity Organisation Society; and John White has also applied to the Addington Committee.

NORTH ST. PANCRAS.—Mr. A. N. Butt has been elected Hon. Secretary of this Committee in the place of Mr. C. J. Samuda, resigned.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—The Hon. Secretary writes that the Committee has the following Hospital Letters, which are not available after the 31st of this month, viz.: 1 In-patient Brompton Letter; 3 In-patient Letters for the Queen Charlotte's Hospital; 2 Seaford Convalescent Letters; and 1 Provident Surgical Aid Ticket. For other letters, *vide Reporter*, No. 197, p. 169.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KINGSTON:—J. Whitcombe, Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe.
FULHAM:—O. J. Stevens.
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. Macdonald Stephenson, Major Yard.
CHelsea:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel, B. A. Aspinall, W. S. Seton-Karr.
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Lieut.-Col. Sandford, Major Prendergast, Hon. E. C. Moreton, Major FitzRoy.
WESTMINSTER:—W. Bevan, H. Peto.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill.
HAMPSTEAD:—O. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F. Mallet.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS:—Lady Wilson.
BELINGTON:—F. Burdett-Roberts.
HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
ST. GILES:—H. M. Keary.
STERNAL GREEN:—Rev. J. D. McGeehan, J. Sapsford.
WHITECHAPEL:—O. L. Corkran.
ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST:—Major Nares, Russell Barrington.

STEPNEY:—R. Peters.
MILN END:—Hon. H. R. Scott, Rev. W. H. Langhorne.
POPLAR:—R. Ellis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond, W. F. Smith, F. Montgomerie.
NEWINGTON:—F. D. F. Thornton.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson, Sir T. Graham Briggs.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
CLAPHAM:—George P. Bidder, Jun.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
DEPTFORD:—H. J. Cornish.
LEWISHAM:—G. Parker, A. Annesley, R. V. Tidman.
ELTHAM:—Capt. Gardner.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., C. A. Miner.
TOTAL:—49.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.
VISITOR:—Mrs. Dodd.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE had met on Thursday last. There had been present—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major Prendergast, Major Yard, Capt. Fortescue, Lady Wilson, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Hoare, Miner, and Peters.

FINANCE.—The Committee reported that during the week ending December 2 the receipts had been £27. 7s. for the General Fund, and £60 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £40. 2s. 5d. and £223. 12s. 4d. respectively, £207. 6s. 4d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—They had made grants of £10 to the South St. Pancras Committee, and £10 to the Stepney Committee.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.—It appeared from the Report of the Committee that they had decided that, whenever necessary, District Committees should send in monthly accounts and receive monthly instalments for expenses incurred in assisting School Board cases.

QUARTERLY FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Finance Sub-Committee had held their usual quarterly meeting. It appeared from their Report that in the quarter ending September 30 there had been, in the receipts in the General Fund, an increase of £440 as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year. The receipts in the District Committee Aid Fund had been £978. Of this, £100 was an anonymous donation disbursed to District Committees for convalescent cases. District Committees had contributed £363. The expenditure in the three first quarters of the year had been £1,751. 10s. as compared with £1,360 in the corresponding period of 1875. The Committee add that 'they cannot but congratulate the Council that the increasing expenditure thus shown is in the direction most desired by the Society, viz. the increase of efficient work in the Districts.'

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on Tuesday, the 5th inst., had been present—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Mr. Bousfield, and Mr. H. Long, Visitor.

THE CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At this Sub-Committee had been present—

Mr. A. H. Hill, subsequently Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the Chair; Sir C. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, J. R. Hollond, Esq.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.—The Sub-Committee had passed the following resolution, and sent up the subjoined interim statement on the subject of Out-door Relief—

Resolved,—That the information already obtained in regard to the three Metropolitan Poor Law Districts, in which the reduction of out-door relief has been carried to the greatest extent, be submitted to the Administrative Committee with the suggestion that it be published in the *Reporter*, in the hope that it will elicit further information on this interesting and important subject.

In their last annual report the Local Government Board observe as follows upon the administration of out-door relief in London:—

'The careful personal consideration recently given by the members of many of the Boards of Guardians in the Metropolitan District to the disposal of applications for relief has resulted in the sounder administration which was recommended in the report of our late inspector, Mr. Longley, and has been followed, in several instances, by so remarkable a diminution in the number of paupers in receipt of out-door relief, coupled with so striking a reduction in the total number of paupers relieved, as to call for special notice.'

Our attention has been particularly drawn to the cases of the Stepney and Whitechapel Unions, and of the parish of St. George-in-the-East.

In the Stepney Union the number of out-door paupers has fallen from 4,347 in the second week of April 1868 to 224 in the same week of 1876, being a decrease at the rate of 94 per cent.; and in the Whitechapel Union at the same dates from 3,000 to 150, being a decrease at the rate of 95 per cent. This result has been attained simultaneously with a reduction in the number of in-door poor.

In the parish of St. George-in-the-East the numbers in receipt of out-door relief have declined from 4,272 in the second week of April 1870 to 197 in the same week of 1876, being a decrease at the rate of 95 per cent. The pecuniary result is also very favourable, and deserves the careful attention of the Guardians of unions and parishes, in which a more indiscriminate distribution of out-door relief continues. That result shows a saving of £60. 11s. 11d. in the second week of March 1876, as compared with the corresponding week of 1875, being at the rate of £3,150. 19s. 8d. a year, and refutes the assertion that it is practically more economical to give out-door relief than to offer relief in the workhouse.

In these three Poor Law Districts the Guardians co-operate with the Charity Organisation Society, and all new applications for relief, if apparently suitable for pensions, are referred to the District Committee of the Society, either by the Relieving Officer or by the Board, the result up to the present time having been as follows: In Stepney only one case has been considered deserving of a pension. In Whitechapel only three or four aged people or couples, generally weavers, whose trade has declined by no fault of their own, have seemed to merit charitable allowances; such cases, the Rev. S. A. Barnett, Guardian of Whitechapel, remarks, 'will gradually decrease, if the supply is not kept up by unwise gifts.'

In St. George-in-the-East not more than six cases were suitable for pension, and no case considered suitable is without one. About a dozen more cases are having permanent or intermittent assistance from private persons through the District Committee, because they are supposed to have been struck off the relief list without sufficient reason, after having received it for twelve months at least. Mr. Crowder, Guardian of St. George-in-the-East, remarks that the action of the Guardians has evoked a great deal of private charity from persons having no connection with the Charity Organisation Society, on many of whom the recipients have a legitimate claim. It has also greatly drawn out family affection in all kinds of ways.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee had been present—

Mr. Aspinall, in the Chair; Capt. Gardner, Major FitzRoy.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—This Sub-Committee had held two meetings.

Wednesday, December 6, 1876.—Present: Major Yard (in the Chair); Sir R. M. Stephenson, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Major Prendergast, A. H. Hill. —Saturday, December 9, 1876.—Present: Major Yard (in the Chair); Messrs. Hill and Miner.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Secretary read a report of the Administrative Committee on the proposed Bye-law 23—

Members of the Administrative Committee shall be eligible for re-election. Members of Council shall be at liberty to attend the meetings of the Administrative Committee as Visitors. The Committee shall have power to fill up vacancies and report the same for confirmation at the next meeting of Council.

The Committee recommended that, in consideration of the opposition to the proposed change manifested at the last meeting of Council, they should be allowed to withdraw the bye-law.

They further recommended that the proposed alterations in the Bye-laws 21, 22, and 29 should be withdrawn, viz.:—

21. The Administrative Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Treasurer, and twenty-five members of Council, who shall be elected annually, at the seventh meeting after the general annual meeting of the Society, by the members of Council entitled to vote.

22. The names of all those willing to serve shall be submitted to Council by the Secretary at the fifth meeting after the general annual meeting of the Society. The election shall be by ballot.

29. Add the words 'and Sub-Committees of the Administrative Committee.'

Major FitzRoy moved, and Sir Charles Trevelyan seconded, the motion for withdrawal of the proposed Bye-laws, urging that, while it was most necessary to have a larger and more regular attendance at the Administrative Committee, no change would be welcome to the Committee that was not cordially adopted by the Council.

Mr. J. Whitcombe regretted that the Administrative Committee had, without informing him, so suddenly recommended the withdrawal of the proposed Bye-laws. He would be glad to have the opinion of Council on the question, whether members of Council should be at liberty to vote at the meetings of the Administrative

Committee. After a few words from the Chairman and Dr. Daniel, Miss O. Hill said that the Marylebone Committee were in favour of the change suggested by the Committee in the second clause of proposed Bye-law 23, but they thought that in the election of members of the Committee there should be some proportion of representative and additional members, such as was by the 10th Rule of the Society required in the formation of the Council. She did not think there was any strong opposition in the Council to the proposal.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe said that the Kensington Committee were unanimous in their opposition to the change. After a few words from Mr. Burdett-Roberts, Mr. G. P. Bidder, and Rev. J. D. McGachen, the proposed Bye-laws were withdrawn.

The proposed Bye-law 30 was then considered, viz.:—

The Administrative Committee shall appoint, to take charge of special branches of the work of the Society, such Sub-Committees as may from time to time appear to them expedient. Each Sub-Committee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from such of its members as are members of the Administrative Committee. Each Sub-Committee shall, on a recommendation to the Administrative Committee, be empowered to add to its number members of Council or members of any of the District Committees of the Society.

Miss Hill moved its adoption. She earnestly hoped the Bye-law would be carried; it would enable the Administrative Committee to obtain for the work of the Society the services of many most efficient helpers who were now excluded from the Sub-Committees, because they were not members of the Council.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe seconded the motion, and Sir Charles Trevelyan spoke in its favour.

An amendment moved by Mr. Barrington, and seconded by Rev. W. H. Langhorne, that in the second clause of the proposed Bye-law the word 'Council' should be substituted for 'Administrative Committee' having been lost, the Bye-law was carried *nem. con.*

THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

An interim report of the Finance and Collection Sub-Committee was then read, and discussed at some length by Mr. C. L. Corkran, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, Mr. Seton-Karr, Mr. C. A. Miner, Mr. Aspinall, and others. The Secretary pointed out that so large a Society, dealing with so many important social questions, must look forward to obtaining its most permanent support from the great mass of the people. He urged that the District Committees should, in the course of the winter, arrange small public meetings, at which addresses should be given, or papers read on subjects connected with the work of the Society, and every opportunity should be given for hearing, discussing, and answering objections to the Society.

IMPROVEMENT OF MEETINGS OF COUNCIL.

The following recommendations were carried, on the motion of Mr. Russell Barrington, seconded by Rev. W. H. Langhorne:—

That the following words be added to Bye-law 8, viz.:—'Questions may be asked at one meeting of Council and discussed at the next, due notice being given in the *Reporter* in the interval.'

That the following Bye-law be adopted:—'The Administrative Committee shall arrange that at 4 p.m. on the second Monday in each month, during the sittings of Council, a short practical paper be read on some subject connected with the work of the Society. The Administrative Committee may on these occasions invite a Vice-President of the Society, or any gentleman of special experience, to take the chair during the discussion.'

A third recommendation—

That the following words be added to Bye-law 9, viz.:—'Speeches, with the exception of those of the mover and seconder of a motion, shall be limited to ten minutes.'

was moved from the Chair, but was withdrawn after a short discussion, in which Mr. H. Peto, Mr. C. A. Miner, and others joined.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, December 9, 1876:—*Donations*: Col. Ainslie, £1; Anonymous, £5; Mrs. Austen, £5; F. Braby, Esq., £5; Rev. H. G. J. Clements, £2; The Earl of Eldon, £20; Hon. H. S. Law, £2; R. W. Melvil, Esq., £10; Lord A. Russell, M.P., £2. 2s.; J. L. Walker, Esq., £10; Miss Whiteley, £5; Rev. T. Woodruff, £1. 1s.—*Annual*: Hon. W. Ashley (1877), £1; Miss E. O. Ward, £1.

PROVINCIAL.

SOUTHAMPTON.—*Annual Meeting.*—**PROGRESS OF CHARITY ORGANISATION AT SOUTHAMPTON AND WINCHESTER.**—The annual meeting of the

Southampton Charity Organisation Society was held at the Hartley Institution, Southampton, on the 29th ult. Mr. A. R. Naghten, M.P., was in the chair. The report having been adopted,

Mr. C. J. Ribton-Turner was invited to address the meeting, and said the subject of charity organisation was a very vast one, and the difficulty was to curtail any remarks as to the possibility of raising the condition of the poor by such a movement as that they were initiating. We had in this country, roughly speaking, some four millions of people in a dependent or a nearly dependent condition—that was to say, one-sixth of the population. He was speaking only of England and Wales, not of Scotland or Ireland; and this proportion of the people were dependent on the rest of the population for their support. The question was, could that be a good thing?

The report showed that the sum of £26,455 had been expended on the poor, and capitalising that sum, or making a large reduction from it, showed half a million of money which, he might say, was really wasted. He meant wasted in the sense that it was non-productive; if it was thrown into the mud it would be non-productive, and would be doing no mischief, but where it was not only non-productive, but was in many cases doing mischief, it was a positive evil in itself. Consider the benefit to Southampton if that half a million of money was applied in a productive way. In dealing with the question of charity organisation they had of course a large number of difficulties to contend with, and he by no means professed that they in London had solved them all; indeed, they were only upon the very threshold of them. It was all very well to talk about making a man sober, but that would never be done while the homes of men were in their present condition; and while no improvement was made in this respect these men would go to the gin-palace, where they could get light, air, and companionship.

Charity organisation meant the raising of the condition of the poor by bringing into one focus all that energy which, impaired by a thoughtless distribution of money, could not now work with success.

One of the first things they had to deal with was this. They went into a neighbourhood and found a benevolent clergyman. He need hardly say he believed in the good work the clergy were doing, and therefore he did not wish to throw any disparagement upon them in what he said. Well, this clergyman would say he knew everyone in his district, that the Society, being strangers, could not assist him in any way whatever, and that he could deal with the poor more efficiently than any outside agency. He (the speaker) ventured to ask of anyone present how much he knew of the character of his poorer neighbours? There was nothing more complicated in this universe than the human character. They went into a house and put their hands in their pockets to help the person there, but in doing that were they quite sure they were not assisting the head of the family to go to the public-house, as he had too often done before, and paying him a premium to beat his wife, to put his children in rags, and to neglect his own duties towards his family altogether? If they did not inquire into the objects of their charity they might be doing all this. What was needed was to find out how it was that that family had slid down in the social scale, to find out how the man had gone wrong, and to prevent him, if possible, going wrong again.

He would by no means assert that because they found matters wrong they were not to give assistance, because if they resolved to help none but deserving cases they would give no help at all. There was some preventable cause for every case that comes up for charity, which, if taken in time, would prevent the recipients of it descending into pauperism, and a most thoroughgoing investigation of that would enable them to deal with all the cases efficiently.

Charity organisation could only be carried out by co-operation on the part of different charities and the giving up of individual idiosyncrasies. The thing, too, could not be undertaken in a revolutionary spirit, but it was obvious to everyone reading the report of the Charity Organisation Society by the light of what had been done at Stepney and Hatcham, that a great deal was wanting to be done here which could only be done by co-operation. That one-sixth of our population should be dependent upon the rest could not be a good thing; that such an enormous amount of capital should be spent in doing, not good, but positive harm, could not be an advantage. They wanted to raise the moral tone of the people while there was yet time; they wanted to keep in the path of progress, but unless they got together the requisite human materials for the work—for human interest in it was wanting more than pounds, shillings, and pence—they would not do it. It was by taking an intelligent interest in the welfare of the poor, and trying to learn the causes which led to pauperism and endeavouring to remove them, that they hoped to succeed.

Mr. F. Morhead, late Mayor of Winchester, said: They found Winchester thoroughly eaten out with pauperism and endowed charities of different kinds. Putting aside the County Hospital, which was an unmixed good to everybody; putting aside Poor Law relief, which had been diminishing yearly; putting aside various endowed charities, lying-in societies, and innumerable others bestowed by the parish clergymen, they found there a sum of £3,000 a year bestowed in charity, distributed by trustees acting independently of each other, the result being: just that

which might naturally be expected, that the judicious beggar realised from them a comfortable income without any exertion whatever. He related as one instance the case of a pauper who was found to have accumulated £40 in the bank; and referring to the system which prevailed in regard to coal-tickets, created some laughter by speaking of those documents as being in many cases negotiable securities to be realised at the nearest public-house.

In Winchester they started with three distinct objects—first, to co-operate with the different charities in keeping a kind of register to prevent that overlapping spoken of in the Report before them; second, to do all they could to promote providence among the lower classes; and third, as far as they possibly could to assist those cases which would seem likely to be permanently benefited by such assistance. In regard to the first object, they had been partially successful only, for of the charities who were applied to to register with the Society the majority had declined. Some people said they did not believe in such a society at all, and that it was too hard-hearted, while others had looked upon the gifts as a patronage of their own, and he had heard of charity tickets being given to tenants and dealt with in the rent account afterwards.

In referring to the preliminary action of the Society, he pointed out that the patronage of the Town Council in regard to coals was now vested in it, and said that in the ward he lately represented some of the people said that whereas they used to have coal-tickets they have none now, and would not elect him again, and they did not elect him; but if that was the ground on which he lost his seat he was glad, because it proved that the Charity Organisation Society was doing some good. The Society had formed a provident coal club, which now numbered upwards of 400 subscribers, and had in other ways endeavoured to promote provident habits during the summer months, in view of a lack of work in the winter. They had also established a penny savings bank, and had induced various schools to co-operate with them; and in order to meet the abuse they found prevailing in regard to hospital tickets, they had formed a provident dispensary, which was working extremely well.

The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. W. Wynyard, Dr. Maclean, C.B., and others.

BRIGHTON.—*Loans.**—We have received the following letter from the Brighton Charity Organisation Society:—

'In your notice of our Annual Report you regret to find only one case under the head of "Assisted by Loan"; and that, I may add, is an exceptional case (a few shillings wanted immediately for railway expenses). As a general rule, the Society does not lend, because that kind of assistance is rendered most efficiently by an admirable institution, the Benevolent Loan Fund, among the managers of which are some of our principal members, as Dr. Hannah, our Chairman, and Mr. Hayes, our Treasurer. When loans are asked for or deemed advisable, the parties, after due inquiry, are referred to the Fund.'

DISTRICT VISITING SOCIETIES.†

SCHEME FOR A RELIEF COMMITTEE FOR ST. PAUL'S, PADDINGTON.—At a meeting held on Tuesday, 5th December last, the following scheme was submitted and approved:—1. Applications for parochial relief may be made to the Parochial Relief Committee—

(a) By the District Visitor, who must fill up a printed form‡ giving particulars of the case, and forward it to the Relief Committee at the Mission Room, where District Visitors may obtain forms.

(b) By applicants for relief personally at the Mission Room daily, between 9.30 and 10.30 A.M., to the Mission Woman, who will be in attendance and must fill up the same form and lodge it at the Mission Room.

(c) By the Clergy or any other member of the Relief Committee, or other person interested in applicant, who must fill up the same form and lodge it at the Mission Room.

2. On a second or subsequent application for or by the same person, only such information as will correct and supplement previous information and bring the history of the case to correct date need be supplied.

3. Unless application be made by District Visitors, a copy of the printed form as filled up will at once be sent by the Mission Woman to the District Visitor, who is requested to enter on the back any remarks she may have to make respecting the case, and to forward the same to the Relief Committee by 10 A.M.

4. The Committee may refer all such cases as they see fit to the Charity Organisation Society for investigation.

5. In order to prevent the overlapping of relief, the Committee will place themselves in communication with the Board of Guardians, with a view to obtaining from them a statement of all persons in St. Paul's parish in the receipt of relief from the Guardians, and will also, if possible,

* See Reporter, No. 197, p. 172.

† See Reporter, Nos. 194, 196, 197, pp. 168, 169, 167, 172.

‡ The particulars will consist of name and address, time of residence, and rent of applicant; man's and woman's health; occupation and earnings; ages and earnings of children; club or benefit society or provident dispensary; amount of relief from parish or other sources; relations able to help; total means of subsistence; what assistance asked for.

obtain from them and from the Charity Organisation Society a weekly statement of any new cases in which relief may have been granted during the previous week.*

6. The Committee shall consist of the Vicar, Chairman; the Curate, Vice-chairman; and the Churchwardens, all *ex officio*, and of (say) four or five ordinary working members, one to be Lady Secretary, another Hon. Secretary. The ordinary members will, in the first instance, be selected by the Vicar, but where any vacancy is caused by the death or retirement of any ordinary member, every such vacancy shall be filled by a person chosen by the Committee.

7. The Committee will meet twice weekly, on Monday and Thursday, at the Mission Room. Three to be a quorum; Mission Woman to be in attendance. Any District Visitor may attend and be heard on any case of her own. Applicants for relief may be required to attend. All applications, together with reports of District Visitors thereon, shall be brought up and considered. The Committee will decide in private.

8. The relief granted will be as follows:—(a) Money. (b) Orders on tradesmen for meat, coal, grocery, bread, flannel. (c) Orders for dinner on Parochial Invalids' Kitchen or medical comforts, but under this head on medical certificate only.† (d) Hospital letters. (e) Orders on Needlewoman's Institute. All applicants for loans will be referred to the Charity Organisation Society.

N.B.—It is in contemplation hereafter, if the Committee should have sufficient means at their disposal, that a system of granting pensions or weekly allowances (possibly, in some cases, in co-operation with the Guardians) to deserving poor persons whose infirmities alone prevent their earning a livelihood should be added to this scheme. It would remain for the Committee hereafter to decide upon the limits of age, time of residence, and other conditions which should be required as qualifications for such pensions, and also upon the amount of such pensions.

9. After the Committee meeting the decision of every case will be communicated at once to the District Visitors (if any), either in person or by letter from the Lady Secretary. If the District Visitor be present the relief will be handed to her at once, otherwise it will be obtainable by her, at the Mission Room, from the Mission Woman; but if not applied for by 12 noon on the following day it will be taken to the applicant by the Mission Woman, unless (in cases where relief in money has been granted) an intimation be in the meantime received by the Mission Woman that the District Visitors are attending to the case. Where a weekly allowance has been granted, the District Visitor (if any) will receive for the benefit of the applicant payment in one sum of as many weekly payments as the Committee shall direct.

10. Where there is no District Visitor the Committee will send the relief direct to the applicant; and in order to meet urgent cases the Committee may, if they see fit in any case, send the relief direct to the applicant, but notice thereof will be sent by the Lady Secretary to the District Visitor.

11. It will be incumbent on the District Visitor to ascertain in every case that the relief granted reaches the applicant.

12. In urgent cases immediate relief may be given by the Clergy or other member of the Committee, or, in cases of sickness, by the District Visitor, if they think it would be unwise to withhold relief till the Committee meeting; but such relief must be at once reported to the Hon. Secretary. It is expected that the number of cases thus dealt with will be reduced to a minimum, and that the relief so granted will be no more than sufficient to meet the emergency.

13. In every case where the relief is granted in money the person charged with the duty of carrying the relief to the applicant is to sign a receipt and forward it to the Treasurer, as his voucher for the payment.

14. The accounts will be kept by the Treasurer.

15. Applications will be filed, and a register of cases, recording all information received and relief granted, will be kept by the Hon. Secretary, or other member of the Committee.

16. The Lady Secretary will attend at the Mission Room, after the sittings of the Committee, to meet District Visitors, and discuss cases with them.

17. Provision should, if possible, be made that every house inhabited by the poor should have its District Visitor.

18. The intimate acquaintance of the District Visitors with all details relating to those under their charge is of the highest importance, and District Visitors are urged to keep a private record in which all such details shall be noted. Any District Visitor desiring to assist a family in St. Paul's parish out of private sources is invited to communicate with the Committee on the subject through the Hon. Secretary.

19. In order to ensure the efficient working of this scheme, it is essential that no money should be given to the poor of the parish by individual members of the Committee or District Visitors without the knowledge of the Committee.

* It has already been arranged with the Charity Organisation Society that this information should be supplied to the Committee.

† Forms of medical certificates may be obtained at Mission Room, and when filled up are to be lodged there for the Relief Committee.

NOTES.

We have received the following further explanatory notes on the above scheme:—The normal form of relief contemplated is through the District Visitors. These provisions are to meet the case of the District Visitors' absence, and of the rural sections of the parish which have no District Visitors.

The question of investigation is difficult and most important. On the one hand an authentic and accurate knowledge of the applicant's character and position is of primary importance, and must be secured. On the other hand, detailed official inquiry, which it must be admitted does in some cases wound the self-respect even of those who have no cause to shrink from inquiry, should be dispensed with, if full, necessary, and trustworthy information could be otherwise obtained. The parish for which this scheme was prepared is a compact one, and many of the cases in it are fairly well known. It is thought that in this case no definite rule for the investigation of all cases need be provided, it being left to the discretion of the Committee to send for investigation by the Charity Organisation Society all cases in which the information is not satisfactory to the Committee.

The proposed Hon. Secretary is a member of the Local Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. It would be desirable (if possible) that some member of the Board of Guardians should be on the Relief Committee.

If working members can be secured, it is thought that a Committee few in number would be desirable.

Relief by orders on tradesmen is continued from the old system, not because those who are putting forward this scheme have decided that it is a good form of relief, but in order to prevent the complication of the change to the new system of administering relief by a simultaneous change in the nature of the relief given.

The reasons for the establishment of a Committee of Parochial Relief in accordance with this scheme are as follows:—1. To produce uniformity of relief throughout the parish. 2. To secure by proper investigation that recipients are deserving, and thereby to prevent the funds which should be reserved for the deserving and industrious, from being bestowed inadvertently on the undeserving and idle. 3. To secure, by acquaintance with the circumstances and means of applicants, that the relief is adapted to their wants and that they are proper objects for relief.

4. To stop the systematic mendicancy and degradation of the poor that arises from many agencies being engaged in distributing relief independently of each other, and without the knowledge of the relief given by each other; and generally to encourage self-reliance and self-respect by withdrawing the perpetual expectation of small doles. 5. To make it possible, from the reduction effected in small doles, that more substantial help should be given to the deserving poor in temporary difficulty. 6. To encourage the duty of well-to-do children to help their aged parents. 7. To give prominence to the importance of making a thrifty provision for the future by means of Benefit Societies or Provident Dispensaries.

8. To establish proper relations between the poor on the one hand and the Clergy and District Visitors on the other, that these may henceforward be regarded as being in their respective spheres the friends and counsellors, and not the almsgivers, of the poor.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of November 1876 was 37,637, and 44,610 received outdoor relief, making a total of 82,247. This was an increase of 567 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 2,535, 11,468, and 21,012 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 684. This was an increase of 55 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 156 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 199.

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 21, 1876.

PRICE 1d.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Dec. 21	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Thursday, " 28	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday, " 3	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday, " 4	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 8	3 P.M., Council.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, January 8:—

Mr. Alsager Hay Hill to move:

'That early steps be taken to make the principles and work of this Society more effectually known to the industrial classes.'

The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, January 8.

The Central Office will be closed at 2 P.M. on the 23rd instant, and will be re-opened at 10 A.M. on the 27th instant.

The next number of the *Reporter* will be published on Thursday, January 11.

On Monday, January 15, at 4 P.M., a short paper will be read on a subject of interest to persons engaged in work among the poor. Of this meeting special notice will be given.

It is recommended that District Committees should be careful to forward to the proper offices inquiries which may not happen to be in their district; and that on inquiring of a District Committee for further information respecting a case previously reported, they should mention both the name and the number.

The following is taken from a letter recently received:—

'On the coast of Wales I have built, in addition to a farm-house, two rooms on the ground-floor, three above, besides bath-room, kitchen, servants' room, &c. I always keep a servant there, and it is thoroughly furnished, including plate and linen. I built it chiefly to lend—and to lend to overworked, deserving clergymen at the East End. I have plenty of applications for the summer, but none for the winter; if you know of anyone who would like to go for a month or so, I shall be glad to hear—either Church or Dissenter—but, of course, someone who would take care of the furniture &c. The climate in winter is stormy, but mild and remarkably healthy.'

Information respecting the cases of Charles Wilkinson, John White, and James White can be obtained at the Central Office. Application has been made by the two former to the

Brighton Charity Organisation Society; and James (not John) White (as stated in our last number) has applied to the Paddington Committee.

WHITECHAPEL.—The Rev. Arthur Wedgwood has been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Whitechapel Committee in the place of the Rev. S. A. Barnett, resigned.

FULHAM.—The Rev. Herbert Wilson has been elected representative of this Committee, *vice* Rev. A. Scott, resigned.

WANDSWORTH.—Miss Harriet Gurney has been elected representative of this Committee in the place of Mr. R. M. Hensley.

BRITTON.—Mr. Alexander McArthur, M.P., has accepted the office of President of the Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGH (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—F. J. S. Edgecombe, Dr. Anderson.
FULHAM:—C. J. Stevens.
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. Macdonald Stephenson.
CHICHESTER:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel, W. S. Seton-Karr.
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Major Prendergast.
WESTMINSTER:—W. Bevan, W. Bousfield.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill.
HAMPSTEAD:—Rev. H. F. Mallet, C. E. Maurice.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS:—Miss M. Collett.
STRAND:—Rev. B. J. Simpson, Hamilton Hill.
HOLBORN:—G. B. Baker.
CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins.

BETHNAL GREEN:—J. G. Mainwaring.
ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST:—R. Barrington.
MILE END:—Major D. Nares.
POPLAR:—R. Ellis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—W. F. Smith, Rev. W. A. Richmond.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Sir Graham Briggs, Rev. J. Johnson.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
WANDSWORTH:—Miss Harriet Gurney.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., C. A. Miner.
TOTAL:—33.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.
VISITOR:—R. J. Lee, Esq., M.D.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE had met on Thursday last. There had been present—

Lieut.-General Cavenagh, in the Chair, and subsequently Mr. A. H. Hill; Sir Graham Briggs, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major Nares, Major FitzRoy, Capt. Fortescue, Messrs. Barrington, Edgcombe, Ellis, Hoper, Hoare, Lawrence, Montgomerie, Roberts, and Smith. Messrs. Loch and Ribton-Turner, Secretaries.

FINANCE.—The Committee reported that during the week ending December 9 the receipts had been £70. 3s. for the General Fund, and £10 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £85. 2s. 8d. and £213. 12s. 4d. respectively, £207. 6s. 4d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—They had made grants of £10 to the St. Saviour's and Newington Committees respectively.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on Tuesday, the 12th inst., had been present—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss O. Hill, Miss Howes, Messrs. Barrington and Edgcombe. Visitors, Messrs. Ellis, Young and Lewes.

THE CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At this Sub-Committee had been present—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Mr. A. H. Hill.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee had been present—

Mr. Aspinall, in the Chair; Capt. Gardner, Major FitzRoy, Hon. H. R. Scott, Mr. Edcombe.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee had been present—

Wednesday, December 13, 1876.—Major Yard (in the Chair); Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Prendergast.

BYE-LAWS.

Dr. Daniel gave notice of various amendments to the Bye-laws, which, in accordance with a resolution of Council of 16th February 1874, were referred in the first instance to the Administrative Committee.—**EN.**

The report of the Committee on the arrangement with the Ormond Street Children's Hospital was read and discussed. [We hope to publish the debate in a subsequent number.]

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented the resignation of Mr. T. J. Phillips Jodrell, one of the additional members of Council. He regretted that on account of increasing ill-health Mr. Jodrell was unable to continue his attendance at the meetings of Council. He would always take a very great interest in the work of the Society.

The Secretary was directed to convey to Mr. Jodrell the expression of the thanks of the Council for the services he had rendered to the Society.

The Council then adjourned.

The following contributions were received during the week ending Saturday, December 16, 1876:—*Donations*: Montague Ainslie, Esq., £5. 5s.; Capt. J. S. Black, £5; Lord Blantyre (for 1876 and 1877), £20; E. Bond, Esq., £5; C. S. Cantrell, Esq., 1s.; Lady Carbery, £5; J. Cropper, Esq., £20; Raikes Currie, Esq., £5; Rev. R. Wallace Deane, £1. 10s.; Miss E. Hobhouse, £1. 1s.; Bolton King, Esq., £2; Dean of Lincoln, £5. 5s.; F. McBayne, Esq., 10s.; C. Payne, Esq., £1. 1s.; J. W. H. Schafer, Esq., 5s.; A. H. Simpson, Esq., £5. 5s.; Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., £5; Mrs. T. Turner, £5; A. P. Whately, Esq., £5. 5s.—*Annual*: Montague Ainslie, Esq., £5. 5s.; J. Aitken, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. Marrant, Baker, Esq., £1. 1s.; W. Bevan, Esq., £2. 2s.; Chief Constable East Sussex, £2. 2s.; W. E. Darwin, Esq., £1. 1s.; Messrs. Dickinson & Co., £2. 2s.; Dr. Dobell, £1. 1s.; J. Drew, Esq., £2. 2s.; H. R. Droop, Esq., £3. 3s.; J. Duncan, Esq., £5. 5s.; Mrs. Guest, £1; W. F. Lawrence, Esq., £1; Rev. W. H. Lyall (1877), £1. 1s.; J. Mann, Esq., £1. 1s.; The Duke of Northumberland, £12. 10s.; Mrs. Norman, £1; Dr. Ogle, 10s. 6d.; R. L. E., £1. 1s.; W. Rathbone, Esq., M.P., £2; Lady de Rothschild, £5; Mrs. Senior, £1. 1s.; E. Sidgwick, Esq., £5. 5s.; W. Spottiswoode, Esq., £1. 1s.; J. R. W. Thompson, Esq., 10s. 6d.; J. Savill Vaizey, Esq., £1. 1s.; A. G. Watson, Esq., £5; G. Weston, Esq., £2. 2s.; Messrs. J. B. White & Bros., £1. 1s.; Dean of Winchester, £1. 1s.; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., £1.—*District Committees Aid Fund*: W. F. Lawrence, Esq., £2; The Duke of Northumberland, £12. 10s.; T. Parry Woodcock, Esq., £1.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

EAST END COMMITTEES—At a meeting of the East End Committees held on the 8th inst., according to notice, for the discussion of the following subjects, viz.:—

(1) The formation of a Loan Society for the East End Districts of the Charity Organisation Society, by Mr. R. J. Rignall.

(2) The relief of urgent cases, by the Rev. S. A. Thompson-Yates.

(3) Answers to the attacks made on the Society through the East End press, by Mr. Jno. Jones.

It was resolved—after the first subject had been discussed—That each Committee should be requested to consider the paper read by Mr. R. J. Rignall, and, if necessary, to elect a representative who should attend a meeting for the consideration of the question of the formation of a Loan Society; and that the name of the member elected should be sent to Mr. Peters at the Stepney office, in order that arrangements for a meeting might be made.

With reference to the relief of urgent cases, the majority of the meeting were of opinion that relief ought to be given in exceptionally urgent cases, even where the inquiry may not be absolutely complete.

With reference to the paper read by Mr. Jones, it was resolved that the following suggestions be made to the East End Committees:—

That the proprietors of the various East End newspapers be invited to attend their meetings as visitors.

That a monthly report of the proceedings of the Committees, with specimens of interesting cases, appear weekly in the East End papers.

That a letter should be sent to the papers, inviting those persons who have attacked the Society through the press to meet the Hon. Secretary or members of Committee at their office, to be enlightened as to the working of the Society.

The discussion of a fourth subject on the agenda paper was postponed for want of time.

ST. GEORGES, HANOVER SQUARE.—PAROCHIAL COUNCIL.—The Parochial Council for the parish of St. Peter, in the St. George's (Hanover Square) District, have published a most useful series of instructions to their District Visitors with a view to avoiding or mitigating the outbreak of smallpox.

DISTRICT VISITING SOCIETIES.—We hope in our next number to give a summary of the paper read by Rev. Brooke Lambert, at the meeting of District Visitors and others, and held at the Townshend Buildings, Vincent Square, Westminster, on the 6th instant. An account of the meeting appeared in the *Times* of the 7th instant.

THE STRAND UNION.—The Strand Committee held, on the 8th inst., a meeting of their subscribers, at the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. The Rev. R. J. Simpson took the chair. The annual report having been read and adopted, Mr. F. E. Colenso laid before the meeting a statement of the finance prospects of the Committee for the ensuing year, and Mr. E. W. Garrett explained the circumstances of the embezzlements committed by the Committee's late agent, Lawrence Ryan, showing that they had not been occasioned by any remissness on the part of the gentlemen who were the hon. secretaries at that time. He also stated that a small portion of the sums embezzled had been claimed and recovered from the Guarantee Society, but that the greater part were not recoverable within the terms of the policy. The meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks, and a few words from the Chairman.

PROVINCIAL.

CARNARVONSHIRE.—*A New Mendicity Society.*—The Organising Secretary addressed the following letter to the editor of the *Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald*, on the 2nd instant:—

'I venture to address you on the subject of the advantages of establishing a Mendicity Society for Carnarvonshire, as I fear from your report of what took place at the court of quarter sessions on the 19th October that some misapprehension exists with regard to the matter.

'Many people appear to think that punishing vagrants by sending them to gaol has a strong deterrent influence on them. This, I venture to think, is a mistake. Repressive laws have been enacted against vagrants from the year 1349 down to our own day. The vagrant has been whipped, branded in the hand and on the shoulder; he has had his ears bored with a hot iron; has been transported to her Majesty's plantations; and oftentimes hanged; and, yet, still survives to annoy us. The only utility I can see in imprisoning the vagrant is that it to some extent prevents outsiders from following his example. The vagrant himself does not mind it; he merely regards it very much as others do the drawing of a tooth—a necessary but disagreeable operation. The real secret of putting down the beggar is to get the public to discountenance him; for as he loves sloth and ease, directly these necessities of his existence are cut off he ceases to exist as a beggar, and has to earn his own living instead of subsisting on the earnings of other people. The system I venture to recommend is that a Mendicity Society should be established in the county, the committee of which should be constituted of magistrates and members of boards of guardians; that this society should be supported by voluntary contributions; that it should issue tickets to every householder in the county to be given to vagrants in lieu of money; that these tickets should entitle the bearer to one pound of bread at points arranged as nearly as possible five miles apart from each other throughout the county; and that to prevent an improper use of the orders, each vagrant should be entitled only to one pound of bread at each station, no matter how many tickets he may present. This system would conciliate the public, because it would convince them that no vagrant could starve under it, and, on the other hand it would deter the vagrant from entering the county, as he would feel that all the pleasures of his existence were cut off.

'The result of the adoption of this system in the county of Dorset, where it has been working for six years, has been that crime has been reduced by more than one-half, the indictable offences having fallen from 137 in 1869 to 65 in 1875, and the number of persons apprehended for all classes of offences from 1,220 in 1869 to 581 in 1875; whilst the percentage of undetected crime in 1875 was also less than in any preceding period. Whilst crime has thus decreased in Dorsetshire in six years, it appears from the Judicial Statistics that in the adjoining counties there has been in the same period an increase in the number of minor offences, viz. those summarily dealt with.

'To those who have not hitherto studied the question of vagrancy, I would recommend a perusal of the Poor Law Report on Vagrancy issued in 1866.

'In the report, the master of the Wrexham Union states that 'Vagrants are for the most part, if not criminals, at least on the verge of crime.' And in other parts of the report, evidence is given of their committing the following crimes:—Robbing clothes lines and stables, setting fire to stacks, house-breaking (for which some are stated to carry knives constructed for the purpose), highway robberies, grotto robberies, pocket-picking and petty larceny, and felony generally. The master of the Newport Union says that the tramp who comes to him 'are the most worthless and reckless class that he has any knowledge of, and that they are composed of thieves of every kind, deserters from the army, bad characters discharged from the army as such, runaway apprentices, and idle vagabonds of every sort, who will not work, and prefer the vagabond life of a vagrant to any other.' The Inspector of Police in Scotland states that a great proportion of crimes and offences is committed by vagrants. 'Hawkers and pedlars,' he observes, 'generally accompanied by women and children, are frequently only beggars in disguise, on pretence of selling wares, although their whole stock-in-trade is sometimes not sufficient to maintain the party for a day.' Rural murders are most frequently committed by vagrants. As instances of this, I may among others cite the frightful murder of five people committed in 1870 at Denham, near Uxbridge, by John Owen, a tramp, and the comparatively recent attempt on the part of a tramp to murder the late Captain King, of Presaddfed, near Holyhead.

'The annual cost of carrying out such a scheme I have sketched is about £40 a year, made up thus: Bread, £24. 10s.; printing and stationery, £10. 10s.; postage, £1. 10s.; collector's commission, £2. 10s.; notice boards, £1.; £40.

'The saving effected by the adoption of such a system is very great. The rates are saved—1st. By the diminished number of vagrants relieved in the workhouse. 2nd. By the diminished number of criminals committed to prison.

'The public save in the following ways: 1st. By not losing much of the property now stolen or damaged. 2nd. By not losing valuable time in attending before the magistrates to prosecute. 3rd. By excluding from their families the contagious diseases frequently disseminated by wandering vagrants. 4th. By causing vagrants to work for their own living.

'There are at least 60,000 vagrants in England, Wales, and Scotland, who, if thrown into the labour market, would cause a sensible diminution in the price of labour, and, as a natural consequence, in the price of necessities, so that the labouring classes would not suffer loss. The amount now given in alms to vagrants in the county of Carnarvon must surely exceed £40 a year, so that it would not be too much to expect that this sum would be provided by the general public for carrying out the system I have sketched.'

CROYDON.—The Croydon Charitable Society informs us, that during the month ending December 3 the number of cases which came before the Inquiry Committee of the above Society was as follows:—Applied to the Society—tramps, 179; residents, 13; total, 192. The cases of residents were carefully inquired into: 10 were relieved, 3 refused; the value of relief given during the month £6. 3s. 4d.

MANCHESTER*.—OUTDOOR RELIEF.—The Manchester Board of Guardians have issued the following 'Public Notice as to Parish Relief':—

THE GUARDIANS OF THE POOR HEREBY GIVE NOTICE AS FOLLOWS:—

1. Outdoor relief will for the future be allowed only to persons of good character, who can satisfy the Guardians that their destitution has not been caused by their own improvidence or intemperance, and that whilst in work they did all they could to make provision against times of sickness or want of employment. Those who cannot satisfy the Guardians as to this will, if relieved at all, be required to enter the workhouse with their families.

2. Outdoor relief will not be granted, except in special cases, to any workmen or other operatives when on strike; to outdoor labourers out of work through frost; or to any other able-bodied person in good health who is only temporarily out of employment. Such persons will only be relieved inside the workhouse.

3. Outdoor relief will also be refused to persons of any of the following classes:—

Single able-bodied men; single able-bodied women; able-bodied widows without children, or having only one child to support; married women (with or without families) left destitute through their husbands having joined the Militia and being called up for training; persons residing with relatives, where the united income of the family is sufficient for the support of all its members, whether such relatives are liable by law to support the applicant or not. Also, except in special cases, to married women (with or without families) whose husbands, having been convicted of a crime, are undergoing a term of imprisonment; married women (with or without families) deserted by their husbands.

* Vile Reporter, No. 193, p. 156.

The Guardians give this warning in the hope that persons who have been in the habit of relying on assistance from the parish may endeavour, by thrift and economy, to make some provision for themselves, instead of becoming a burden upon the ratepayers, many of whom are not much better off than those who receive relief. The Guardians also take this opportunity of intimating that they think it probable that, in the course of a very few years, outdoor relief will be discontinued altogether, except in very urgent or special cases.

GLASGOW AND SCARBOROUGH.—Reports of Annual Meetings of Charity Organisation Societies at these places have been received. Accounts of them will be inserted in our next number.

FOREIGN.

A FOREIGN OPINION OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—The *Bulletin du Bureau Central de Bienfaisance*, published monthly in Geneva, says, in its November number, under the heading, 'Societies of Private Charity in England':—'In our last number we mentioned two societies, "La Société Helvétique de Bienfaisance de Paris," and the Central Agency for Inquiry and Help, established in the same town under the management of M. Bless, as having adopted the principles and the mode of action of our office.

'If we study what has been done in England during the last few years, we shall find that in that country, where Christian philanthropy calls forth such great, and, above all, such persevering individual efforts, the evil which is the consequence of unwise help ought necessarily to stimulate an inquiry as to the mode of doing good which would best secure the more efficacious employment of the resources of private charity.

'This is what has, in fact, taken place, and among the associations which especially accomplish this end, the one most worthy of notice is the Society for the Repression of Mendicancy and for the Organisation of Charity, with a view to the help and relief of the poor.

'This important institution is the more worthy of our notice since we read in one of its reports: "The principles and various aims of the office at Geneva are so like our own, that if it had not been established some years before our Society, we should not have hesitated to suppose that it owed its origin to us." Let us add that one of its most active members, Mr. Ribton-Turner, who is its organising secretary, came in 1872 to our director to make inquiries as to all the particulars of our work.'

Then follows a detailed account of the work of the Society.

STARVATION CASES.

The Society has, from time to time, made inquiries into the circumstances under which deaths of persons in alleged distress have occurred, and have been reported in the newspapers under some such heading as 'Death from Starvation.'

An account of one such case appeared under the heading 'Death through Privation,' in a daily journal of November 28. It appeared from the account that Richard Greenslade, aged 70, 'formerly a baker, had for the last 12 months been unable to follow his occupation on account of infirmity, and had to depend on his wife, who earned a few shillings a week at her needle, for their support. He often complained of want of food, and his body had become much emaciated.' Upon inquiry the following facts appeared; the information being obtained from the landlady, from the doctor, from a report in a local paper of the proceedings at the inquest, and from other reliable sources:—The deceased, who was a journeyman baker, had been married about seven years; his work had, partly through illness, been only casual, and from August 18 to August 22, having applied for relief from the Guardians, he was received into the workhouse. He left at his own desire, in order to take some work from a former employer, who failed soon after, and left the district. At the inquest, the doctor who had made the post-mortem examination, stated that the result showed that the cause of death was sanguineous apoplexy.

In another case, that of Ann Corney, which was reported in the papers as 'The Death from Starvation in Southwark,' it appeared, upon inquiry, that the deceased and her husband, an aged couple, had for the last seven years, been in receipt of 4s. 6d. weekly out-relief; that, according to her own statement to the relieving officer, she earned 3s. to 4s. at needlework, and that they received—from friends in the country—about 10s. a month. They had also received some casual help—e.g. a dinner a fortnight ago—from a baker living near, and for the past 18 months had, in consideration of their long tenancy, scarcely paid any rent; they had, therefore, about 10s. for all their other requirements. On his wife's death, the husband, who was weak-minded from old age, went into the workhouse, when 13s. 3d. was found upon him, 8s. 9d. of which he stated was in his wife's pocket at the time of her death (the remainder being the weekly

out-relief he had since received). The jury, not having the above evidence before them, had, says one of the newspaper accounts, returned, 'in accordance with the medical evidence,' a verdict of 'death from starvation.'

A third death—that of Mary Day—was stated to have occurred in consequence of the reluctance of deceased to enter the workhouse; but it appeared upon inquiry, from the evidence of the parochial medical officer, and from the verdict of the jury, that her death ensued upon her not having applied for medical relief, though advised to do so by the doctor in question. She had occupied for 20 years the room in which she died, had been for a long time in receipt of 3s. a week out-relief from the St. Pancras Board of Guardians, and, according to her landlady's statement, though 'not a drinking woman, she occasionally indulged,' but had never, to the landlady's knowledge, wanted for food, and had up to the time of her death half-a-pint of beer a day. A benevolent lady, and the Scripture reader (who was with deceased two hours before she died, and was 'quite certain' she never wanted the necessaries of life) had 'looked after' her for the last three years.

The fourth case, which occurred at the end of November in Westminster, was that of Ellen Sullivan, aged 76, who, according to the reports in two daily papers (in one of which the heading was 'Death before the Workhouse'), died from want of sufficient food. Deceased had lived with three grown-up daughters and one son in one room, and out-relief to the amount of 2s. had been granted, but, about two years ago, had been discontinued on the refusal of deceased to enter the workhouse, and had, upon a recent application, been again refused. The verdict at the inquest attributed the death to 'natural causes.' The family had been, since 1871, on the books of the St. George's Committee, and had received from them assistance in the form of loans.

H. H. G.

DIFFICULT CASES.

No. 3.—A man whom it is not thought desirable to pauperise by forcing into the house has in a Roman Catholic Home two children, aged 11 and 6, for whose maintenance he has been paying 5s. a week. He is unable at the present time to continue this payment; but he has a good character from his employers, who state that it is only from the slackness of trade that he is out of work. The managers of the Home ask us to take up the case. The mother is a confirmed drunkard, and has lately been in prison for theft. Is it desirable to pay for the children till their father gets work again, in order to keep them from the evil influences to which they will otherwise be exposed?

E. P.

MEDICAL CHARITIES.

Correspondence.—The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by their correspondents.

We have received the following letter on the subject of the statement respecting PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES:—

'In the *Reporter* for December 7, a resumé is given of the Tabular Statement which the St. Giles's Committee has lately drawn up showing the position of Provident Dispensaries in the metropolis. In this resumé it is stated that the Provident Dispensary in Ordnance Road, St. John's Wood, is the largest, having 9,649 members; yet it only divides one hundred guineas among its seven medical officers. How is this? In running one's eye down the columns it is impossible not to contrast this dispensary with that at Haverstock Hill, which stands immediately before it on the list. The leading particulars of the two are as follows:—

'Haverstock Hill.—No. of members, 3,396; Payment by members, £575; number of medical officers, 4, among whom £416 were divided for ordinary cases, and £115 for midwifery; while the dispenser received £33. 15s.

'At St. John's Wood, the number of members is 9,649; their payments, £254; there are 7 medical officers, who received £105 for ordinary cases and £86 for midwifery; while the dispenser's salary was £150.

'Surely this contrast is very unfavourable to the institution at St. John's Wood, and requires some explanation. On whose authority is it stated that the medical officers are "content" with their remuneration?—Yours faithfully,

'M. D.'

The British Medical Journal.—We note in the numbers of this Journal of the 9th and 16th December a correspondence on the abuse of hospitals and dispensaries. The writer of the first letter, signed 'A Member of the Charity Organisation Society,' promises to continue the correspondence, a summary of which we hope to be able to publish in due course.

ERRATUM.—*Reporter*, No. 198, p. 176, second column, fourth line, for 'rural' read 'special.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of December 1876 was 37,821, and 44,986 received outdoor relief, making a total of 82,807. This was an increase of 660 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 3,429, 12,192, and 21,172 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 656. This was a decrease of 28 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 109 on the corresponding day of last year.

INTEMPERANCE.*—In an article on Intemperance in this month's *Contemporary*, Mr. Francis Peek gives some startling figures. He says: 'There are about 203,000 apprehensions in each year for drunkenness; and, calculating that for every one apprehended at least two will escape, we have the appalling total of over half-a-million of drunkards in Great Britain. Assuming that no more than two-thirds of these are heads of families, and that each head represents, according to the usual rate, four persons besides himself, we have nearly 2,500,000 men, women, and children existing under the misery and degradation implied in the words "members of a drunkard's family." He further states that, "at the present moment fully three-fourths of England's paupers, or nearly 600,000, are such through the direct or indirect effects of intemperance." 'The chief remedy,' he says, 'is to be sought in the diminution of drinking places; . . . the number of drunkards in any locality is determined by the number of drinking-places; . . . in going through a list of towns and villages, the amount of intemperance is shown, with few exceptions, to be in proportion to the beer-shops and public-houses; . . . wherever drinking places have been diminished, a decrease of intemperance has followed.'

S. F.

* See *Reporter*, No. 193, p. 155.

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By a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society; with Appendix.

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SOCIETY desire to invite the attention of those interested in the work they have in hand to their Collection of Reports of Charities and works of reference on Poor Law and Charity, which may at all times be consulted at the Central Office, free of charge, together with the Reports and Suggestions of the Society on various Social Questions.

The Secretaries are authorised to furnish particulars with regard to Charitable Societies to persons desirous of such information.

The Council will be glad to receive letters of recommendation for Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, &c., for distribution to suitable cases through the District Committees.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 200.

THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 11, 1877. [DOUBLE NUMBER.] PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Jan. 11	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday	15	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday	16	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday	17	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday	18	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, January 15:—

1. To receive the Report of the Special Committee on the education and care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics.
2. Sir Charles Trevelyan to move:—
'That the annual sum chargeable for the *Reporter* be raised from 5s. to 7s. 6d.'

On Monday, the 22nd instant, there will be a special meeting of Council, to consider the Report of the Special Committee on the Education and Care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics.

The special meeting, of which a preliminary notice was given in the last number of the *Reporter*, has been postponed.

Copies of a new edition of the Manual can be had on application to the Secretary.

The title-page and Index of the *Reporter* for 1876 will be issued with the next number.

FULHAM.—The address of the Fulham and Hammersmith

Committee has been changed from 7 Brook Green Terrace to 56 Hammersmith Road, W.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—The Hon. J. Lawrence has been appointed one of the representatives of this Committee, *vice* Mr. W. W. Moore, resigned; and Lord Richard Grosvenor will, during the absence of Lord Sudley, attend the meetings of Council as representative of the Committee.

ISLINGTON.—Lady Wilson has been appointed one of the Hon. Secretaries of this Committee.

HACKNEY.—Mr. Edward Bernard has been appointed one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Hackney Committee, *vice* Mr. Charles Kemp, resigned.

BETHNAL GREEN.—The Rev. J. D. McGachen has resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of this Committee.

WOOLWICH.—The address of the Sub-Office of this Committee will, in future, be Rose Cottage, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E.

DEPTFORD.—Mr. C. J. Lambert has been elected one of the Hon. Secretaries of this Committee, *vice* Mr. H. Wilding, resigned.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.—District Committees whose expenses in dealing with School Board Cases, in accordance with the arrangement made with Mr. F. Peek, are more than £10 a quarter, may in future, if they wish it, be paid monthly, on filling up copies of a short form, which can be had on application to the Secretary. The form must be received at the Central Office *within three days after the 1st of each month*. Applications not received *before the 4th of each month* will be deferred to the following month.

District Committees which have not sent to the Central Office copies of their Annual Report are requested to forward them with as little delay as possible. In accordance with a recent decision of the Administrative Council 125 copies only should be sent, 100 without and 25 with the list of Subscribers.

Much needless labour having been caused by requests to District Committees to inquire regarding addresses in their districts, which have proved to be either non-existent or incorrect, the attention of Hon. Secretaries and Agents is drawn to the importance of verifying and testing, by means of the 'London Post Office Directory,' the statements of applicants respecting their previous addresses, or the addresses of their employers, references, &c., before writing to other Hon. Secretaries to make the necessary inquiries.

At this time of year secondhand copies of last year's Directory, price 12s., can be obtained of Messrs. Walford Brothers, 320 Strand, W.C. The same firm will supply new copies of the Directory for 1877.

Sets of County Directories, Clergy Lists, and other books of reference are kept at the Central Office.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—F. J. S. Edgcombe, Dr. Anderson.
FULHAM:—Sir Douglas Forsyth, C. J. Stevens.
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. Macdonald Stephenson, J. R. Hollond.
CHELSEA:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr.
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Major Prendergast, Major Fitz-Roy.
HAMPTHEAD:—Rev. H. F. Mallet, C. E. Maurice.
ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare.

STRAND:—H. Hay-Hill.
HOLBORN:—G. B. Baker, Esq.
CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brookes.
STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Sir T. Graham Briggs.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
LEWISHAM:—A. Annesley.
SYDENHAM:—A. Barry.
VICE-PRESIDENT:—W. M. Wilkinson.
TOTAL:—26.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee met on the 21st and 28th December, and on the 4th instant.

There had been present at these meetings—on the 21st ultimo—

Mr. A. H. Hill, in the Chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Sir Graham Briggs, Lady Wilson, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, Major Nares, Major Yard, Capt. Fortescue, Messrs. Brown, Ellis, Edgcombe, Mitchell, Miner, and Peters.

On the 28th ultimo—

Major Prendergast, in the Chair; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Nares, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, and Mr. Burdett Roberts.

On the 4th instant—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the Chair; Sir T. Graham Briggs, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Major Prendergast, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Brand, Brown, Ellis, and Peters.

FINANCE.—The Committee reported that during the week ending December 30 the receipts had been £222. 9s. 4d. for the General Fund, and £52. 2s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £312. 19s. 7d. and £265. 5s. 4d. respectively, £207. 6s. 4d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—They had made grants of £30, £25, and £25 to the Bethnal Green, Stepney, and Mile End Committees respectively, the respective amounts granted to these Committees since the 1st of October last being £50, £85, and £95.

EFFICIENCY OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES.—The Administrative Committee had adopted a recommendation of the District Sub-Committee, that the Sub-Committee should send up for submission to Council reports respecting matters of special importance connected with the work and wants of District Committees.

Mr. A. P. Fletcher and Mr. C. Lewes, of the St. Marylebone Committee, had been elected members of the Districts Sub-Committee.

ANNUAL REPORTS.—An order had been given that the annual reports of District Committees should not be sent to District Committees as hitherto, on their receipt at the Central Office.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS IN THE DISTRICTS.—It appeared that, on the report of the Finance and Collection Sub-Committee, the Administrative Committee had determined that the Collectors of the Council should be placed under the direct control of the Central Office, but that the money collected by them should be paid into the respective bankers of the District Committees, subject to the commission ordered by the Administrative Committee. It was to be distinctly understood that the Collectors should have the active co-operation and support of the Committee of the District in which they were acting.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meetings of this Sub-Committee had been present—on the 19th ultimo:—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss Howes, Miss Octavia Hill, Messrs. Bousfield, Graham, and Lewes. Messrs. Seton-Karr and Fletcher (Visitors).

On the 2nd instant—

Mr. A. D. Graham, in the Chair; Sir Douglas Forsyth, Miss Octavia Hill, Messrs. Bousfield and Lewes.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 3rd instant had been present—

Sir C. E. Trevelyan, in the Chair; Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Rev. H. F. Mallet.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meetings of this Sub-Committee had been present—on the 19th ult.—

Mr. Bevan, in the Chair; Miss Howes, Major FitzRoy, and Mr. R. V. Tidman (Visitor).

On the 3rd inst.—

Mr. Aspinall, in the Chair; Capt. Gardner.

THE FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meetings of this sub-committee had been present—on the 20th ult.—

Mr. A. H. Hill, in the Chair; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Messrs. C. A. Miner, Corrie, and Rev. H. I. Cummins.

On the 4th inst.—

Mr. C. A. Miner, in the Chair; Major Prendergast, and Mr. Corrie.

THE INUNDATIONS.—The Secretary reported that he had visited the parts inundated in the Lambeth District, and had been in communication with the Lambeth Committee. Two of the Clergymen in Lambeth had appealed through the daily papers, and he understood that one of them had obtained as much as £700, besides clothing and other articles. The Lambeth Vestry had formed a Relief Committee, of which several of the Charity Organisation Committee were members. But he regretted that the Relief Committee of the Vestry had not accepted the offer of the Committee, to place at their disposal the services of the Charity Agent.

He had communicated with the Stepney and St. George's East Committees respecting the inundation at Wapping. In the former district there was but little distress; in the latter the distress appeared to be considerable. The Committee had offered the Relief Committee, in whose name the Rev. S. Buss had appealed, every assistance in their power. The Secretary had forwarded to the St. George's East Committee several contributions, received for the relief of persons suffering from the inundation.

Mr. Douglas Brown, Hon. J. Lawrence, and others made a few remarks. It appeared that the Lambeth Committee had not acted with sufficient promptitude.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.*

Mr. A. H. Hill moved—

That early steps be taken to make the principles and work of this Society more effectually known to the industrial classes.

He said that there was a strong feeling in the minds of the public that the Charity Organisation movement was a movement of the upper and middle classes. Sometimes the Society was condemned as being too doctrinaire and sometimes as too clerical. But, whatever impression might exist on these points, it was clearly the principle of the Society to rely on the support of no one class, but, recognising, of necessity, the strata into which society divided itself, to approach each class through the means of communication which each offered. In some members of the Society there appeared to be, arising from ignorance, a horror of trades' unions; on the other hand, the industrial and working classes were profoundly ignorant of the work of the Society. The Society ought to be generous to these organisations of labour, which were producing a result similar to that for which it was itself working, viz. the diminution of pauperism.

To understand the inner condition of, and thus be enabled to act with, the industrial classes, members must make an effort to come into closer contact with them; and at the district offices of the Society more complete information should be available respecting industrial and provident trade organisations.

The industrial classes had, as a rule, for their place of meeting, no alternative between the public-house and the school-room. The latter appeared to him to have an air of uninhabitableness which could not compete with the more cheerful aspect of the public-house. Clubs had been tried; but hitherto, at least, they had not been successful. If the Society could influence these classes it must be prepared to meet them halfway. Why should not a short popular statement of the work and aims of the Society be put up, like the advertisements of the Post Office Directory, in the public-houses which were houses of call for the different trades? Similar statements might be placarded at the offices of the Penny Bank. Or, again, could not the Loan System of the Society be enlarged, and its advantages clearly set forth and more generally made known? There was no doubt that workmen were often hard-pressed by the sums they had to contribute for their fellow-workmen: ought not some attempt

* Vide Reporter, No. 170, p. 53.

made to induce employers to put up notices of the Society in workshops? There was among the industrial classes, also, a ignorance respecting the nature of the Poor Law, and the of opinion with regard to the restriction of out-door relief. were inclined to believe that, as ratepayers, they had a right to out-relief; and such opinions were constantly uttered during the period of the agricultural labourers' movement. Could not a ar treatise on the Poor Law be published, to explain and warn of the changes taking place in the administration of Poor Law p

ere was prevalent among the working classes an uneasy feeling he public-house was not to continue as the place of resort for anaction of general business. Could not the large rooms at e's Cafés, &c., be utilised for conference on subjects in which were of necessity interested? Could not more be done to erate with those who formed the committees of the numerous ing Societies now springing into existence; and above all was his a fitting time to assist in the organisation of the labour of ing women in the metropolis?

Society was essentially a distributive society; it was for it to own the lines of work, by which societies differing in their t might co-operate for the benefit of the people. He suggested the subject of his motion should be considered at a special ng of Council.

O. E. Maurice seconded the motion. There was undoubtedly lice and counter-prejudice on the part of the working classes of the Society; and he considered that in some of the papers had been written about the Society some injustice had been to the working classes by the hard tone that had been adopted. er a short discussion, in which Major FitzRoy, Mr. H. N. , Mr. A. H. Hill, Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, and Mr. J. R. Hollond part, the motion was carried, on the understanding that the t should be further considered at a special meeting of Council, conference or otherwise.

Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

following contributions were received by the Council from December 76, to January 6, 1877, inclusive:—

Contributions:—	£	s.	d.	Contributions:—	£	s.	d.
Darwin, Mrs.	0	1	0	Darwin, Mrs.	1	0	0
Deacon, W. S., Esq.	5	0	0	Deacon, W. S., Esq.	5	0	0
Devonshire, The Duke of	20	0	0	Devonshire, The Duke of	20	0	0
Doddington, Rev. H. M.	5	0	0	Doddington, Rev. H. M.	5	0	0
Dodd, J. T., Esq.	0	5	0	Dodd, J. T., Esq.	0	5	0
Donation	0	1	0	Donation	0	1	0
Dunn, Miss	1	0	0	Dunn, Miss	1	0	0
Dynevor, Lord	2	0	0	Dynevor, Lord	2	0	0
E.	1	0	0	E.	1	0	0
Egerton, Admiral	10	0	0	Egerton, Admiral	10	0	0
Elliott, A., Esq.	1	0	0	Elliott, A., Esq.	1	0	0
England, Bank of	25	0	0	England, Bank of	25	0	0
England, E., Esq.	3	3	0	England, E., Esq.	3	3	0
'E. O.'	1	1	0	'E. O.'	1	1	0
Evans, J., Esq.	5	0	0	Evans, J., Esq.	5	0	0
'F. B.'	0	10	0	'F. B.'	0	10	0
Ferguson, R., Esq.	2	0	0	Ferguson, R., Esq.	2	0	0
Fortescue, Hon. G. M.	10	0	0	Fortescue, Hon. G. M.	10	0	0
Freeman, H. A., Esq.	2	0	0	Freeman, H. A., Esq.	2	0	0
Furlong, J. J., Esq.	0	10	6	Furlong, J. J., Esq.	0	10	6
Garrett, Miss S.	0	10	0	Garrett, Miss S.	0	10	0
Gibbons, Sir J.	1	1	0	Gibbons, Sir J.	1	1	0
Glenny, W. W., Esq.	0	5	0	Glenny, W. W., Esq.	0	5	0
Green, Col. A.	5	0	0	Green, Col. A.	5	0	0
Greenwood, Mrs.	0	10	0	Greenwood, Mrs.	0	10	0
Griffith, G. Waldie, Esq.	10	0	0	Griffith, G. Waldie, Esq.	10	0	0
Gunmakers' Company	10	0	0	Gunmakers' Company	10	0	0
Haggard, Major	20	0	0	Haggard, Major	20	0	0
Hamilton, C. H., Esq.	10	0	0	Hamilton, C. H., Esq.	10	0	0
Hare, Mrs.	0	5	0	Hare, Mrs.	0	5	0
Hay, Vice-Ad. Sir J. D.	5	0	0	Hay, Vice-Ad. Sir J. D.	5	0	0
Haywood, A. H., Esq.	5	5	0	Haywood, A. H., Esq.	5	5	0
Hill, Miss Octavia	10	0	0	Hill, Miss Octavia	10	0	0
Hincks, Mrs.	2	0	0	Hincks, Mrs.	2	0	0
Hinds, Miss	5	0	0	Hinds, Miss	5	0	0
Holland, E., Esq.	3	3	0	Holland, E., Esq.	3	3	0
Hooper, A., Esq.	5	0	0	Hooper, A., Esq.	5	0	0

Contributions:—	£	s.	d.	Contributions:—	£	s.	d.
Hubbard, Mrs.	0	2	6	Brown, D., Esq., Q.C.	1	1	0
J. C. D. W.	2	0	0	Brown, Rev. Dixon	1	1	0
Johnson, Miss E.	0	19	9	Browne, Col. Sir T. G.	5	0	0
Lakin, Mrs.	0	5	0	Buxton, S. C., Esq.	5	5	0
L. C. T.	10	0	0	Buxton, Mrs. C.	1	0	0
Locke, Mrs. F.	0	5	0	Cator, A., Esq. (1876)	1	1	0
Lucas, O., Esq.	5	5	0	Cator, A., Esq. (1877)	1	1	0
Mackrell, J. W., Esq.	3	3	0	Caulfield, F. W., Esq.	0	15	0
Majoribanks, Miss M.	10	0	0	Cave, L. T., Esq.	1	1	0
Majoribanks, The Misses	5	0	0	Cavendish, Lord F. C., M.P.	2	0	0
May, C. E., Esq.	0	10	0	Child & Co., Messrs.	3	3	0
'M. B. S.'	1	1	0	Christie, G. H., Esq. (1877)	2	0	0
Mitchell, A. C., Esq.	1	0	0	Colville, Right Hon. Sir J. W.	5	0	0
M. L. E.	5	0	0	'Copernicus'	1	0	0
Mocatta, F. D., Esq.	100	0	0	Corrie, J. M., Esq.	1	1	0
'M. S. W.'	2	0	0	Courtenay, Miss	2	0	0
Ouvry, Col. H. A., C.B.	5	0	0	Crossley, Lady	1	1	0
Partridge, Mrs.	2	0	0	Croughton, Mrs. (1877)	1	0	0
Percy, Lord A. M. A.	5	0	0	Crowder, F., Esq.	10	10	0
Percy, Lt.-Gen. Lord H., V.C., K.C.B.	10	0	0	Crowder, W. H., Esq.	2	2	0
'P. P. C.'	5	0	0	Dangerfield, A. E. T.	0	10	0
Prendergast, Mrs. G. L.	2	0	0	Danvers, W. E., Esq.	1	1	0
Rawlinson, W., Esq.	1	0	0	Darnley, Earl	3	0	0
Richmond, Duchess of	4	4	0	Day, W., Esq.	1	1	0
Robinson, Rev. J.	10	10	0	Dobell, Dr. H.	1	1	0
Rollings, Mrs. C.	5	0	0	Donovan, Thompson, Esq.	5	0	0
Ruck, G. T., Esq.	20	0	0	D'Oyly, Miss	5	0	0
Sandeman, G. G., Esq.	10	10	0	Drummond, Messrs.	10	0	0
Seager, Miss	5	0	0	Duncombe, G. T., Esq.	3	3	0
Sherwood, J., Esq.	5	5	0	Eden, Mrs.	1	0	0
Société Belge de Bien-faisance	5	5	0	Edwards, S., Esq.	1	1	0
Sutton, M. H., Esq.	1	1	0	Egerton of Tatton, Lord	5	0	0
Taylor, Rev. H.	10	10	10	Elliot, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Tilleard, Miss	2	0	0	Farquhar, H. M., Esq.	5	0	0
Tomkinson, Mrs.	10	0	0	Feldman, C. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Tyhrwhitt, Sir H.	1	1	0	Forster, Rt. Hon. W. E., M.P.	5	0	0
Walker, P. F., Esq.	10	0	0	Gardner, Capt., R.N.	1	1	0
Watson, Mrs.	5	0	0	Gaselee, Mrs.	1	1	0
Welch, H., Esq.	10	0	0	Gaskell, C. G. M., Esq.	3	3	0
Wharfedale, The Earl of	5	0	0	Gladstone, W. H., Esq., M.P.	1	0	0
Whichcote, Rev. C.	3	0	0	Glyn, Sir R. G., Bart.	1	1	0
Wigram, J. R., Esq., ...	5	0	0	Gore, Miss E. E.	1	0	0
Wilson, G. F.	5	0	0	Graham, R. W., Esq.	1	1	0
Wilson, R. D., Esq.	5	0	0	Gregory, Sir W. E.	2	0	0
Withington, Rev. E.	0	10	0	Walby, Bart., M.P.	2	0	0
Wodehouse, Mrs.	1	10	0	Grey, Mrs. W.	1	1	0
Yool, G. V., Esq.	5	0	0	Grosvenor, Lord R., M.P.	5	0	0
Young, A., Esq.	1	1	0	Hall, W. H., Esq.	1	0	0
—, Miss	1	1	0	Harrington, Elizabeth, Countess of	2	0	0

Annual:—

Contributions:—	£	s.	d.	Contributions:—	£	s.	d.
Adderley, Right Hon. Sir C., M.P.	2	2	0	Head, Messrs. H. & Co.	1	1	0
Aidé, Capt. H.	2	2	0	Heathcote, Right Hon. Sir W.	2	2	0
Albemarle, Countess of	2	0	0	Heberden, Rev. H.	1	1	0
Antrobus, Rev. J.	1	1	0	Henderson, W. M., Esq.	1	1	0
Auriol, Rev. E.	1	1	0	Hilder, T. P., Esq.	5	5	0
Baker, T. B. L., Esq.	2	0	0	Hill, J. D. Hay, Esq.	3	3	0
Balfour, H., Esq.	1	1	0	Hoare, H. N., Esq.	5	0	0
Ball, F. M., Esq.	2	2	0	Holmes, T., Esq.	1	1	0
Ball, Norris, & Hadley, Messrs.	5	0	0	Hughes, T., Esq., Q.C.	1	1	0
Barclay, A. C., Esq., M.P.	10	0	0	James, W. H., Esq., M.P.	1	1	0
Barlow, C. E., Esq.	5	5	0	Jardine, Mrs.	1	1	0
Bas, Rev. H. Le	3	3	0	Jenner, Lady	1	1	0
Beaumont, Rev. W. H., (1876)	1	1	0	Johnston, A., Esq.	10	0	0
Beaumont, Rev. W. H., (1877)	1	1	0	Joseph, N. S., Esq.	1	1	0
Bischoff & Co., Messrs.	2	2	0	Kent, Messrs., & Co.	5	0	0
Blunt, Maj.-Gen. C.B.	1	1	0	Kenyon, Hon. and Rev. W. T.	1	1	0
Blunt, Mrs. E. W.	1	1	0	Kimber, H., Esq.	2	10	0
Bosanquet, B., Esq.	5	0	0	Kirk, R. R., Esq.	1	1	0
Bosanquet, Rev. G. H.	10	0	0	Lawley, Lady	2	0	0
Brand, H., Esq., Jun.	2	0	0	Legge, Lieut.-Col. E. H.	1	1	0
Brooke, Sir W. de Capel	2	0	0	Longley, H., Esq.	1	0	0
Broughton, R., Esq.	1	1	0	Lumley, Mrs.	1	0	0

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Maunsell, Dr.	0	10	0	Stanhope, Mrs. W. S. . .	1	1	0
Murdoch, H. H., Esq. .	2	2	0	St. Paul's, The Dean of	3	0	0
Maxse, Admiral	1	1	0	Sutton, Sir R., Bart. .	2	0	0
Morrison, W., Esq. . .	1	0	0	Tarratt, J., Esq. . . .	2	2	0
'M. P.'	10	0	0	Threlfall, C., Esq. . .	5	5	0
Muir, A., Esq.	2	0	0	Thomas, Mrs.	3	3	0
Murchison, C., Esq. . .	1	1	0	Thornton, D. P., Esq. .	5	5	0
Noble, J., Esq.	5	0	0	Thornton, E., Esq. . .	2	2	0
Northumberland, Duke of (1877)	12	10	0	Townley, Col.	3	3	0
Pearse, Rev. B. Kerr . .	1	1	0	Valbry, Madame	1	1	0
Pelham, Lady H. J. . .	1	0	0	Valpy, R., Esq.	2	2	0
Petavel, Rev. E.	1	1	0	Vaughan, H., Esq. . .	10	0	0
Pinckney, Rev. W. J. . .	1	1	0	Vulliamy, F., Esq. . . .	1	1	0
Porter, Captain	1	1	0	Walker, Lieut.-Col. W. L.	2	2	0
Preedy, J. K., Esq. . . .	1	1	0	Wedgwood, H., Esq. . .	5	0	0
Price, Miss E. A.	1	0	0	Wells & Perry, Messrs.	1	1	0
Ramsden, C., Esq. . . .	1	1	0	Wells, W., Esq. (1877)	3	0	0
Rathbone, W., Esq., M.P.	2	0	0	White, W., Esq.	1	10	0
Renaud, Rev. G.	1	0	0	Wigram, J. R., Esq. . .	2	0	0
Roberts, N. F., Esq. . .	2	2	0	Winchester, Dean of . .	1	1	0
Rogers, H., Esq.	10	10	0	Wodehouse, Mrs. . . .	0	10	0
Rothschild, Miss A. de .	5	5	0	Woodcock, T. Parry, Esq.	1	0	0
Rothschild, Baroness Mayer de	50	0	0	Wood, W. Wightman, Esq.	1	1	0
Sargood, A., Esq.	1	1	0	Wright, J. Hornsby, Esq.	1	1	0
Saunders, G. M., Esq. . .	1	1	0	Wynn, C. W. W., Esq., M.P.	1	1	0
Sclater, P. L., Esq. . . .	1	1	0				
Shadwell, J. L., Esq. . .	1	0	0				
Sharpe, Mrs.	1	10	0				
Sherwood, F., Esq. . . .	1	1	0				
Shirreff, Miss E. A. E. .	1	1	0				
Skirrow, Mrs.	2	2	0				
Skrine, H. D., Esq. . . .	1	1	0				
Sladen, J., Esq.	1	1	0				
Smith, D. R., Esq.	2	2	0				
Smith, W. J., Esq.	1	1	0				
Sommes, W. A., Esq. . . .	2	2	0				
Stanhope, General P. S. .	5	0	0				
Stanhope, J. B., Esq. . .	10	0	0				
Stanhope, W. S., Esq., M.P.	1	1	0				

District Committee Aid Fund :—			
Brown, D., Esq., Q. C. (a.)	1	1	0
Domville, W. H., Esq. (a)	1	0	0
Mitchell, A. C., Esq. . .	3	0	0
Mitchell, W. R., Esq. . .	5	0	0
Northumberland, Duke of (1877). (a.)	12	10	0
'N. Q.'	50	0	0
Potter, W. H., Esq. . . .	1	1	0
Wood, W. Wightman, Esq. (a.)	2	2	0
Woodcock, T. Parry, Esq., (a.) (1877) . . .	1	0	0

District Committee Aid Fund:—

Brown, D., Esq., Q.C. (a.)	1	1	0
Domville, W. H., Esq. (a.)	1	0	0
Mitchell, A. C., Esq. . .	3	0	0
Mitchell, W. R., Esq. . .	5	0	0
Northumberland, Duke of (1877). (a.)	12	10	0
'N. Q.'	50	0	0
Potter, W. H., Esq. . . .	1	1	0
Wood, W. Wightman, Esq. (a.)	2	2	0
Woodcock, T. Parry, Esq., (a.) (1877)	1	0	0

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

KENSINGTON.—*Annual Report, 1875-6.*—**VAGRANTS.**—The Report of this Committee has the following passage respecting vagrants:—

'Persons charitably inclined give them a ticket or the address of our Office, or perhaps they come of their own accord. They are relieved with bread, to be eaten on the premises, unless it is obvious to the person in charge of the Office that they are not distressed wayfarers, as they usually represent themselves to be. Of these, during the past year, 384 came to the Office, and 345 of them had bread. The great majority were able-bodied men between twenty and forty, and probably impostors eating the bread of idleness; but, unless the imposture is transparent, we give it them, rather than leave the public any excuse for indiscriminate almsgiving. We are satisfied, from inquiries made by ourselves and information given us by the Poor Law authorities and others who have examined the subject, that street beggars are very rarely honest labourers in search of work. They are usually persons who, from long indulgence in idleness or vice, have become unfit for regular employment, or to whom it is irksome. It is very difficult to determine how such characters should be dealt with, but the most injudicious and unkind thing which anyone who wishes to befriend them can do is to give them money, and so enable them to remain as they are, and encourage others to become equally useless and wretched.'

The total number of cases reported and cases dealt with by this Committee, exclusive of vagrants, was 1,091 in 1876, as compared with 1,122 in 1875.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—*Annual Report, 1875-6.*—Respecting *Co-operation in Charity* the Report says:—

'When the Charity Organisation Society first came into existence, it was calculated, as has been mentioned above, that the charitable funds of London were sufficient to maintain every eighth person in comfort. Theory, however, in this instance, as in many more, has to yield to fact; and your Committee find that, until the streams of charity can be conducted into truer channels, the stubborn fact meets them that the proper local agency or private person cannot at a moment's notice be found to meet the pressing emergency.'

It appears from a note on page 13 of the Report that during the past year, on the average, the sum of £28, divided amongst 28 cases, has been distributed monthly.

The Committee dealt with 1,233 in the year 1874-5, exclusive of Reports sent out, inquiries for other Committees, and vagrants. During the past year they have dealt with 1,231.

The forms filled up in the case of applicants in receipt of pensions, granted in the manner explained by the Hon. Secretary in *Reporter* No. 192, are given at length. It is noteworthy that the Committee publish a list, and thankfully acknowledge the receipt of Hospital letters received during the year.

RETURNS FOR DECEMBER.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of Cases for the five weeks ending Saturday, December 30, 1876, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Enquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with	
	Not requiring relief	Under-surveying	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.					Class total
Kensington	16	29	30	75	4	7	11	22	30	1	9	..	39	136	63	21	113
Fulham	7	4	20	34	2	1	18	21	17	4	8	4	29	72	15	15	4
Paddington	1	1	19	30	1	2	3	11	16	3	4	14	37	78	21	..	4
Chelsea	10	1	19	30	1	2	3	11	16	3	4	14	37	78	21	..	4
St. George's: G. Committee	5	3	20	26	..	5	5	8	16	4	..	2	21	67	22	9	..
W. Committee	6	3	29	38	..	5	5	7	16	4	..	1	21	120	54	..	..
Westminster: St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho	6	3	11	20	..	8	2	10	6	1	1	..	8	26	20	18	9
St. Marylebone	13	10	26	49	1	32	39	72	6	7	..	3	167	51	41	18	..
Hampstead	5	1	5	9	4	4	..	4	3	..	2	..	7	20	6	12	..
North St. Pancras	4	5	5	14	16	14	21	41	..	4	..	2	61	13	12	4	..
South St. Pancras	1	4	21	26	1	35	17	53	..	4	..	5	94	13	46	4	..
Islington	10	7	..	17	2	30	16	48	7	..	..	2	72	30	29	..	..
Hackney Union	..	3	3	10	1	3	14	15	..	..	..	15	32	..	11	46	..
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	3	1	6	10	..	14	4	18	11	5	..	7	51	8	25	2	..
Strand	1	4	33	38	..	10	2	12	8	3	..	1	12	62	11	31	..
Holborn	3	3	30	36	2	66	5	73	3	4	..	7	106	11	58	3	..
City	1	1	1	3	..	2	1	3	4	2	..	1	6	12	13	10	5
Shoreditch	1	3	16	20	1	14	19	34	4	3	..	1	62	15	3	..	..
Bethnal Green	8	1	22	31	..	5	1	6	15	3	..	1	19	56	18	39	..
Whitechapel	5	9	6	20	..	6	1	7	..	..	..	..	27	13	40	..	..
St. George's-in-the-East	3	1	9	13	..	14	7	21	1	3	1	5	44	9	23	..	..
Stepney	10	14	29	..	..	10	2	12	2	..	1	1	4	34	13	33	..
Mill End Old Town	6	1	13	20	..	12	3	15	4	2	..	2	30	19	12	..	..
Poplar	2	1	9	12	..	3	5	7	4	3	..	1	37	18	26	..	..
St. Saviour's	4	3	13	20	1	1	3	5	1	3	..	3	32	11	18	..	..
Newington	4	7	13	24	..	2	3	5	2	..	..	2	31	1	20	..	..
St. Olave's	4	6	5	17	..	6	2	8	10	1	1	..	12	37	3	39	..
Lambeth	..	5	9	14	..	9	3	12	5	..	..	..	27	11	21	1	..
Brixton	3	..	..	3	1	..	2	3	1	2	..	..	9	1	1	..	..
Wandsworth and Putney	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	4	2	3	..	..
Battersea	1	7	8	16	..	1	..	13	3	..	..	3	33	2	24	..	..
Chapman	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	..
Camberwell: Grove Lane	1	1	9	11	4	12	7	23	5	2	..	1	51	4	14	..	..
Peckham	1	..	4	5	..	3	3	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	5	..	..
Greenwich	3	2	5	10	..	2	2	9	8	..	..	7	4	36	15	9	..
Deptford	2	1	2	5	..	3	2	5	3	..	..	4	14	4	..	..	..
Woolwich	6	3	2	11	..	2	6	8	4	3	..	2	37	16	4	..	..
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	7	15	..	15	14	..	..	..
Eltham	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	7	..	..
Sydenham	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	151	146	410	710	50	349	211	610	254	84	33	80	451	1771	24	270	27

PROVINCIAL.

SCARBOROUGH.—**ANNUAL MEETING.**—*Begging Petitions, District Visiting, &c.*—The sixth annual meeting of the Scarborough Society for Repressing Mendicity was held on the 8th of December last. During the year 250 cases have been brought before the committee, of which 159 were refused relief, 7 referred to guardians and private persons, and 84 were assisted. In the course of his speech Archdeacon Blunt referred to the action of the Society with regard to begging petitions. 'These used to come round,' he said, 'very frequently; and while money was often got by them, nobody ever knew whether it reached the proper object or not, or how it was expended. This Society entertained all the petitions that were submitted to it, and sanctioned those that were found, upon examination, to be deserving.' We should have been glad to hear what safeguards are taken by the Society to prevent any abuse of endorsed petitions. What ultimately comes of the petition? If the petition is for £10 are any effective steps taken to prevent more than that sum being collected, &c.? During the subsequent reading of a paper by Mr. John Hart, that gentleman advocated the employment of more visitors. 'No doubt investigation

in the first instance is best done by a good paid officer. He is able to verify statements as to residence, earnings, employment, to visit references and employers; but, to make his efforts bear their full value, he should be assisted by a body of good visitors, who would give the finishing touches of investigation—the little personal facts, the desires, and hopes, and to a certain extent the capacities of the applicant would be more thoroughly learnt by a volunteer visitor. . . . One of the real and lasting benefits such a body of visitors would confer on the poor would be teaching them to really do more for themselves, and by watching over each family with continuous interest, and trying to get them to see that by careful industry they can best help themselves; but when they find a family, who from misfortune or sickness really wants help, they do not hesitate to give liberally if adequate help will secure permanent good.' S. F.

GLASGOW.—ANNUAL MEETING.—*Charitable Relief*.—The Glasgow Charity Organisation Society held its third annual meeting on the 15th of December last. According to the Report, 1,061 cases were investigated during the past year. Of these, no less than 560 were found to be undeserving. Of the remainder, 406 were recommended to various agencies or private persons for relief, and 95 assisted by the Committee. The Report adds, 'A number of the undeserving list were ascertained to be such gross impostors that it was felt requisite to take some notice of them in the newspapers, in order to put the public on their guard; and also, as far as the Society could, to prevent the persons from carrying on successfully their fraudulent designs.' We should have been glad to have had more details respecting this action on the part of the Society. 'Deeming it desirable to possess a full and reliable list of the different charitable societies connected with the city, the Council appointed a small Committee to execute this work. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the necessary information. Societies that neglected to send a report of their work, or furnish the necessary information regarding their objects, have been excluded. Very few really good societies, however, have in this way been omitted.' What co-operation could do in Glasgow is very clearly shown. . . . the large sum of £157,000 is annually collected by 68 societies alone; while, by the various churches, there is probably not less than £14,000 expended on the relief of the poor connected with them. There is also what is given away privately—of the extent of which it is impossible to form any idea—and probably it is not far off the mark to set it down at half a million raised annually from all sources on behalf of the poor. Of course, the whole of this cannot be available for this purpose; but, allowing that £200,000 go for cost of management, &c., there remains the large sum of £800,000, which would still allow of grants of about £16 a year to all the registered and unregistered poor in the three parishes.' S. F.

DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—The *Sanitary Record*, in its weekly summary of medical officers' reports, says, in reference to Tamworth:—'The medical officer also specially refers to the want of proper accommodation for the poor, whose dwellings are so shamefully overcrowded "that it is by no means uncommon to find ten persons sleeping in one room of 8 or 9 feet square, with no other means of ventilation than a rude window containing four small squares of glass." We think this, to a considerable extent, accounts for the large amount of infant mortality.'

At Bolton the medical officer states his belief that the high death-rate was partly caused by want of sufficient ventilation and the filthy dwellings in which many of the poor live, and quotes a paragraph from Dr. Playfair that 'death, like the evil demons of old, shuns cleanly places.' Acting on this opinion the inspectors had obtained improved ventilation in more than 300 houses.

DISTRICT VISITING SOCIETIES.

WORK AMONG THE POOR.—A meeting was held on December 6, 1876, in the Townshend Schools, Vincent Square, Westminster, to discuss work among the poor in London. Lord Claude Hamilton was in the chair.

The Rev. Brooke Lambert read a paper* on the 'Province of Benevolence,' of which the following are extracts:—

'I have suggested four levers to help in raising the inert mass of hopeless misery—work, saving, cleanliness, schooling. Leave them to do their work. They will work automatically if you oil the wheels now and then; but don't expect great results at once; work and wait, and wait rather than work.'

'You will have acquired considerable education in the process of district visiting when you have got thus far. You will have grasped the fact that you are not so much to try to remedy the evils directly as to set at work the forces which will do the work for you. And your work will be the more effective when you recognise the fact that the first condition to justify

* Copies of this paper, reprinted from the *Guardian* of December 20, 1876, have been, through Mr. Brooke Lambert's kindness, placed at the disposal of the Council. They can be had free on application. In the *Guardian* of the 20th ult., a full account of the meeting will be found.

you in undertaking a case is that it is remediable. You will have to leave to other agencies than private charity the remedy of many cases. You will, in fact, throw them on one side as not within your province; whilst you attack the cases which seem capable of real help. You find this in all pursuits. You begin to collect fossils, insects, flowers. At first you roam far and wide, and fill your box, bag, or net with things creeping innumerable; you gather every flower and pocket every stone. A little exercise teaches you what to look for, diminishes your field of labour, and increases your crop of results.

'And this will stand out as a salient fact—that to relieve one case thoroughly is worth more than to touch half a dozen. Then you will realise the value of this Charity Organisation Society. Money is wasted in London—charities overlap frightfully. The water which might turn the mill-wheel is scattered in wasteful dribblets, which saturate instead of sweetening the land. The difference between 40s. spent by as many people on forty different families, and the 40s. spent on one case to get the sick man off his bed, to send the sick child to its friends in the country, or to transfer a family bodily to a more congenial sphere of work, is enormous.

'Slowly and reluctantly, but very confidently, you will arrive at the truth that some cases are best left untouched by you—not left alone—for there is another agency at work, the Poor Law, with its stern restrictions and its prison-like refuge. You will learn by experience that its sternness is true kindness—that, were its help given as freely as you once gave your shillings, the mass of the poor reduced to this low ebb of hope could never resist throwing itself into its arms. The Poor Law is a stern mother—like the mother teaching her child to walk, she must be insensible to the child's cries till the task is done.

'And now may I say a word or two to you on the general spirit of visiting? First, I hope you will not mind my saying plainly that the jam and powder system of district visiting is a bad one. You will guess what I mean. When you were young you were bribed to take the powder by the jam in the spoon. Well, when you go into the poor man's room with a tract in one hand and a shilling in the other, I call it the jam and powder system. You know that the person takes the tract because of the shilling. You know, if you will examine yourself, that you would not dare to offer the tract without the shilling. Tracts are good—at least, some of them, and charity is good; but you must keep the two apart. Relief humiliates when it is accepted from a superior, not from a friend. Religion disgusts when it is offered as a condition of relief.

'And so, secondly, you must get rid of the I and My system. You don't go to people who can look on life from your point of view; you must try and see what is practicable in their situation, not what you think desirable. You have laughed often enough at the lady of the *ancien régime*, who, when told that the poor people had no bread to eat, asked why they didn't eat buns. But, frankly speaking, we talk as much nonsense when we expect the poor to observe the niceties we use in the management of our houses and children.

'Thirdly. Remember that none are so sensitive as those who receive favours. Approach the poor from above, and they may cringe, but they will never open to you. They are like the sea anemones. Touch them, and they close over everything, but you will not see what you want to see. They will take all you give, but you will get nothing for your pains.

'Fourthly. Believe well of them; you won't go long among them without finding such jewels as you little expected to find in such a place. The representation of the poor as a drinking, wife-beating set is in one sense true. They have not the money for the dissipation of society in balls and parties. They don't dance all night, get a fit of indigestion from too good a supper, and then feel lazy next morning, and put off this or that bit of business till they feel in the humour for it. No; they take their pleasure in a more vulgar and concentrated way. They drink one dram, and then another and another, and they, too, are unwell next morning, and don't do all they ought to do. Drunkenness is more common in the poor than with our class. Neglect of duty is not. And as for wife-beating—it is terribly common in some families, but I mention it because it brings out a virtue which puts us to shame, in the grand forgiveness which the sufferers extend to the wrongdoers. It must be a bad case indeed which is prosecuted; and when the man is sentenced, who but the beaten wife ceaselessly wearies her friends with importunities to help her to find the money necessary for the fine or for the security?

'Lastly. Infinite patience. How the doctors and the legislators in whose company we started would laugh at the idea that you could remedy an evil by an Act of Parliament, or cure a cancer with a day's trouble! Those who have read human nature have learnt, like the doctor and the legislator, that time, working with other remedies, is the main factor in the cure of evils. You must not hope that the evils wrought by centuries of social wrongs—for the evils of the poor are due largely to social wrongs—that the demoralisation wrought by a life of careless, hopeless drifting can be cured in a day, a month, or a year. Be patient with the sufferer.

The husbandman waiting for the fruit hath long patience. And One has longer patience still. Do you know the story Jeremy Taylor rescued from oblivion? One evening there came to Abraham's tent door a man weary with his journey. "Turn in, my friend, turn in and rest thyself," said Abraham; and, washing his feet and spreading the food, he made the wayfarer comfortable. But when at sunset the traveller made his orisons to the sun, Abraham turned him from the tent. And in the night God called Abraham, and he said, "Here am I." And the Lord said, "Abraham, where is the old man I sent thee?" And Abraham said, "O Lord, I sent him forth, for he worshipped not Thee, but worshippeth strange gods. There shall no such tarry in my sight." And the Lord said, "I have borne with him these eighty years. Couldst not thou bear with him one night?"

Canon Farrar moved the following resolution:—"That, in the interests of the poor, it is of vital importance that relief should be bestowed more advisably than at present, so as to secure real and permanent benefit to the persons relieved." The harm, he said, done by a good deal of almsgiving in London was one of the first things which struck him on coming to the Metropolis. He spoke with great deference to their longer experience, but money was thrown to the daughters of the horse-leech, who cry 'Give, give,' which might be devoted not merely to the necessities, but even to the highest wants of life. The late Charles Kingsley said that if all the charities in his village were suddenly to strike, every publichouse in the village would also close its doors. Probably the scant welcome which the visitor to the poor often received was due to the knowledge of the poor as to the inefficiency of the present mode of relieving. They should be taught to be gentle, and he told the little boys in his elementary schools the great rule of Epictetus, that virtue (manliness) alone makes the gentleman.

Miss Octavia Hill seconded the resolution. She said that within her observation a great many more had come forward to work among the poor; but, unless they were well guided, their self-sacrificing devotion might even do harm. Some doles ate out the heart of the people, and, by the expectation of their continuance, caused the poverty they were intended to alleviate. Suppose, among every group of visitors, one should be selected to be a sort of secretary to the others and to communicate to all new visitors particulars of the case. The plan had already worked successfully in more than one parish, and its general adoption would make a great difference. The secretary would have great assistance from the district committees of the Charity Organisation Society, and she would soon learn what cases to refer to the Guardians, the School Board officers, the Inspectors of Nuisances. The National Penny Bank propaganda, rules for the suppression of infection, &c., would be work to unite together the district visitors in different parishes. When people come face to face with those they pity they will give doles unless they can be convinced by investigation what is the result of that which they are doing. They must trace the history of the family they have to deal with. The larger outlook required can only be attained by organisation. The responsibility of the whole question rests with the visitors and with the clergy, who are the centre of the visitors. The rich and the poor must be linked together, the vigour with the refinement of the nation. The Rev. the Hon. W. H. Fremantle proposed the second resolution:—"That it is desirable, with a view to the promotion of this end, that the Clergy (of all denominations) should so organise their staff of helpers, that individual visitors may be able to refer to recognised advisers of special experience in such matters with regard to families or persons who may seem to need relief." He joined Mr. Lambert in protesting against associating religion with little doles. In his own parish there was a committee, due in its inception chiefly to Miss Hill and Mr. Barnett, now of St. Jude's, Whitechapel, to which all cases are referred. Great use is made of the Charity Organisation Society, but for inquiry only. The Rev. W. Tennant seconded the resolution.

CASE OF W. J. PLUNKETT WADE.

At the Marylebone Police Court on Saturday, 16th December, 1876, before Mr. Mansfield, Magistrate, Walter John Plunkett Wade was charged for endeavouring to obtain money from Sir Edmund Beckett, Bart., Q.C., of 33 Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, by means of false pretences, to wit—a begging-letter. The prisoner was brought up in custody, a warrant for his apprehension having been obtained on the day previous (Friday). Mr. George Lewis, junr., instructed by Mr. C. J. Ribton-Turner, prosecuted on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society.

Mr. Lewis: I appear on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society to prosecute the defendant on a charge of attempting to obtain charitable contributions by fraud; and I think when you have heard the circumstances you will come to the conclusion that the case is a very serious one, so far as the prisoner's misconduct is concerned. From 1868 to the present period you will find that the prisoner has lived on charitable contributions sent to him by persons who have been touched by pathetic appeals, contained in letters sent by the defendant to charitably disposed persons.—I will now,

sir, read you the letter sent to Sir Edmund Beckett, which was calculated to excite the sympathy of the charitable, and when the true facts are made known to you you will see what sort of a person the prisoner is. The letter is as follows:—

HERNE, NEAR CANTERBURY, 7TH NOV., 1876.

SIR,—I trust you will kindly pardon the very great liberty I take by addressing you as a perfect stranger, which the desperate state of my circumstances alone could induce me to do. I was educated at Eton, and have served in the army. Since leaving the service I have gained my livelihood by taking pupils for the military examinations, and kept a small establishment for that purpose exclusively. After living in uninterrupted happiness with my wife for several years, she suddenly left me with one of our three children. I commenced proceedings in the Divorce Court, which I could not continue for want of means, against her worthless paramour Capt. —, late of the — Regt., who had previously seduced her married sister in India, for which he had to pay heavy damages. She afterwards died. Thus did Capt. — become the destroyer of two married sisters. This catastrophe, sir, led to the breaking up of my once happy home—which home was my *bread*—for I was obliged in consequence to return my pupils to their parents, and ask by my own exertions to support myself as well as to maintain and educate my two remaining children, both girls, feeling sensible that upon their education must depend their future *bread*. To add to my sorrows, sir, my second child is afflicted with a weak constitution—curvature of the spine—upon which account she has been rejected as a candidate for St. Anne's Society School, and which necessitates wine and other nourishing food, I am no longer able to afford her; whilst my own health and eyesight are rapidly failing me, so that my working days are numbered; and being in my 49th year they will soon be over. In consequence of the recent reduction made in the army examinations, as well as the great competition among tutors, I am now reduced to *starvation*, being without the commonest necessities of life. During the last two years I have placed my second child, aged 16, at a good school as governess pupil, but I am now called upon to remove her, being unable to pay in advance the next quarter's premium, and I have not a *shilling* to offer her. In order, sir, to avert this dreadful calamity, I am endeavouring through the kindness and charity of my friends to raise a sufficient fund to enable me to set up a small school, so that I may be able to support myself as well as to maintain and educate my children. May I, sir, so far presume upon your benevolence as to solicit a *small* contribution towards this fund, by which you may help to be the blessed means of saving my poor motherless girls from *ruin*. I am also suffering great anxiety, sir, for the fate of my youngest child, a little girl of 14, who ought to be removed from the fearful example of a mother living in sin with her paramour, Capt. —, a *convicted felon*, who has recently undergone a term of imprisonment with hard labour for defrauding a bank in Cornwall! For the truthfulness of my statements I beg to refer you to Rev. Henry J. Dixon, Yarncombe Vicarage, near Barnstaple, N. Devon. This gentleman has known me for 21 years, and has kindly undertaken to receive contributions and to take charge of the school funds.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. J. PLUNKETT WADE.

Sir E. Beckett, Bart.

You will find, sir, from the evidence I will bring forward, that at the time he wrote this letter in which he stated that he was 'reduced to utter destitution, being devoid of the commonest necessities of life,' that he was engaged in a house, at Herne, near Canterbury, as a tutor, receiving his board and lodging, and living in every comfort, and with reference to—The Prisoner: Without any salary; I had no salary.—Mr. Lewis: That, I believe, is true, that he did not receive any salary, but he writes on this date, the 7th of November, that he was living without the commonest necessities of life. The truth is, that at that time he was living in the house receiving his board and lodging and educating two children, and the statement he made is utterly false. With reference to the statement that his wife ran away from him, you will find that in 1865 he was brought before Mr. Flowers at Bow Street, charged with attempting to commit suicide by pretending to throw himself over Waterloo Bridge. He saw a policeman on the bridge, and he ran to one of the seats to put his foot on the parapet, when the policeman held him. He said then that he would commit suicide at some time or another. He told the same story before Mr. Flowers, at Bow Street, and a remand was granted. At the following hearing a solicitor appeared for the wife, and told the magistrate that the prisoner had married a young lady, he being at the time a married man, and three or four children were born of the marriage. About this time he paid his addresses to another young lady, and subsequently seduced her. The magistrate heard what he had to say, and in the meantime some charitable persons, moved by his story at the first hearing, sent some subscriptions to Mr. Flowers. These subscriptions Mr. Flowers refused to give him, and he discharged him, stating that he did not believe the prisoner ever intended to commit suicide, and from that time to the present the prisoner had been in the habit of writing begging letters asking for charitable assistance on the ground that his wife had left him, his home is broken up, he has no means of living, and is anxious to obtain sufficient to enable him to provide for the education of his daughters, the fact being that they are with their mother, and not in any way dependent on him. Here are a bundle of the letters written by the prisoner, which have come into the possession of the Charity Organisation Society, setting forth the same tale and relating the alleged troubles of his life. He would have remained at Herne to this day in this situation at Mr. Marshall's perfectly comfortable, but for some misconduct, which I shall state to you. Subsequently to writing this letter to Sir E. Beckett, from what came to the knowledge of the gentleman in whose house he was living, he was discharged. I should state that the prisoner professed to be a religious man. The following letter, written by the prisoner, was found, which was addressed to one of the servants:

DEAR SALLY,—I leave for Richmond on the 16th of Dec. I am going into lodgings

. I will then take a furnished house near Richmond. I will send you the money to me when I am settled. The doctor says I will never be well as long as I am in prison.—Yours affectionately, WALTER.

is at once discharged from the situation, and the facts being related to the Charity Organisation Society, they obtained a warrant for the prisoner's arrest. When the prisoner was arrested he had in his possession a cheque for £3, and in his possession were a large number of letters addressed to members of Parliament, and thirteen others, all of the same story, that he was utterly destitute, and enclosed in a letter. The Charity Organisation Society feel that when this case is investigated it will be discovered that although the defendant is the son of a man in the Coast Guard, and that although he held at one time a commission in the Royal Artillery, from which he was cashiered at the Cape of Good Hope, that he is a worthless person, that he has been living on the contributions which he has obtained by a recital of his alleged misdeeds, which money has been spent not to any good purpose, but to keep him in idleness, and that a person who is guilty of this kind of conduct writes letters professing to be a religious man, is one with whom we should deal and one whose true character should be made known. I call Sir Edmund Beckett.

Beckett, examined by Mr. Lewis, said: I am a baronet, and one of the Queen's counsel; I reside at 33 Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square. The prisoner is a perfect stranger to me. On or about the 7th of November I received the letter produced, which is signed 'W. J. Wade.' I took it to the Charity Organisation Society, as I myself was engaged in investigating the truth or falsehood of it.—The Clerk (to the witness): Do you wish to ask any questions of this gentleman?—Witness: No, sir; I do not.

Mr. Linslow, examined by Mr. Lewis, said: I am a detective of Scotland Yard. I have long been acquainted with the prisoner's name; I received a warrant from this Court for the prisoner's apprehension, and I proceeded to Richmond yesterday to find him. I found him occupying a sitting-room and bedroom in Richmond, and he was in a sitting-room and was writing two letters. This is one of them (letter produced).—Mr. Lewis (reading): 'I will kindly pardon the very great liberty I take by addressing a perfect stranger, &c. This is an exact copy of the letter sent to the prisoner.—The Clerk (to witness): Is it a duplicate of that letter?—Mr. Lewis: Did you tell him what you arrested him for?—The witness: I did, and he said, 'What name did you say? I don't remember the name I write to so many.' He further asked me in what month, and I told him of this year, and he then said, 'I don't have the money, but my brother-in-law' (mentioning his name). I then took him to the Police Station and searched him, and found upon him a cheque for four shillings in silver. In the room where he was living I found a letter addressed to Mrs. Hughes, acknowledging receipt of the cheque. The letter was as follows:—

ADAM.—Pray accept my heartfelt prayer of gratitude for your most kind and noble contribution of £3 in this hour of distress! May the Almighty reward you for it! I am deeply grieved to hear of the sickness which has seized your house. If my poor unworthy prayers, which I offer unceasingly for you, at morning and noon, are of any avail, you will long be spared to be a blessing to the happiness of your friendship and need your comfort. Wishing you to remain, dear Madam, yours most faithfully, W. J. P. WADE.

Witness: That was written to my wife's aunt. The prisoner told me that was to his wife's aunt. In the letter I found some letters, begging letters, addressed to Mr. Leatham, Mr. Phipps, M.P., Mr. H. Chaplin, M.P., Mr. R. Fothergill, M.P., Mr. A. Brassey, M.P., Mr. E. Hermon, M.P., Dowager Countess of Devon, Mr. J. Corbett, M.P., Mr. A. Goddard, M.P., Mr. T. Fielden, and thirteen other begging letters unaddressed.

Witness to the Magistrate: You will see, sir, they are all in the same handwriting. The only difference between these letters and that sent to the prisoner is that in these he states, 'I am at present inhabiting a room at five shillings a week, enduring the bitter pangs of cold and suffering my life very precarious.'—The Prisoner: There was no room?—Witness: No, there was no fire in your room.—The witness: That relief was for my poor child, who is only 16, and she has to go to school. She has been at school, where I have kept her, for years.—Mr. Lewis (to witness): Will you look at the letter sent to the prisoner, and say whether you think it is in the same handwriting as you found in the prisoner's room?—Witness (looking at it): I think it is in the prisoner's handwriting. The letter addressed 'Dear Sir' signed 'Yours affectionately, Walter,' is in his handwriting.—The Prisoner: I received a letter from the cook, stating that she was in her situation there as cook. I had had a strong glass of brandy water, and I penned it merely as a joke. The idea of it being so serious at my time of life!—The Clerk (to prisoner): Do you wish to ask any questions?—The Prisoner: No, sir; I never intended to go to Richmond. How can I? I am in a state of great distress.—I am in a state of extreme nervous debility; and as to that letter,

it was written under the influence of spirits. It wants explanation I know.—Mr. Lewis (to Magistrate): You will see, sir, whether it looks as if it were written under the influence of spirits.

Mr. Joachim Curth, examined by Mr. Lewis, said: I know the defendant's handwriting. I am the chief enquiry officer of the Charity Organisation Society, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C. In August 1873 I saw the prisoner. It was on the 5th of that month. He admitted that they were in his handwriting, and we conversed about them. So it was I became acquainted with his handwriting. That letter to Sir E. Beckett is in the prisoner's handwriting.—The Magistrate: I don't think it is necessary to carry that any further.—Mr. Lewis: Very well, sir. (To witness): In consequence of the receipt of this letter at the Charity Organisation Society's office did you proceed to Herne?—Witness: I proceeded to a house called 'The Limes,' at Herne, in Kent, on Wednesday last. Mr. Marshall lives there. I went there with a view to ascertaining whether, on the 7th of November, the prisoner was destitute of the commonest necessities of life. I ascertained that, on the 7th of November, he was tutor at Mr. Marshall's, and was living there. Mrs. Marshall is unable to attend to-day. I received from Mrs. Marshall the letter which has been handed to the magistrate, and commencing 'Dear Sally.' I received that yesterday. That letter is in the prisoner's handwriting.—The Prisoner: Did Mrs. Marshall say that I was receiving any salary?—Mrs. Marshall said that you received no salary. She said that you had been there nine months educating her nephews without any salary.—The Prisoner: I was there from February to November 15. I was so reduced that I had not money enough to come to London; and my brother officers in Ireland sent me a sovereign, and a friend of mine, General Lefroy, sent me some left-off clothing. I was reduced to the last state of destitution.—The Magistrate (to witness): Did she tell you why he was dismissed?—Because of immorality.—The Prisoner: In what way was I dismissed? Where and how was I immoral? I was not immoral.—Witness: You were found visiting the cook in her bedroom at night, and she visited you in your bedroom.—Prisoner: There ought to be evidence of that.—Witness: That was what I was told.—Mr. Lewis: Upon that evidence I ask you to remand the defendant. We must at the next hearing call Mrs. Marshall and other witnesses.—The Prisoner (to the magistrate): Will you kindly read that endorsement from Mr. Clabon in the year 1870? and there has been very little difference in my case since then. Since then my case has been one of agonising struggle.—The Magistrate: The case is remanded until Friday next at 11.30.

The prisoner Wade was brought up on remand before Mr. Mansfield, at Marylebone Police Court, on Friday, December 22, 1876. Mr. George Lewis, jun., appeared to prosecute for the Charity Organisation Society; the prisoner was defended by Mr. Sampson.

Sir Roland Knyvett Wilson, examined by Mr. Lewis, said: I reside at No. 3 Mecklenburgh Square. The prisoner is an entire stranger to me. About the 9th of November last I received the letter which is produced, dated the 8th of November. The letter asked me for assistance. I sent it to Miss Collett, of the Charity Organisation Society.—Mr. Lewis: This letter is similar to that sent by the prisoner to Sir Edmund Beckett.—Mr. Sampson: Will you select one letter, Mr. Lewis, on which to go?—Mr. Lewis: That one to Sir Edmund Beckett, to Sir Roland Wilson, and to Lord Wolverton. Is Lord Wolverton here?—(There was no response).—Cross-examination of Sir Roland Wilson by Mr. Sampson: I had no personal knowledge of or acquaintance with the prisoner. On receiving the letter I made no inquiries as to the prisoner's position. I sent it at once to Miss Collett. I am not at present a member of the Charity Organisation Society. I suppose you may take it that I am a witness to-day on behalf of the Charity Organisation Society.—Mr. Lewis: What is the use, Mr. Sampson, of asking Sir Roland such a question when he is being examined as you know as a witness for the prosecution. Do you attend here, Sir Roland, under a Crown Office subpoena?—Witness: Yes.—Mr. Sampson: Will you produce it? I have a reason for asking it. (Subpoena produced).—Mr. Lewis: Will you look and see if that is the letter you sent to Miss Collett?—Witness: Yes. That is dated the 9th of November, and I received the letter from the prisoner the day before.

Mrs. Emily Marshall, examined by Mr. Lewis, said: I am the wife of Mr. John Marshall, and I reside at the Limes, Herne, in the county of Kent. I know the prisoner. He entered the service of my husband in February or the beginning of March of this year as tutor to two boys. He left our service on the 14th of November. He received no salary, but he received his board and lodging, living with the family.—Mr. Lewis: Is it true that on November 9th, when in your house, he was reduced to utter destitution, being without the commonest necessities of life?—Witness: No. My husband dismissed him from our service. He was dismissed in consequence of something which came to our knowledge with reference to the cook. I know the prisoner's handwriting, and that letter commencing 'Dear Sally' is in his handwriting.—Mr. Sampson: This may be a matter of prejudice, but I don't see that this has anything to do with this case. A

cook is not a common necessary of life. I object to the production of that letter, on the ground that it is imported to prejudice my client.—Mr. Lewis: I submit that the letter should be received, and for this reason—the prisoner says in his letter, 'Dear Sally . . . I will then take a furnished house at Richmond;' and that shows he is not in a state of utter destitution, and that he is not the man he pretends to be. He further writes to her, 'I will send you the means for you to come to me,' &c.—Mr. Mansfield decided that the letter could be put in.—Mr. Lewis then read the letter.—Cross-examined by Mr. Sampson: I have the charge of some children belonging to my sister who is in India. I have known the prisoner only since he came into our house. We became acquainted with him by his answering an advertisement from us two years ago. We advertised for a gentleman to give a few hours in the day to mathematics. The remuneration we offered was board and lodging, and the gentleman was to be engaged for two or three hours a day. I offered to pay for his washing or to have it done for him, but he preferred having it done himself. It was not part of our agreement with the prisoner that he was to have any money when he left us. He never told me while he was with us that he had two children dependent upon him. There was no time in conversation mentioned between us as to when he was to leave our house. When he first corresponded with us he gave us a reference, and it was good as far as it went. The cook was with me about three months, and she came into my service about August. I had a good character with her. I was told that she was under an engagement to be married. I did not make the whisky and water for the defendant very strong and stiff. The first I saw or heard of that letter to 'Dear Sally' was that my husband had it given to him by a policeman. I have no letters belonging to the cook in my possession, nor has my husband.

Mr. Lewis: The manner in which this letter addressed 'Dear Sally' came to the possession of this witness was as follows: The cook could not read or write, and she was acquainted with the wife of a policeman, who conducted her correspondence for her. It is not an unusual thing for a policeman to know a cook.—Mr. Sampson: Have you at any time seen the prisoner guilty of acts of impropriety with your cook or any of your servants? Witness: I saw him once speaking to a servant in a familiar way, and I warned her that I could not allow her to conduct herself improperly. I allowed the prisoner to remain in the house after that.—Re-examined by Mr. Lewis: The cook lost her character by her misconduct with the prisoner, and I dismissed her from my service. The letters to Sir Edmund Beckett and Sir Roland Wilson are in the prisoner's handwriting. After the prisoner left our service he wrote a letter to my husband apologising for his misconduct.

(The remainder of the report of this case will appear in our next issue.)

DIFFICULT CASES.

The *Reporter* of December 21st contained the following 'difficult case': The husband of a very drunken wife has been paying five shillings a week towards the support of his two young children in a 'Home.' He is out of work on account of slackness of trade, and therefore unable to keep up the payment. He bears a good character. Is it desirable to pay for the children till the father gets work again?

If the man has been provident and bears an exceptionally good character, and has really been unable to make sufficient provision for the usual winter slackness of work to enable him to keep up the payment, a loan on the usual security, with a caution, seems to me to be the most safe form of assistance. An able-bodied man might be able to keep himself and spend five shillings a week on the support of two children, surely. Many widows have to do it in East London.

I quite agree with Edward Denison that there is hardly an able-bodied man who cannot, by the exercise of ordinary prudence, tide over times of sickness and slackness of work.

A. G. C.

The following is another reply we have received in regard to this case:—
'If the man is only temporarily out of work, would not the proper course be to make him a loan? The payment of 6s. for two children is so small that to discharge it for him is to relieve him of his proper responsibilities. If his circumstances are so bad, and his prospects so poor that he cannot undertake to repay a loan, it is probably a Poor Law case.'

Y.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of December 1876 was 38,122, and 45,409 received outdoor relief, making a total of 83,531. This was a decrease of 138 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1875, 1874, and 1873, this was a decrease of 4,476, 13,826, and 23,348 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 706. This was a decrease of 17 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 379 on the corresponding day of last year.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF AND EDUCATION.

The Elementary Education Act seems to have furnished the Kensington board of guardians with an efficacious test of the necessities of claimants for out-door relief. It was stated at a recent meeting of the board that 244 persons had applied for out-relief. The condition of granting it was that their children should be sent to the School Board schools; but only seventy-eight of the claimants accepted the relief the guardians were prepared to give upon these terms. This test, therefore, reduced the claimants by nearly four-fifths of the whole number. . . . It would be of practical interest to have the experience of other parts of the metropolis on the education test of out-door pauperism. During the half-year which ended Michaelmas 1876 the payments made by a number of the metropolitan unions from the common poor fund for the education of out-door pauper children was £867, or £114 more than in the previous half-year. The unions which made no claim upon the fund for this object were Chelsea, St. George's-in-the-East, St. Giles', and St. George's, Hampstead, Holborn, Kensington, City of London, Marylebone, St. Saviour's, Strand, Westminster, and Whitechapel.—*Fall Mall Gazette*.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.—The guardians of the Tunbridge Union have issued conditions for obtaining out-door relief almost identical with those issued by the Manchester board, and quoted in the *Reporter* for 1876, p. 179.

A CASE for HALF-BINDING the NUMBERS of the *Reporter* for 1876 has been prepared by Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., New-street Square, Farringdon Street, E.C.; and can be obtained from them through all newsagents, price 1s. 4d. If the numbers for the year be sent to Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., they will be bound for 2s. 10d.

COVERS in Dark Green Cloth, for filing current Numbers of the *Reporter*, may be had of Mr. STACY, 257 Euston Road, N.W., post-free, on receipt of 1s. 3d. in postage-stamps.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

THE FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 10th instant there had been present:—

Mr. C. A. Miner, in the Chair; Rev. H. I. Cummins, Major Prendergast, Mr. E. Corrie.

THE INUNDATIONS.*

The Secretary reported that at Hammersmith the Fulham Committee had taken vigorous steps for the judicious distribution of relief. The clergy and the Committee were working in concert. At Deptford the distress did not appear to be so great as was at first reported. There was an Inundation Committee in the District. At St. George's-in-the-East the Relief Committee, appeared to have the necessary funds; and consequently the sums, stated last week to have been sent to the St. George's East Committee, had been transferred to the Fulham Committee.

Mr. H. Hoper, the Hon. Secretary of the St. Saviour's Committee, said, that members of the Committee had made personal inquiries respecting the amount and nature of the distress; and, with a view to meeting it effectually, had made an application for a grant from the Lord Mayor's Fund.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS FOR IDIOTS ETC.

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented the Report of the Committee for Considering the Best Means of making a Satisfactory Provision for Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics, which was appointed at a Conference at the Central Office of the Charity Organisation Society on the 21st June 1875. He stated that the Committee had held thirteen meetings in May, June, and July 1876, besides two in April for settling the agenda, and a final meeting in January, at which the report was adopted; and deputations from the Committee visited the Earlewood Asylum, the Asylum of the Metropolitan Asylums Board at Levensden, their School for Imbecile Children at Clapton, and Dr. Langdon Down's establishment at Hampton Wick. He also observed that, as the three elements of Country Administration, Special Professional Experience, and Charity Organisation, were fully represented on the Committee, the result of their careful examination of the subject was deserving of the attentive consideration of all who were interested in it.

On a motion from the Chair, which was unanimously adopted, the Council expressed to Sir Charles Trevelyan their sincere thanks for the time, labour, and money which he had devoted to the Society by making the arrangements for the meeting of the Committee and printing the Report, together with numerous other papers required for the consideration of the Committee, and for the satisfactory conduct of their business.

THE 'REPORTER.'†

Sir Charles Trevelyan having, with the permission of Council, altered the terms of his motion, then moved:—

That the price of the *Reporter* be raised from 1d. to 2d. a number; or annually (including postage), from 6s. to 8s. 4d.

He said—The *Charity Organisation Reporter* has been a decided administrative success. It has maintained harmony of information and action between the Council and its thirty-eight District Committees and among the Committees themselves, with a promptness and exactness which would not easily have been secured in any other way. A glance at the first page, with its calendar of engagements for the next week, and its numerous miscellaneous notices, suffices to show this; and it must be remembered that, under the influence of railways and free trade, England and Scotland are assuming more and more the character of a vast urban population with subsidiary rural districts, so that the same social evils and the same remedies for them, with which our Society deals in the metropolis, are equally recognised at a hundred other local centres, and associations formed upon our model are springing up throughout the land. In order to maintain a good understanding among all these autonomous administrations, and to bring the experience of the whole to bear upon every part, the *Reporter* is invaluable. Our Secretary has been authorised to make it generally known that he is ready to receive memoranda containing information on the following subjects with a view to their insertion in the *Reporter* when space permits:—1. Meetings on subjects connected with the improvement of the condition of the poor; 2. Efforts

made to improve the machinery and working of existing District Visiting Societies; 3. Efforts made to promote provident habits among the poor; 4. Efforts made to improve the dwellings of the poor; 5. Efforts made to promote the welfare of the afflicted poor; 6. Efforts made to suppress vagrancy; and when the Secretary sees anything done in any quarter which would be interesting to members of the Society and would help others working in the same cause, he suggests that it should be explained by a letter to the *Reporter*. The practice at Brighton of referring suitable cases to a loan society, and at Glasgow of noticing impostors in the newspapers, in order to put the public on their guard, are recent instances in point. Ours is really a missionary enterprise, and the *Reporter* is an essential part of our propaganda. It constantly happens that particular neighbourhoods or classes of persons are specially interested in particular parts of the subject, and the matter is then dealt with in the *Reporter*, and an extra number of copies is struck off for distribution. On a full and just view the *Reporter* is also a financial success. Several clerks would otherwise have to be employed upon the indispensable official work done by means of the *Reporter*, and, after all, it would not be done so well as at present, and sums have been contributed to the funds of the Society distinctly traceable to the influence of the *Reporter*, which more than make good the net annual loss upon it. The average expenditure of the last three years on account of the *Reporter* has been £208, and the average income £88, leaving an annual deficit of £178. The average number of subscribers has been 475. Nevertheless this annual deficit is damaging to the Society, because the circumstances which make the *Reporter* an administrative and financial success, even on its present footing, cannot be always known or borne in mind, and the constantly recurring deficit therefore gives an impression of lavish expenditure, and suggests doubts as to the expediency of continuing the *Reporter*. There is a general agreement among those who have given their attention to the subject that the *Reporter* ought to be something more than an official circular, and that it should be used in a more decided manner as a medium for propagating the principles of the Society. It ought, in their opinion, to be open to correspondence on matters in which the Society is interested, and it has been ascertained that, if an enlarged scope were given to the publication, a series of well-considered papers could be secured upon district visiting, outdoor relief, friendly societies, medical relief, and other kindred topics, by persons who have given special attention to them. The main advantage, also, of the conferences we have determined to hold on the second Monday of each month would be lost if provision were not made for publishing them. For these purposes it is indispensable that the *Reporter* should be enlarged, and as it would be altogether inexpedient to increase the annual deficit upon it, the price at which it is sold must be raised. I suggest that it should be fixed at 2d. instead of 1d. a copy, or 8s. 4d. a year, including postage. There would still be a deficit at first; but a large number of persons are interested in such subjects, many of whom would willingly give a higher price for a better article, and, if the plan is vigorously carried out, it is not unreasonable to expect that the subscribers to the *Reporter* will be at least doubled. Nothing, also, has yet been done to advertise the *Reporter*, and our present circulation holds out no inducements to advertisers. After all 2d. would be less than legal, clerical, and medical men pay for the periodical works relating to their respective professions, and much less than the great majority of the members of the Society of Arts and of the Social Science Association give for the privilege of receiving the journals of those Societies, without taking any active part in their proceedings. We also may hope for numerous supporters, who, although not able to work at the business of the Society, may be glad to be connected with it and to keep themselves informed of its operations.

Mr. R. Barrington seconded the motion, on the understanding that Sir Charles Trevelyan did not propose to increase the price of the *Reporter* till it had been improved in scope and character. He had heard that such a paper would pay well, but believed that a sub-editor would be required.

Sir Charles Trevelyan having stated that he was desirous of increasing the price and improving the character of the *Reporter*, *pari passu* and gradually, Mr. Willis-Bund said that large changes were involved in the proposals made by Sir Charles Trevelyan, and no hint of these changes was given in the motion, which dealt merely with the question of price. He believed that a sub-editor would be necessary, and that the proposed enlargement of the *Reporter* would

* *Vide Reporter*, No. 200, p. 2.

† *Vide Reporter*, No. 187, p. 127; and No. 195, p. 162.

il a large additional expense, which it would be unwise to incur he present time. He moved the previous question. r. A. H. Hill seconded the motion for the previous question. sidered as a circular of the Society, packed with useful items of rmation, the *Reporter* could do good work without competing any of the smaller special papers. If it became a more general r, as well as a circular of the Society, it would be more expensive less effective. It was impossible to calculate how far, indirectly, *Reporter* was a source of profit to the Society; but he did not k that it was wise, as a commercial speculation, to charge 2d. for all pennyworth.

With regard to the necessity of employing a sub-editor, the Secre- said that, as no immediate change was proposed, he believed the organisation of volunteer help in writing for the *Reporter* ld gradually reduce the labour of editing. If sufficient volunteer was forthcoming, the *Reporter* might be enlarged and made more resting without an increase of staff. Already, he was glad to say, ral members had given him assistance.

fter a few words from Mr. Seton-Karr,

r. C. L. Corkran urged the advisability of arranging with one of general papers for the insertion, weekly, of matters of interest ected with the work of the Society.

r. Bousfield, supporting Sir Charles Trevelyan's motion, con- ceded that there would be no difficulty in obtaining the proposed in- sed subscriptions for the *Reporter*; while

r. J. R. Hollond pointed out the difficulty of combining the rter as a circular (which it now was) with the *Reporter* as a ogandist enterprise (which Sir Charles Trevelyan wished it to

He considered that a weekly circular containing notices, &c. for District Committees, and a monthly journal, would be the : satisfactory arrangement.

ev. H. I. Cummins suggested a quarterly journal, of which the ity Organisation and one or two other Societies should have

. F. B. Montgomerie said a few words; and Sir Charles Tre- un having replied briefly, the previous question was put and ed.

ie Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

following contributions were received by the Council during the week g Saturday, January 13, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Donations:—	£	s.	d.
ymous.	0	1	0	Barker, Mrs. H. C. R.	1	1	0
J., Esq.	5	0	0	Blakiston, J. R., Esq.	5	0	0
on, W., Esq.	5	0	0	Butterworth, H., Esq.	1	1	0
ers, Mrs. Wal-				Gillson, Mrs.	1	0	0
ke.	1	15	0	Hicks, G. M., Esq.	5	5	0
erald, Lord Gerald	1	0	0	Hollond, Miss.	1	0	0
ns, Miss.	10	10	0	J. K.	1	1	0
ie, W. R., Esq.	3	0	0	Knyvett, H. J., Esq.	1	1	0
son, Lieut.-Col.	3	3	0	Lamont, J., Esq.	1	1	0
on, J. R., Esq.	5	0	0	Lawrence, Hon. J. H.	2	2	0
ett, Mrs.	2	2	0	Loch, Miss J. G.	2	2	0
raki, Mrs.	10	0	0	Mackenzie, Mrs.	2	2	0
ert, Major, R. E.	10	0	0	Mackintosh, Dr.	1	1	0
anis, Rev. D.	0	10	0	McClellan, Miss.	5	5	0
cks, Miss.	2	0	0	McClellan, Mrs. F.	2	2	0
mer, A., Esq.	2	2	0	Moody, Mrs.	1	1	0
las, J., Esq.	1	1	0	Newton & Co., Messrs.	0	10	0
ptre, Rev. E. H.	2	0	0	Nimmo, W., Esq.	1	1	0
lergast, G. L., Esq.	1	0	0	Owen, A. C. H., Esq.	1	1	0
r, C. H., Esq.	1	1	0	Quick, Rev. R. H.	2	2	0
, Mrs. S.	2	0	0	Rosenham, M., Esq.	1	1	0
esk, Earl of	10	10	0	Rust, C. F. W., Esq.	1	1	0
, Lady Mary	10	0	0	Sturge, G., Esq.	1	1	0
ole, R. H. V., Esq.	10	0	0	Swinburn, Mrs. J. M.	0	5	0
, Miss.	1	0	0	Tomkinson, H. R., Esq.	5	0	0
y-Gregory, Sir W.				Webster, H., Esq.	1	1	0
Bart., M.P.	5	0	0	Yard, Major	1	1	0
Mrs. J.	0	5	0				
s, J., Esq.	10	0	0				
Annual:—							
ie, W. G., Esq.	1	1	0	Churchill, Miss E.	2	2	0
s, C. J., Esq.	0	10	0	Seager, C. H., Esq.	2	2	0
r, Rev. H. C. R.	1	1	0	Welby-Gregory, Sir W.			
				G., Bart., M.P.	5	0	0

District Committee Aid Fund:—

Churchill, Miss E.	2	2	0
Seager, C. H., Esq.	2	2	0
Welby-Gregory, Sir W.			
G., Bart., M.P.	5	0	0

RETURNS FOR 1876.

The following Table shows the number of Cases decided by the District Committees in the Year 1876:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with	
	Not requiring relief	Under- standing	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise Ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total						
Kensington	183	180	364	627	27	128	74	229	210	28	134	2	374	1290	456	215	455
Fulham	24	47	21	92	5	5	67	77	76	7	83	2	166	320	157	167	314
Paddington	108	48	181	337	16	180	52	248	201	40	131	101	473	1058	577	257	16
Chelsea	47	44	98	189	22	73	29	124	112	50	44	77	283	596	355	171	25
St. George's : G. Committee	59	31	144	234	4	45	32	81	146	8	14	168	8	594	249	57	57
W. Committee	66	44	280	390	17	117	31	165	164	53	2	27	246	1284	256	87	2
Westminster : St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho	68	30	72	170	8	115	27	150	45	2	2	51	371	166	280	140	
St. Marylebone	128	61	262	451	14	409	203	628	116	79	12	71	278	1357	434	469	1
Hampstead	22	8	30	60	4	51	5	60	26	13	12	13	64	189	22	103	70
North St. Pancras	101	35	33	169	16	272	30	338	7	16	14	12	49	556	157	142	14
South St. Pancras	114	119	322	555	16	510	167	693	13	14	8	54	89	1537	162	346	56
Islington	104	46	72	223	19	751	73	845	50	12	1	11	78	1146	611	257	5
*Hackney Union	9	4	6	19	24	2	8	34	51	2	1	54	107	7	34	52	
St. Giles's & Blooms- bury	14	28	67	109	11	166	14	191	71	20	1	21	112	412	49	235	2
Strand	13	29	124	166	10	130	28	169	71	30	10	44	155	490	671	357	22
Holborn	55	7	147	209	6	727	50	813	82	20	4	6	118	1140	226	661	31
City	9	10	31	50	15	7	6	92	76	74	1	21	172	314	214	1140	29
Shoreditch	30	15	122	167	1	139	35	168	117	36	1	27	181	516	104	284	6
Bethnal Green	63	56	151	270	9	33	27	69	131	30	3	42	206	545	219	198	13
Whitechapel	42	55	125	222	5	43	70	118	13	10	10	16	49	389	230	376	28
St. George-in-the- East	51	23	124	198	8	84	57	149	14	22	15	48	99	446	121	271	8
Stepney	77	58	143	278	9	84	48	141	21	10	17	16	64	483	514	263	6
Mile End Old Town	39	11	105	245	3	76	31	110	31	8	1	16	55	410	14	293	8
Poplar	33	27	98	158	4	43	49	136	32	23	1	12	88	382	172	219	8
St. Saviour's	74	48	179	301	5	81	59	145	60	22	1	74	199	638	118	187	18
Newington	56	55	129	240	4	59	29	92	61	6	11	11	89	431	124	148	
St. Olave's	67	36	103	206	10	108	30	138	53	25	4	24	105	450	188	175	37
Lambeth	32	26	97	155	30	60	15	105	62	1	2	9	74	334	83	225	
Brixton	9	7	10	26	10	2	10	22	18	17	1	6	41	89	51	49	75
Wandsworth and Put- ney	4	19	21	44	1	12	12	25	33	10	1	47	116	67	60	246	
Battersea	24	59	85	168	1	16	3	20	130	19	3	7	159	347	109	57	155
Clapham	2	4	18	24	5	9	15	29	31	8	1	14	53	106	68	49	659
Camberwell	3	9	83	95	6	130	34	170	70	12	2	10	94	469	25	93	
Grove Lane	12	5	34	51	7	8	9	24	16	10	1	9	35	17	69	18	
Peckham	43	10	63	116	11	34	13	68	64	99	8	63	234	408	174	49	707
Greenwich	21	30	16	57	2	28	35	65	57	8	1	9	75	197	51	63	185
Deptford	18	18	39	95	3	18	43	64	61	40	5	27	133	293	76	49	450
Woolwich	7	8	8	23	4	2	6	12	18	9	83	133	164	175	30	1028	
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1075
Eltham	3	6	11	20	2	1	1	4	44	15	1	50	81	2	18	37	401
Sydenham																	
Totals	1834	1346	4015	7195	360	4887	1347	6794	2022	953	467	1072	5184	19173	7893	8503	6415

* These figures are for the last six months of 1876 only.

CASE OF W. J. PLUNKETT WADE*—Continued.

Mr. Wm. Daniel Henry Oehme, solicitor, 167 Gresham House, examined by Mr. Lewis, said: I was concerned as a solicitor for Miss Hughes before she was called Mrs. Wade. In August 1865 I attended at the Bow Street Police Court, when the prisoner was in custody there. I understood from the magistrate that various subscriptions had been sent to the benefit of the prisoner—I believe they amounted to about £80. The magistrate told me prisoner that he would not give him any of the money subscribed, as he believed him to be an impostor, and he further said that he should write to the contributors asking their wishes with reference to the sums forwarded. I produce an office copy divorce petition served by the prisoner on his alleged wife, as well as a copy of the answer. The validity of the marriage was a *verata questio*. There were charges of adultery against the defendant as well as against the wife. The petition was dismissed. I am aware that the lady then called his wife has since married. I made a statement at the Bow Street Police Court in reply to that made by the prisoner, and which appeared in the papers.—Cross-examined by Mr. Sampson: The petition bears date the 9th of March, 1864, and the answer was put in on the 25th of April, 1864, and each party charged the other with adultery. It was stated that the prisoner did not continue the suit on account of his want of funds. I came here to give evidence on account of having received a subpoena.—Mr. Lewis (to witness): Just look at this letter dated the 8th of January, 1858. It states that 'Mr. Wade refers Mrs. Hughes'—Mr. Sampson: I object to this. I take this simple fact, that there was a petition and an answer, and that that suit was not prosecuted for want of funds; and also that it was dismissed.—Mr. Lewis: This is a letter in the handwriting of the defendant referring to the alleged marriage. The letters he wrote set out that he was married to this lady and that she ran away.—Mr. Mansfield: I see no objection to everything in the letter being read.—Mr. Lewis: He was described as a widower?—Witness: Yes. That marriage was on December 27, 1855; this letter is in January 1858,

* Vide Reporter, No. 200, p. 6.

and the divorce suit was in 1864. Then the marriage was denied, and the charge of adultery was made against him.

Mr. Lewis: That is the case for the prosecution, and on the evidence I have brought before you, which shows that at the time he wrote those letters to Sir E. Beckett and Sir Roland Wilson he was not in a state of utter destitution and without the commonest necessities of life, I shall ask you to commit the prisoner summarily.

Mr. Sampson: Now, sir, before I go any further, I apply for summonses against Mr. Ribton-Turner and against Mr. Joachim Curths, of the Charity Organisation Society, for maintenance, and I make the application fully intending to prosecute the case to the utmost.—Mr. Lewis: Let us dispose of one case at a time; let us settle this charge first.—Mr. Mansfield: I think so; I cannot entertain your application at present, Mr. Sampson.—Mr. Lewis: The Charity Organisation Society is a society for the protection of the public from frauds such as have been perpetrated by the defendant. The Council of the Society consists of some of the most eminent men of the day.—Mr. Sampson: I know about the Council and the Committee, but I should have had some questions to ask Mr. Ribton-Turner if he had got into the witness-box.—Mr. Mansfield: Mr. Ribton-Turner is in attendance, and you had better call him.—Mr. Sampson: No, sir; I shall now leave the case in your hands and call on Mr. Clabon, who has kindly interested himself in behalf of the defendant. I do not know what evidence this gentleman is going to give.

Mr. John Moxon Clabon, solicitor, 21 Great George Street, said: I first knew the prisoner at the bar some twenty years ago, when I was living at Surbiton. He was then receiving pupils at his private residence to prepare them for the army. We knew each other socially. He was a teacher with me at the Sunday schools there, and I think that once or twice he delivered lectures there at my request. I left Surbiton in the year 1859, I think, and some years afterwards he came to me to consult me on the subject of the adultery alleged to have been committed by his wife. I took the proceedings which have been mentioned, but which were afterwards discontinued. His wife left him before the proceedings, but after the proceedings she went to live with the gentleman with whom she is alleged to have committed adultery.—Mr. Lewis: She has now been married to that gentleman for ten years.—Witness: The prisoner was reduced, I know, by his wife and children leaving him, and on account of what he has told me from time to time I have interested myself on his behalf. He has recovered two of the children, and I think there were three.—Mr. Lewis: I think he got one.—Witness: For a time I allowed him to use my name as a referee, for the purpose of collecting money, and money was sent to me on his behalf, which the prisoner had from time to time. After a time I thought that he had collected sufficient, and I withdrew from him my authority for his use of my name. That was some four or five years ago.—Mr. Sampson: That was not on account of any impropriety of conduct, was it?—Witness: No, but because I thought he had collected enough. Since then I have often heard from him, and I may have written him a letter now and then, but I have altogether ceased writing to him for some time. I have paid now and again the charges of the schoolmistress with whom his daughter was for her schooling. He was desirous that that young lady should be so educated as to earn a living as governess by and by; and having heard that she was going to leave school this month, and supposing that her father would not be able to find a home for her, I wrote to some of my friends on or about the 5th of November on her behalf, and I put down £5 myself. I obtained something like £20. (The letter, written by Mr. Clabon, and which expressed his desire to raise £50 for the purpose of providing a home for the young lady above mentioned, was read.)—Mr. Lewis: Then as to Mr. Dixon?—Witness: Hearing that Mr. Dixon would apply some money for the defendant's use and would allow him £1 per week, I wrote to Mr. Dixon telling him that I would send him whatever money I obtained. I know that Mr. Dixon began allowing him £1 a week three weeks ago. It is now some years ago since I allowed him to use my name as a referee. I know nothing about Mr. Flowers saying at Bow Street that he believed the defendant to be an impostor. Mr. Flowers sent for me. I do not remember whether I made any inquiry into the truth of the charge of adultery alleged to have been committed by the prisoner. I cannot charge my memory with that. I think that when the petition came I asked him for a full explanation of the allegation contained in the petition that he was a married man when he married Miss Hughes, and I think he produced three opinions. I cannot say whether he described himself as a widower at the second marriage.—The Prisoner: A divorced man is a widower.—Mr. Lewis: Will you look at the petition and see if it is not alleged that at the time of the marriage he stated that he was a widower?—Witness: I do not see it.—Mr. Lewis: He said he was lawfully married to her.—Witness: At that time I knew nothing of the first marriage.—Mr. Lewis: You have been very kind to the prisoner from time to time—how much have you raised for him, should you think?—Witness: In the two or three years he used my name I received £300 or £400 on his behalf, which I gave to him from time to time. I was not aware that after 1873 he was writing letters similar to those which were sent to Sir R. Wilson and Sir E. Beckett. I only knew recently that he wrote such letters in 1874, 1875, and 1876. I have, however, some sort of memory of Mr. Dixon writing to me once or twice. I do not think I have

seen the defendant during the last three years; and I know nothing of what he was doing. I recollect that some four or five years ago he was in my outer office. I think I heard that he was in a situation at Brighton for some time and some other places. I did not know that he was at Malvern Link last year and dismissed for the same cause as that at Mrs. Marshall's. I have been no party to his letters for certainly more than two years. I have taken an interest in the young lady, his daughter, because I had a friendly feeling towards the defendant, and I was anxious to do what I could to put the girl into a fair way of earning her living. I think I used to give the prisoner £5 or £10 at a time during the period over which I received money for him, when I allowed him to use my name as a referee. I have heard that Mr. Dixon is his brother-in-law. I was not aware that when the defendant was arrested some twenty or thirty letters similar to those sent to Sir R. Wilson and Sir E. Beckett were found in his possession.—Mr. Lewis: At this time he was receiving £1 per week.—Mr. Sampson: Did you know that for the last few weeks he had been in very great distress?—Witness: I know from his own letters that he was utterly without money, and I did not hesitate to obtain any little subscriptions for him that I could.

Mr. Sampson: That is my case.—The Prisoner: I obtained the money for the education of my daughter, and I can show receipts of my having paid £112 during two years for her education and living.

The Magistrate: You are charged with obtaining money or attempting to obtain money by falsely representing yourself to be without the commonest necessities of life, and that has been clearly proved to my mind to be utterly untrue at the time you wrote those letters. You have also, it seems, for some years past, been leading a very discreditable life, and have been persecuting everybody—even utter strangers to you—with begging letters. Then there is the letter to the cook, in which you offer to send her money to come to you, and your excuse for writing that letter is that you had been indulging too freely in whisky and water. I don't believe that excuse; and I think that under the circumstances the very least I can do is to commit you under the Vagrant Act for three months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

Mr. Sampson: I apply now, sir, for summonses for maintenance against Mr. Ribton-Turner and Mr. Joachim Curths, of the Charity Organisation Society. Of course, in the hearing of those summonses it will be necessary to have the defendant brought into court, and I can bring him up on a *habeas*. You have it on clear evidence that neither of the two baronets, Sir R. Wilson and Sir E. Beckett, has contributed one farthing towards this case. The cost of the witnesses and of the prosecution has been borne by the Charity Organisation Society. That Society has no more right to take this case up than has the most disinterested person in the world. They are a class of men who have no right to band themselves together; they have no corporation, they have no charter, and I shall ask you for summonses against those two gentlemen I have named. It is stated by these baronets that the evidence was laid by Mr. Ribton-Turner and Mr. Curths, and you have it from Mrs. Marshall that she communicated solely with the Charity Organisation Society, that she was paid her expenses by the Society, and therefore it is I ask for summonses. The law applies to civil and criminal matters, and if you will grant the summonses I will undertake to prosecute the case.

The Magistrate: I see no ground for granting the summonses, and nothing short of a mandamus will induce me to do so.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of January 1877 was 38,331, and 44,625 received outdoor relief, making a total of 82,956. This was a decrease of 565 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 3,755, 15,164, and 22,839 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 832. This was an increase of 126 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and 270 on the corresponding day of last year.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 202.

THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 25, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Jan. 25	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday " 29	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday " 30	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday " 31	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday, Feb. 1	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, January 29:—

1. That a grant of £30 be made to the Poplar Committee.
2. That a meeting of the Agents and Inquiry Officers of the District Committees be held at the Central Office. That a short paper be read at the meeting; and that the Hon. Secretaries of the District Committees be specially invited to attend.

CITY COMMITTEE.—Mr. N. Earle has been elected Hon. Secretary in the place of Mr. R. Walker, resigned. The Rev. W. H. Lyall has been elected one of the representatives of the Committee in the place of Mr. N. Earle.

ISLINGTON.—Mr. T. B. Spencer has resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of the Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—**LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGE** (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON :—Dr. Anderson.	ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square) :—Hon. J. Lawrence.
FULHAM :—Sir T. Douglas Forsyth, C. J. Stevens.	WESTMINSTER :—W. Bevan, H. Peto, W. Bousfield.
PADDINGTON :—J. R. Holland.	MARYLEBONE :—Miss O. Hill.
CHICHESTER :—Capt. Boyce, R.N.	

HAMPSTEAD:—E. Bond, C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F. Mallet.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAZ:—Miss Collett.
ISLINGTON:—F. Burdett Roberts.
HACKNEY:—Sir Charles Reed.
ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare.
STRAND:—Rev. B. J. Simpson.
HOLBORN:—Rev. W. Thornhill Webber, G. B. Baker.
CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins.
ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Lord Dunsany, Russell Barrington.
MILE END:—Major Nares, Hon. H. R. Scott, Rev. W. H. Langhorne.
POPULAR:—R. Ellis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond, F. B. Montgomerie, H. Hoper.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Sir T. Graham Briggs.

LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
CLAPHAM:—S. Etches.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
DEPTFORD:—H. F. Cornish.
LEWISHAM:—G. Parker, R. V. Tidman, A. Annisley.
SYDENHAM:—H. Reid.
VICE-PRESIDENT:—W. M. Wilkinson.
VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, G. Blount, G. C. T. Bartley, Dr. Hawkey, C. A. Miner. **TOTAL**:—47.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.
VISITORS:—Mr. J. R. J. Bramley, Hon. C. H. Strutt, Hon. Francis Scott, Dr. Guy, Dr. Grabham, Dr. Brewer, Dr. Langdon Down, Dr. Cortis, Dr. Hobbs, Dr. Fletcher Beach, Mr. D. P. Fry.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee met on Thursday, January 18.

There were present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Rev. H. Burchell Herne, Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Messrs. Brown, Barrington, Lawrence, and Peters.

FINANCE.—The Committee reported that during the week ending January 13 the receipts had been £167. 1s. for the General Fund, and £9. 4s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £820. 16s. 10d. and £19. 0s. 7d. respectively, £7. 6s. 7d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—They had made grants of £40 each to the St. George's East and St. Saviour's Committees, the respective amounts granted to those Committees since the 1st of October last being £70 and £100.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of the Committee on the 14th inst. there had been present:—

Mr. Bousfield, in the Chair; Miss O. Hill, Miss Howes, Messrs. Barrington, Lewes, and Graham; Rev. J. Erskine Clarke and Mr. J. H. Ward (Visitors).

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 16th inst. had been present:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the Chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major Prendergast, Rev. H. F. Mallet, and Mr. A. H. Hill.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 17th instant, there had been present:—

Mr. Aspinall (in the Chair), Miss Howes, Capt. Gardner, Mr. Bevan.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS FOR IDIOTS &c.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, having read letters from Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Devon, Sir R. Alcock, and others, moved the following resolution:—

That this Council cordially approves and adopts the Report of their Special Committee on the Education and Care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics.

He summed up the leading features of the Report. It was estimated that there were 49,041 idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics in England and Wales, and that of these more than two-thirds, or at least 32,694, were chargeable to the poor-rate. Of the remaining 16,347, probably one-fifth, or 3,269, belonged to the classes just above paupers. At least 35,963 cases, therefore, had to be provided for.

British humanity had not reached this afflicted class, partly because they were harmless (the dangerous acute cases were well cared for), and because, hitherto, they had been considered unimprovable.

Dr. Reed, the founder of Earlewood Asylum, and others, had made it clear that they were improvable; and Earlewood and other charitable institutions had furnished models, in accordance with which it was now proposed to extend the system of education and classification which the Metropolitan Asylums Board had been the first to adopt on a large scale. No provision was usually made in Lunatic Asylums for the training and supervision which idiots specially require; and upwards of ten thousand idiots and imbeciles were scattered among the six hundred Union Houses of England and Wales, in which nearly all the conditions required for their proper management were absent. The Metropolitan Asylums Board by a system of classification had separated children from adults, and those who could be trained to some industrial occupation, or who could under proper regulations be employed in the washing and other domestic service of public institutions, such as the Idiot Asylums themselves, Lunatic Asylums, and Union Workhouses; while those unfit to be restored to society were maintained in Adult Custodial Asylums. It was proposed, in accordance with this precedent, to remove idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics from workhouses and county lunatic asylums into separate asylums, and to train and educate young persons of these classes; to entrust their education and care to specially appointed and responsible governing bodies, composed of representatives of the local magistrates, representatives of the local guardians, and persons nominated by the Crown; to divide the country into districts, each sufficiently large to fill an asylum (on the 'pavilion,' or 'block' system) containing not more than 2,000 adults, and schools containing at the utmost 500 young people; to defray the expenditure out of the rates, with assistance out of the public revenue; and to extend to this afflicted class the privileges accorded by Parliament to the blind and deaf and dumb, viz. that relief given to children should not be deemed to be parochial relief given to their parents. It was apparent that while private establishments offered every advantage to the wealthy, persons belonging to the lower middle and upper artisan class were as a rule unable to pay the full cost of maintenance, and could not appear before their Boards of Guardians to claim the benefit of the legal provision for destitute imbecile children; for these it was necessary that the institutions supported on the voluntary principle should, by admission at the proper age, by the removal of restrictions, and by the adoption of a suitable rate of payment, be specially adapted.

There were three stages in the history of the question; the solution of the problem by Dr. Reed and others, who showed that idiots and imbeciles could be educated and improved and established institutions in accordance with this principle; the application of this system to a population of three and a half millions by the Metropolitan Asylums Board; and lastly the proposed extension of the system, on the plan so successfully worked by the Board, to the whole of England.

Sir Charles Reed seconded the motion. He regretted that his absence from England in the summer had prevented his attending the meetings of the Committee. He agreed with the Report entirely. It was time to claim, on State grounds, the large extension of a system, begun on the benevolent foundation, developed in the metropolis, and now proved to be applicable to the whole of England. Benevolent institutions were not furnished with funds large enough to enable them to take every case. He quite concurred in the opinion of the Committee that the census was no guide respecting the actual number of idiots. It was not unusual, as School Board visitors had ascertained, for parents to secrete their idiot children. Deaf and dumb children, the care of whom should, the report recommended, be entrusted to the same governing bodies as those responsible for the education and care of idiots, received in London, under the School Board, daily efficient instruction.

Dr. Brewer, the Chairman of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, said the Board relied for success on two things—just classification of the patients, and the capacity for imitation, which enabled them to develop, under good associations, higher powers. These were some results:—Out of 330 children at Clapton, 269 were at school; 32 were tailors, and their work during three months was estimated at £26. 3s. 10d.; 32 others were shoemakers, whose work was during the same period estimated at £26. 5s. 9d.; 2 others, again, were carpenters, and their work was valued at £7. 16s. What would have been the condition of these children, if nothing had been done for them? They had strong sensations and suffered

pain and agony, which they could not express; and they had no consciousness of any kind of relationship outside themselves. A strong rhythmical melody would first rouse them, then the power of numbering, and reading and writing, and habits of attention were gradually acquired; till at last, by education and care, they appeared no longer as children forsaken of Providence, but able to take their place in life and assist their parents by their employment.

Rev. R. J. Simpson, seconded by Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, then moved—

That a deputation be appointed to present the Report to the President of the Local Board, and to represent to him the urgent need of early legislation for the proper education and care of idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics belonging to the pauper, and to the poorer portion of the working class; and that a copy of the Report be also forwarded to the Chairman of the Commissioners in Lunacy, with a request that they should give the benefit of their valuable experience and support to this object.

The motion was carried unanimously, and the Chairman having read the vote of thanks to Sir Charles Trevelyan, passed by the Council at their last meeting, the Council adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, January 20, 1877:—

<i>Donations:—</i>	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Admiralty, Lords Commissioners of the . . .	10	0	0	Graham, Col. Sir L., Bt.	1	1	0
Anderson, J. W., Esq. . .	10	0	0	Gurdon, W. B., Esq., C.B.	1	0	0
Bothamly, Rev. H. . .	1	0	0	Hawksley, Dr. . .	2	2	0
Buchanan, Miss . . .	0	2	6	Hensley, R. M., Esq. . .	2	2	0
Codrington, Adml. Sir H. . .	5	0	0	Hervey, Ld. Francis, M.P.	1	1	0
Gould, J. A., Esq. . .	5	0	0	Holmes, A. E., Esq. . .	1	1	0
Grey, T., Esq. . .	5	0	0	James, Capt. J. W. . .	1	0	0
Hatherley, Rt. Hon.				Kay-Shuttleworth, U. J., Esq., M.P.	5	5	0
Lord	10	10	0	Laing, Rev. J. H. . .	1	1	0
Hawkins, Geo., Esq. . .	1	1	0	Leicester, the Earl of, K.G.	10	0	0
Hoare, Miss . . .	1	0	0	Litchfield, R. B., Esq. . .	3	0	0
Manson, Miss H. C. . .	5	0	0	McGrouther, Mrs. . .	2	2	0
Mitchell, James, Esq. . .	3	0	0	Montgomery, F. B., Esq.	5	0	0
Moore, Miss . . .	2	2	0	Moorson, C. R., Esq. . .	5	0	0
Newdigate, Lieut.-Col.				Moore, W. W., Esq. . .	2	0	0
H. R. L.	5	0	0	Pell, A., Esq., M.P. . .	2	2	0
Olding, S., Esq. . .	1	1	0	Routh, W. Dehague, Esq.	5	0	0
Pollock, F., Esq. . .	1	1	0	Simmons, Mrs. . . .	1	1	0
Pope, Miss . . .	0	5	0	Smith, Sir C. C. . . .	2	2	0
Riddell, Sir W. B., Bt. .	3	0	0	Stephenson, Sir R. M. .	3	3	0
Smith, Wm., Esq. . .	5	0	0	Stevenson, Miss H. Ballard	5	5	0
Warner, T., Esq. . .	5	5	0	Thomson, A. D., Esq. . .	2	2	0
Watson, A., Esq. . .	3	0	0	Trevelyan, Lady . . .	1	0	0
Watson, Sir T., Bart., M.D.	10	0	0	Trevelyan, Rev. W. P. .	1	1	0
Whitcombe, J., Esq. . .	5	0	0	Turbervill, Major T. P.	5	0	0
Wilson, Mrs. . . .	1	1	0	Wakefield, the Misses .	2	2	0
<i>Annual:—</i>				Ward, C. B., Esq. . .	1	1	0
Burnley, W. F., Esq. . .	2	2	0	Ward, Miss H. M. . .	1	0	0
Cocks, S. L., Esq. . .	2	2	0	Warrington, Miss E. .	1	1	0
Cross, Miss F. M. . .	1	1	0	Winchester, the Bishop of	2	2	0
Foster, Porter & Co. . .	2	2	0	Wootton, J. C., Esq. . .	1	1	0
Galpin, T. D., Esq. (1876)	1	1	0	<i>District Committee Aid Fund:—</i>			
Gardiner, Col. L. . .	1	1	0	Wakefield, the Misses .	40	0	0
Governesses' Benevolent Institution	3	3	0				

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

LEWISHAM.—Annual Report, 1875-6.—LOCAL BEGGARS.—With regard to local beggars the Report says:—

'Then as to the local beggar. How should he be treated? Is it little short of mockery for a resident in the district, well-to-do probably, and possibly wealthy, to offer a few coppers to a poor neighbour who represents himself to be in deep distress or it may be utterly destitute? Would not real charity rather prompt him to go to the home of his neighbour, ascertain if his story be true, and if so, give him, or endeavour to obtain for him from some source or other substantial relief for his necessities, and employment by which the poor man might for the future earn his daily bread? And if for want of time or other reason such resident is unable to inquire

case himself, he need but refer it to your Committee, who will readily refer him. They will send him the result of their investigations, when help the applicant in such way as he thinks best, or failing his necessity to do so, your Committee will deal with the case to the best of ability.

And anyone who has been referred to your Committee's Office return, that his case has not been properly attended to, the resident to such statement may be made is requested to communicate at once to the Hon. Secretary.

As a table of resident cases, classified according to occupation, it is that out of 138 applicants, 35 were labourers, 13 painters, 10 gardeners, 8 clerks, 6 railway servants, and 6 charwomen.—*Cf. Notes of a table compiled by the Shoreditch Committee, Reporter, No. 195.* A resident cases dealt with by this Committee have been 165, as recorded with 115 in the year 1874-5.

Committee publishes the following totals in a general summary of endowed and Unendowed Charities in Lewisham, Lee, and Blackheath.—Money (inclusive of £2,665 spent in Out-door Relief), £3154.2s. 10d., £983.6s. 3d. Clothing, £296.14s. 9d. Blankets, £16.15s. 4d. Houses, £1,177.16s. 5d. Education, £381.12s. 7d. Apprenticeship, Medical Attendance, £27.10s. Clergy and Church Officers, £13.9s. 4d. of Charitable Societies, £40.10s. The total is £6,128.18s. 2d. The population of the district is 27,953.

PROVINCIAL.

THAMPTON.—*Annual Report, 1875-6.*—**MENDICITY.**—'In South-
ampton the Committee have good grounds for believing that there is a
in which is kept a list of all the ministers of religion and benevolent
resident in the town and neighbourhood, with a measure of the
abilities and gullibility of each, which list is open for the inspection
vagrant on payment of sixpence.'

LOCAL CHARITIES.—'The Committee having a firm belief in the lasting
which results to the poor from the lax administration of out-door
relief, both by the Poor-law authorities and the governors of
local charities, gladly took part in a conference with deputies from local
charities and the medical society. They have the gratification to
at they believe shortly the governors of some of these institutions
asked to add the provident system to the existing one. They trust
general public will cordially support any well considered step in this
on.'

Report, from which the above are extracts, is a very complete one,
als with a large number of subjects which it is of great importance
Charity Organisation Societies should bring to the notice of the public.

LEWISBURG.—*Extracts from the Annual Report, 1875-6.*—**MEDICAL
SOCIETY.**—'Each year's experience affords your Committee fresh encourage-
ment to relax their efforts to accomplish the two main objects of the
Society—'the development of self-dependence and the suppression of men-
dicity.' It is now two years since the most important scheme yet originated
Society for the benefit of the working classes was suggested, viz. that
subscribers of the Dispensary should substitute Benefit Members'
for free recommendations. Objections were immediately raised
was harsh and unfair to make those whose scanty earnings could
support their families pay for what others would or were willing to
on them. The working of the scheme, which has been in operation
x months, has set all these objections at rest, and proves that the
g classes do appreciate all efforts made for their advantage, and
d to them in a spirit of self-dependence, cheerfully and regularly
g whatever payments may be required of them.

AL Beggars.—'That mendicity has been greatly suppressed there can
doubt. A local beggar is now a *rara avis*; and by none is the work
Society in this respect so much appreciated as by the tradesmen of
the town, who used to be sadly annoyed and inconvenienced in their business
by professional mendicants.'

GLASGOW.—**IMPOSTORS.***—We have received the following letter from
Glasgow Charity Organisation Association:—

Now we briefly state, in reference to this matter, that hitherto we
confined ourselves to cautioning the public through the Press, by
giving the appearance of the persons and their mode of operations, or
naming the names they take, in order that they may be identified.

We are fully persuaded that the most effectual mode of stopping the
of impostors is by the community at large making use of the
very placed at their disposal by such societies as ours. We are
of course, to assist anyone who may wish to prosecute, by giving
evidence, but are not anxious to become the prosecutors, and so far our
has been confined to warning the benevolent against encouraging the
serving.'

* *Vide Reporter, No. 200, p. 5.*

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to
the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the
quarter ending Saturday, December 30, 1876:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Edin.	Glasgow	Horsesham	Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbledon	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	10	9	..	..	13	1	..	3	4	2	2	..
2. Undeserving	20	38	3	1	116	..	..	7	5	8	2	1
3. Cases for Poor Law, or otherwise ineligible	15	32	9	2	11	..	..	5	6	14	1	6
	45	79	12	3	140	1	..	15	15	24	5	7
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	14	..	1	2	..	1	..	2	2	1	..	..
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	10	15	3	..	17	..	..	12	2	..	1	1
3. Private Persons	20	10	7	2	92	..	..	4	..	3	..	..
	44	25	11	4	109	1	..	18	4	4	1	1
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	49	24	29	..	10	5	..	17	8	25	7	..
2. Loans	..	..	1	10	1	1	..	31	1	6	..	1
3. Employment	15	..	3	6	2	..	..	2	1	2	..	..
4. Letters for Hospitals &c.	..	10	..	..	..	1	..	3	2	..	..	..
	64	34	33	16	13	7	..	53	12	33	7	1
TOTALS	153	138	56	23	262	9	..	86	31	61	13	9
Reports sent out	22	105	20	..	194	213	..	39	1	..	23	..
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	13	23	2	..	4	1	..	3	4	..	..	..
Vagrants dealt with	12	1409	20	443	..	265	..	132	23	30	615	..

† No return received from this Association at the time of going to press.

DISTRICT VISITING SOCIETIES.

CORRESPONDENCE.—*The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by their correspondents.*

We have received the following letter:—

'SIR,—Now that special attention is being given to the subject of district visiting, and to the ways in which it can be rendered more efficient, a word may perhaps not be out of place upon the very different conditions under which the work has to be carried on in different parts of London. In West end or suburban parishes it may be possible to secure so large a staff of visitors as to provide for periodical house-to-house visitation—and in this case the workers will be so numerous that it may possibly be advantageous to let them form an organisation distinct from the local Committee of the Charity Organisation Society—but in the poorer parts of London, I think it is worth considering, whether the wisest policy would not be to strengthen the visiting power of the Charity Organisation Committees. We cannot in these parts attempt the Elberfeld plan; the numbers to be dealt with are far too large. What we do want is that every poor family in London should know where to apply in the event of exceptional distress; and this result would soon be attained if our district offices were in proper communication with the paid parochial staff, Bible-women, Scripture Readers, and others, and if they commanded at the same time the services of a few active and intelligent visitors. Defective visiting power is a weak point with most of our committees, and if, where our volunteers are few and far between, they should be encouraged to join or to form other associations, there will be a danger of our becoming more formal and official than we are at present: which God forbid!—I am, &c., 'Y.'

CHARITY AND EMPLOYMENT.—'In connection with such a Labour Exchange as I have here roughly indicated, an arrangement might, I think, also be effected, under which the clients of the various charities, whose only request often is to be shown work, might be tested by the visit and inspection of the overseers and gaugers of the great contractors, and such as were available be taken off and set to work. I am well aware that the very large proportion of the *protégés* of our charitable institutions belong to the incompetent class, sometimes through feeble health, and sometimes through vice, but in some cases a little consideration on the part of employers during the early stages of the work, and improved diet, would convert unemployed and deteriorating material into useful, industrial stuff. The growing dearth of hands in the great constructive trades, and the extensive demolitions which are likely to take place during the next few years, under the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Acts, would give special opportunity for such an experiment as I have here indicated, being made with more than an ordinary prospect of success. Could some of the

great contractors be induced to recognise some short period of training and probation with town labourers, as they now often do with raw country material, with a little care and pains, and an absolute withdrawal of all charitable assistance to fall back on, much might be done to reduce the ranks of the intermittent unemployed class.—*Labour News*.

MISS STRIDE'S HOMES.

It appears from reports in the *Enfield Observer* of the 2nd, 9th, and 16th ult., of the proceedings of the Edmonton Board of Guardians, that—
‘A matron from Miss Stride’s Home at Tottenham waited on the Board in reference to a child named Louisa Barrow (at present in the Home), whom it was desired should be received into the Union. It transpired that some time ago Miss Stride gave admittance to the mother and her child, and subsequently obtained for the former a situation, and supplied her with a box full of clothing, agreeing also to retain her offspring until its mother was able to do so herself. Instead of returning for the child, however, the young woman absconded, and Miss Stride now applied to have the child taken charge of by the Union authorities, giving as a reason for so doing, that of late she found she could not carry on her work to the extent she formerly had, and her expenditure had in consequence to be limited. She believed that the matter could be traced by the proper authorities. After some deliberation the Board informed Miss Stride’s matron that, under the circumstances, they had no alternative but to receive the child.

‘At the next meeting the master (in his journal) reported that the child Louisa Barrow (aged five years), recently removed from Miss Stride’s Home, Tottenham, to the workhouse, was infected with lice, suffering from ringworm, and also had the whooping-cough. The chairman, after hearing the report read, said it was a matter which should be particularly noticed, as it gave the public an idea of how children were kept at these “Homes.” The Clerk was then instructed to communicate with Miss Stride, and send her a copy of the report, expressing at the same time the Board’s astonishment that what was stated should have been the case.

‘At the meeting on December 13 the Clerk read a communication from the above lady in reply to a letter which he was requested last week to forward to her, with a copy of the report, stating that the child Barrow (lately received from the Home into the house at Enfield) was suffering from disease and infested with vermin. Miss Stride said: “I am exceedingly surprised and vexed to hear that the child Louisa Barrow is in the state you say, for although ours is not a home for children, yet she ought to have been kept clean. Unfortunately we have been obliged largely to reduce our staff of helpers lately, and my own health having failed, I have not been able to give the same personal supervision I did formerly. I regret now that I did not send her to the workhouse when her mother deserted her, but she was in such a fearful state of disease and dirt that I kept her, contrary to our rule, to see if we could improve her health, which, by good food, we have done to a certain extent. I can only, in conclusion, express my deep and sincere regret to the Guardians.” The matron of the Home, A. Janson, also wrote: “Miss Stride has forwarded to me Mr. Ty’s report respecting the child Louisa Barrow. I cannot understand her being in such a dreadful condition as is stated, for she was daily with my own child playing about the house. She had whooping-cough towards the end of summer, and was so far recovered that she was only troubled with the cough when there was any dampness in the weather. She certainly was in a terrible state of disease and dirt when we first had her, but I should suppose that the change of air and diet may have brought out any impurities that might exist in her skin.”

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

It is a relief to turn for a while from the more discouraging aspects of London pauperism—its terrible *vis inertia*—the accumulated evil habits and failure of legislation which it represents, and the vices which are its necessary offspring, to the picture drawn by Mr. Sydnor Turner, late Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Great Britain, in his 19th Annual Report of a work for good which, unlike that of most of our charitable institutions, has the double merit of being both positive and preventive in character.

Mr. Turner, aware that this would be his last report, makes it the occasion of introducing a short retrospect of the origin and growth of the Reformatory and Industrial Schools movement, which it will interest many to read for themselves. We gather from it that more than 25 years ago the Reformatory Schools system now embodied in the Reformatory Schools Act 1866, was introduced from France, under the auspices of a few prominent members of the Philanthropic Society, with such variations as English institutions and methods of dealing with the pauper and criminal class seemed to require. In 1854 the first Reformatory Schools Act was passed, upon the lines suggested by a conference held at Birmingham in the previous year; and this Act was finally revised and the law relating to Reformatory Schools consolidated in 1866.

The general outline of the Reformatory Schools system is well known. It will be enough to say, that while the Continental elements—viz. long compulsory detention, management of the schools (as far as practicable) on the ‘family’ system, and employment on probation—are retained as essential, the distinctively English features of it are (1) the recognition and enforcement of the duty of the parents of young offenders sent to Reformatory Schools to contribute towards their maintenance while under detention; (2) the commitment of the offender to prison for a short period before he is sent to the school; and (3) the voluntary management of the schools, imparting to them ‘an independent and partially charitable character.’

Improved school treatment for disorderly and vagrant children outside of the criminal circle received a stimulus from the growth of a system framed solely for the reclamation of young criminals, and kept even pace with it. The present Industrial Schools Act was passed in the same year (1866), and side by side with the present Reformatory Schools Act.

Turning now to the working of these two classes of schools and the numbers brought yearly within their corrective discipline, we may notice briefly a few suggestive facts. There are nearly double as many Industrial Schools as there are Reformatory Schools, viz. 117 of the former and 65 of the latter; and the number of inmates of the two kinds of schools are in like proportion, the total number of inmates in the year 1875 of Industrial Schools being 11,776, and of Reformatory Schools, 5,615. The admissions last year into the schools were 1,443 into Reformatory Schools, and 2,937 into Industrial Schools. Thus, 4,380 children were in the year 1875 rescued from a life of ignorance or crime; and of those thus rescued we are told that from 70 to 90 per cent. are reclaimed, and put fairly in the way of becoming useful members of society. The admissions into Reformatory Schools have been decreasing of late years; in fact, Mr. Turner anticipates that under certain conditions to be presently mentioned, no new Reformatory Schools will be required. Now, although if we remember that the number of admissions will necessarily depend partly on the existing accommodation, partly on the practice of magistrates, and partly on the number of neglected children otherwise provided for, we shall not hastily conclude this to be a mark of real improvement; yet the following encouraging fact may be taken in connection with it, viz. that the number of juvenile commitments has been decreasing for the last two years, and in 1875, as compared with the previous year, the decrease amounted to 2·4 per cent. This result may be contrasted with the steady increase of adult commitments since the year 1861, amounting in the year 1875 to 8·7 per cent.

Notwithstanding, too, the decrease of admissions above noted, there was in the year 1875, as compared with the previous, a proportionate increase of 7 per cent. of admissions of children not before convicted—an evidence that the plan of sending children to Reformatory Schools on the first offence is being largely acted upon.

G. B. R.

(To be continued.)

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of January 1877 was 38,796, and 44,942 received outdoor relief, making a total of 83,738. This was a decrease of 782 on last week’s returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 3,675, 15,799, and 21,792 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 681. This was a decrease of 151 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 163 on the corresponding day of last year.

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THE

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

203.

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 1, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is

the improvement of the condition of the poor: by bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.

by securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases. by granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.

by repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, to remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct touch with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

- Monday, Feb. 1 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
 Tuesday, " 6 ... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
 " " " 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
 Wednesday, " 7 ... 2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
 " " " 3.30 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
 Thursday, " 8 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

There will be no meeting of Council on the 5th instant. The meeting of Council will be held on Monday, the 12th, at 3 p.m.

District Committees which have not yet done so, are requested to forward their Annual Reports to the Central Office as little delay as possible.

District Committees are informed that contributors to amounts of £5 and upwards will in future, if they desire it, receive the Reporter free. Hon. Secretaries are requested to give notice of this to the contributors to the funds of District Committee, and to send to the Secretary the names and addresses of those persons who wish to have the Reporter sent to them, in accordance with the recent order of the Administrative Committee.

BORN.—Mr. T. W. Gorst has been elected one of the representatives of this Committee, *vice* Sir R. Wilbraham.

HOSPITAL LETTERS.

Letters of recommendation to the following hospitals and institutions can be obtained from the Secretary of the Council by the Honorary Secretary of any District Committee having suitable cases before it:—

In-patients:

Charing Cross
 King's College
 London
 Middlesex
 North London
 St. George's
 Westminster
 New Hospital for Women, Marylebone Road
 Hospital for Women and Sick Children, Vincent Square, Westminster
 Hospital for Diseases of Women and Children

Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street
 Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Chelsea
 North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road
 East London Hospital for Sick Children, and Dispensary for Women
 National Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy, Queen's Square

Royal London Ophthalmic, Moorfields
 Royal South London Ophthalmic
 Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars
 St. John's Hospital for Skin Diseases, Leicester Square
 London Homoeopathic
 Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary, Margate
 Ventnor Hospital for Consumption.

Out-patients:

Charing Cross
 King's College
 London
 Middlesex, Lying-in Letter
 North London
 Westminster
 Hospital for Consumption, Brompton
 City of London, for Diseases of the Chest
 North London Consumption
 Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road

Bar Hospital
 New Hospital for Women
 Royal Infirmary for Women and Children
 British Lying-in Hospital
 Royal Maternity Charity
 City of London Truss Society
 Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street
 North-Eastern Hospital for Sick Children
 Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis

Royal South London Ophthalmic
 Royal Westminster Ophthalmic
 Royal Orthopaedic, Hatton Garden
 London Homoeopathic Dental Hospital
 Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Dispensary
 Royal Pimlico Dispensary
 Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary, Margate

The Secretary would be glad to receive any letters for the In-patients' Departments of Hospitals not mentioned above.

Letters for Convalescent Homes, for Hospitals for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, and Surgical Aid letters are especially wanted. Last year, and in previous years, many letters were received so late in the autumn, that it was found impossible to make use of them, while, during the spring and summer, it was very difficult to obtain with promptness letters, especially convalescent letters, for which there was the largest demand at that time of the year.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGH (in the Chair).

KENNINGTON:—F. J. S. Edgcombe, Dr. Anderson.
 FULHAM:—Sir Douglas Forsyth, Rev. Herbert Wilson, C. J. Stevens.
 PADDINGTON:—Major Yard, J. R. Holland.
 CHELSEA:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel, W. S. Seton Kerr.
 ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Major FitzRoy.
 MARYLEBONE:—Miss O. Hill.
 HAMPTHEAD:—C. E. Maurice.
 ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare.
 STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson.
 HOLBORN:—G. B. Baker.
 CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brooks.

ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Lord Dunsany, R. Barrington.
 STEPNEY:—K. Peters.
 POPLAR:—A. M. Young, R. Ellis.
 ST. SAVIOUR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond, W. F. Smith, F. Montgomerie.
 ST. OLAVE'S:—Sir T. Graham Briggs.
 LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
 WANDSWORTH:—Miss Gurney.
 CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
 DEPTFORD:—H. F. Cornish.
 LEWISHAM:—A. Annesley.
 VICE-PRESIDENT:—W. M. Wilkinson.
 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir Charles Trevelyan. TOTAL:—35.
 SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee met on Thursday, January 25, and Friday, 26.

There were present on the 25th :—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, Major Yard, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Brown, Barrington, Hoare, Lawrence, Miner, Peters, and Roberts.

There were present at the adjourned meeting on the 26th :—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, and Mr. Peters.

FINANCE.—The Committee reported that during the week ending January 20 the receipts had been £190. 8s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £40 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £787. 12s. 11d. and £59. 0s. 7d. respectively, £7. 6s. 7d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—They had made grants of £30 each to the Holborn and Newington Committees, the respective amounts granted to those Committees since the 1st of October last being £50 and £70.

GRANTS TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES, 1875-6.—The Secretary had submitted the following return of Grants made to District Committees for general purposes in the course of the financial year ending September 30, 1876:—Fulham £120; Westminster (St. James's) £37; North St. Pancras and Highgate £50; South St. Pancras £90; Islington £125; Holborn £105; Shoreditch £148; Bethnal Green £195; Whitechapel Union £130; St. George-in-the-East £125; Stepney Union £205; Mile End Old Town £218; Poplar Union £140; St. Saviour, Southwark £158; Newington £150; St. Olave, Southwark £205; Lambeth £30; East End Finance Committee £56. 5s.—Total £2,287. 5s.

THE 'REPORTER.'—The Committee had decided to send a circular letter to the Affiliated and other Charity Organisation Societies, to ask them whether, and in what way, the *Reporter* might be of more service to them in the extension of their work, and for the circulation of information useful to those interested in the progress of Charity Organisation.

The Committee had further resolved that the rule by which contributors of £5 and upwards to the funds of the Council received the *Reporter* free, should no longer be confined to contributors to the Council only, if they wished it, but that all such contributors to the funds of a District Committee should have the same privilege.

ELECTIONEERING PLACARDS.—As it had come to the knowledge of the Committee that some District Committees had, during recent School Board and other elections, exposed in their offices electioneering placards, the Committee had passed a resolution recommending that District Committees should not display such placards in their offices.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of the Committee on the 23rd ult. there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss Hill, Miss Howes, Sir Douglas Forsyth, Messrs. Barrington, Fletcher, and Lewis.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 24th ult. had been present:—

Lieut.-General Cavenagh, and subsequently Rev. H. I. Cummins, in the Chair; Major Prendergast, Messrs. Miner, Corrie, Hoare, and Roberts.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 23rd ult. had been present:—

Capt. Gardner, in the Chair; Miss Howes, Hon. H. R. Scott, Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, and Edcombe, and Mr. R. V. Tidman (Visitor).

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 24th inst. had been present:—

Mr. A. H. Hill, in the Chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major Prendergast, Rev. H. F. Mallet, and Mr. W. M. Wilkinson.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.

Mr. C. E. Maurice mentioned that the Council of the Workman's Club Union had recently recommended, as a subject for discussion in the Workmen's Clubs, the work and objects of the Charity Organisation Society.

GRANTS.

A grant of £30 was made to the Poplar Committee, on the motion of Major FitzRoy, seconded by Sir Charles Trevelyan.

AGENTS' MEETINGS.

Major FitzRoy moved, and Mr. R. Barrington seconded the following resolution:—

That a meeting of the Agents and Inquiry Officers of the District Committees be held at the Central Office: that a short paper be read at the meeting; and that the Hon. Secretaries of the District Committees be specially invited to attend.

The Secretary said that the principle of holding Agents' meetings at the Central Office had been adopted by Council; and that last year a series of these meetings had been held. It had, however, been considered advisable to make this recommendation to Council, in order to obtain, as far as possible, the co-operation of Hon. Secretaries and other members of Council. It was very desirable that these meetings should be made, more than hitherto, a means of creating a stronger *esprit de corps* among the officers of the Society, and of bringing them into closer contact with the Hon. Secretaries and some of those most deeply interested in the Society's welfare. It was proposed that all Agents and Inquiry Officers should be invited; that a paper should be read by one of the Agents or by an Hon. Secretary, on some subject of practical importance, such as loans, urgent cases, a right manner in inquiry, &c.; and that the paper should be followed by discussion. Several papers were promised. It was very important that the meetings should not be formal and quasi-official. He hoped that with the cooperation of both Agents and Hon. Secretaries they might be made really interesting as well as instructive. He believed that by conversation and the interchange of experiences many difficulties would be met, and that the work of the Society would be done in a more careful and intelligent manner, and with a greater unity of spirit. If this meeting, which it was proposed to hold towards the end of February, proved successful, he hoped that other similar meetings might be arranged.

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned, on the motion of Mr. R. Barrington, to the 12th of February.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, January 20, 1877:—

<i>Donations :—</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
'A. H. J.'	20	0	0	Bayley, E., Esq.	1	1	0
Bannatyne, Rev. C.	2	2	0	Brind, F. W., Esq.	1	1	0
Bannatyne, Miss	2	2	0	Cavenagh, Lieut.-Genl.	2	2	0
Brocklehurst, W. W.				Hartley, Fountain J., Esq.	1	1	0
Esq.	3	0	0	Henty, W., Esq.	1	1	0
Brown, G. Gilpin, Esq.	5	0	0	Hickman, W., Esq., M.B. (1876)	1	1	0
Forbes, T. W., Esq.	1	0	0	Hoare, Henry Wm., Esq.	2	2	0
Gladstone, S., Esq.	5	0	0	Hoare, Miss	1	1	0
Gonne, E., Esq.	5	0	0	Letchworth, P., Esq.	1	0	0
'H. M. B.'	5	0	0	Letchworth, Mrs.	1	0	0
Jenkyns, H., Esq.	5	0	0	Morley, Messrs. J. & R. (1875-6).	5	5	0
Johnston, D. A., Esq.	2	0	0	Plunket, The Dowager Lady	1	0	0
'M. C.'	5	0	0	Selincourt and Coliman, Messrs.	1	1	0
Melville, Lady Harriet	2	0	0	Sugg, H., Esq.	1	1	0
Ricardo, F., Esq.	5	5	0	Tippings, Lieut.-Col. A. Woodd, Basil T., Esq., M.P.	2	2	0
Rice, Miss Harriet	1	0	0				
Saurin, Miss M.	0	10	0				
'T. W. G.'	5	0	0				
Wingfield, Miss Grace	0	10	0				
Yule, Mrs.	1	1	0				
<i>Annual :—</i>							
Alcock, Sir Rutherford, K.C.B.	2	2	0	<i>District Committee Aid Fund :—</i>			
Bannatyne, Rev. C.	1	1	0	Stewart, Mrs. P.	1	0	0

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

STRAND.—Annual Report.—INVESTIGATION: ENDOWED CHARITIES.—Alluding to the necessity for a thorough investigation, the Report states that:—
'Putting aside for the moment the hospital cases and labour registry cases, it may be stated roughly that one in three of the applicants to the Committee for charitable relief in the last year were found underserving. Surely this shows that the expense incurred in thoroughly investigating every case is fully justified. The investigation, to be worth anything, must be made by competent agents, and these cannot be obtained at lower salaries than those now paid by the Committee.'

Committee publish Tables* of Endowed and other Charities in the t, compiled partly from the Reports of the Charity Commissioners, partly from information supplied by the Incumbents of the several es.

appears that there are in the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, almshouses and annual distributions of 15 complete suits of g. and of sums varying from £1 to 2s. 6d. (the proceeds of the of a farm and rectory) charities amounting to £22. 10s., one of which is 6 cripples with £1 each and coals, while the other furnishes brown and coats to 10 poor persons annually. There are seven unendowed as. In the Liberty of the Rolls there are charities amounting to s. 8d., all of which appears to be distributed in small sums. One of 10s. 6d. is distributed 'in cake or small sums.' In St. Clement's the endowed charities amount to £4,891. 2s. 6d. Of this, £4,350, is the Holborn Estate Charity, is expended in subscriptions to a d, to almshouses, and to schools. One charity of £294. 14s. 4d. is ted among maid-servants who have served one master or mistress years. Their names are placed on a list, and they receive £12 in From another charity £48. 8s. 2d. is distributed among 20 poor , who each receive 8s. half-yearly. £186. 19s. 8d. is distributed , bread, tea, and sugar. There are three unendowed charities. In l's, Covent Garden, there are charities amounting to £1,169. 7s. 9d., h about £690 is contributed to the King's College and Charing Cross ls. With regard to St. Mary-le-Strand, alias 'Le Savoy,' the tee have had to insert a note, that the gentleman to whom the tee were referred for information about these charities stated 'that, willing to give full particulars to the Committee for their own use, t refuse them for publication.'

Committee has dealt with 340 cases in the past year, as compared 8 resident cases in the year ending September 30, 1875.

GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—*District Visiting Societies.*— e received the following letter from the Hon. Secretary:—

following conditions under which the Committee will subsidize al Councils were passed on Wednesday, January 17, 1877:—

The Council must be undenominational.

The money relief must be voted by Members or Associates of this tee only.

In all new cases the visitor, after making the usual inquiries nd the application form to this Office, in order that the information supplemented, if necessary, and the case recorded on our books.'

HAM.—The Committee have received a grant of £35 from the smith Police Court.

MEDICAL CHARITIES.

PORTLAND TOWN PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—We reprint the following e *British Medical Journal* of the 20th ultimo. It is part of a letter r. J. W. Allon, Alexandra Road, St. John's Wood, and contains a o questions similar to those asked by a correspondent in the *Reporter* 11st December last:—

Paragraph in your last issue, headed Metropolitan Provident Dis- as, contains a reference to the St. John's Wood and Portland Town nt Dispensary. As I am well acquainted with the history and of working of that institution, you will perhaps allow me to make marks on the subject. The objects of provident dispensaries are, t to be, two. The first is to afford, at small regular fixed charges, aid to such of the provident poor exclusively as are unable to pay the proper manner; but by a rule of the Portland Town Dispensary, scribe of a nominal sum may recommend to all the benefits of the ion any one he pleases absolutely free of charge; and this rule is dvantage of by many to get gratuitous medical advice for their out- id in-door servants, by which means they are able both to save nd to pass as charitable benefactors. This licence, you will agree , ought never to be conceded to the governors: it strikes at the root nstitution, and is inconsistent with its fundamental principle; yet I ain that a proposition to rescind this rule would not be entertained present committee. The second object of these dispensaries should benefit, professional and pecuniary, of their medical officers, who ach to be remunerated in exact proportion to the number of patients ids. At the Portland Town Dispensary the following plan pre- For each midwifery case attended by him the surgeon receives one and at the end of the year what is called a "gratuity" of £35 is o each, quite irrespectively of the amount of work done. At all ovident dispensaries that I am acquainted with, the surgeons are ording to the number of their patients. At the St. John's Wood ary it does not signify how few or how many he has attended. He ve had one patient or one thousand—his pecuniary position is not altered one jot. I was surgeon to the Dispensary for nearly eleven uring six of which I did quite half the work. On a fair system of a similar table published by the Lewisham Committee, vide *Reporter*, No. 302,

remuneration, I should have received not £35, but £52. 10s. In other words, in the six years I refer to, I ought in justice to have received £105 more than I did. I did not complain of this at the time, because I believed my colleagues were as well disposed to me as I certainly was to them. But this delusive circumstance was speedily dispelled. I resigned my office because an appointment was made which would have thrown, without any more pay, nearly the whole work of the dispensary upon me, and because I declined to act as unpaid assistant to the two largest medical firms in the place. The fair and right plan obviously is to divide the surplus amongst the members of the staff according to the number of their patients, and to have this done by an exclusively medical sub-committee. . . . The Dispensary possesses its own house, has money in the funds, a good annual surplus, and liberal support in the district. It has been established over thirty years, and yet it divided last year among its medical officers £58 less than did the struggling Kilburn Provident Institute at the end of its first year of existence.

HAVERSTOCK HILL PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—A meeting was held at the beginning of this year of the 'free' members of the Haverstock Hill Dispensary, 'to take into consideration the desirability of all free members qualifying themselves as voters, and to take a more active part in the working of the institution by being represented on the committee of management,' and resolutions were passed requesting the committee of management to permit 'that every free member above 14 be allowed to qualify himself or herself as a voter at the election of medical officers, by subscribing five shillings a year to the honorary fund, at one payment or by instalments,' and 'that the free members so subscribing to the honorary fund shall be represented on the committee of management and at the general meetings by some of their number; . . . ' Dr. Ford Anderson, who was in the chair, and who bore witness to the good feeling on the part of the free members towards the honorary subscribers, expressed his pleasure that 'the wishes of the meeting were so moderate, and that no desire existed to revolutionise the dispensary by swamping the present management with free members' votes. Although a liberal himself, he knew that such an extreme course would result in the decadence of the dispensary. He had learnt that by studying the history of provident dispensaries where it had been tried.' From the report of the proceedings it would appear that no strong opposition is expected. Dr. Alford, however, the chairman of the committee of management, in writing words of warning against creating 'a spirit of opposition between the free and honorary members,' suggested that the free members should qualify some of their number as representatives in the governing body by subscribing 'the qualifying sum, viz. 10s. subscription per annum.'

S. F.

BATTERSEA PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—In their report for 1875 the Battersea Committee expressed their satisfaction at learning 'that it is proposed to establish a Provident Dispensary in Battersea; which will have its head-quarters under the same roof as the Charity Organisation Office, though its affairs will be managed by a different committee.'

The first report has lately been issued, and shows very gratifying results. After 23 years as a charitable institution, the Battersea Dispensary was re-organised, and entered on its work as a Provident Dispensary in January 1876. 'At the end of June, 2,479 benefit members had been entered upon the books, and at the end of December the number had increased to 3,634; but it may be concluded that a considerable proportion of these entries are not to be regarded as permanent. Many persons have doubtless joined in time of sickness, who with returning health have allowed their membership to lapse.' 'During the year nearly 2,000 cases of illness have received help from the medical officers. About 7,400 attendances have been made by the sick at the dispensary; and nearly 2,700 visits have been paid to the houses of patients who were unable to quit their homes.' Figures are then quoted to show that the Provident Dispensary has 'afforded more relief to the suffering, and has also given a more appropriate acknowledgment to the medical officers than the old dispensary had done.'

S. F.

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS—continued.

The number of boys admitted into both Reformatory and Industrial Schools is about four times that of the girls. In Reformatory Schools about six-sevenths of the whole number of admissions were between the ages of 12 and 16; the numbers admitted between 12 and 14 being about equal to those admitted between 14 and 16. In Industrial Schools more than two-thirds of the admissions were between the ages of 10 and 14, the numbers admitted between 10 and 12 bearing, to those admitted between 12 and 14, the proportion of 13 to 8. Out of the total number (1,197) admitted into English Reformatory Schools, five-sixths had one or both parents alive at home. In 992 cases proceedings had to be taken for the recovery of contributions for maintenance; in respect of one-fourth the excuse of poverty was allowed; from the other three-fourths an average contribution of nearly 1s. 6d. a week was obtained. The amount obtained in the year from these contributions* if divided by the total number of admissions would reduce the

* In 741 cases the parents contributed amounts averaging nearly 1s. 6d. a week. This would give a total of about £2,860 for the year.

weekly contribution to about 11d. per week. But if the total number of inmates (viz. 5616) be divided by the total amount (viz. £8,378. 4s. 11d.) of the contributions of parents in the year, we get an average contribution of about 5d. a week. These figures seem to show the steady growth of the system of contribution from very small beginnings; and the improved average of contributions on each year's admissions will raise with it the average of contribution in respect of each inmate of the schools. Last year the number of inmates of Industrial Schools being 11,776, the contributions for maintenance in England from parents and in Scotland from parents and parochial boards amounted to £11,666. 13s. 11d.

But the inmates themselves contribute on an average to their own maintenance far more than their parents do for them. In both Reformatory and Industrial Schools the children are taught and set to work at various handicrafts; and the net profits arising from the sale of their work in the year 1875 (after deducting the loss in those schools where a loss resulted) came to nearly £34,500, or about £2 a head for each inmate of the schools. Whether any of this profit has been made by selling below market value the articles produced, is a question that will probably be answered officially in the course of next Session.

Very suggestive are the following facts as to the family circumstances of the children admitted in 1875 into Industrial Schools. Out of a total of 2,937, no less than 1,088 had both parents alive and able to take care of them—that is, considerably more than one-third; and 992 more had one parent alive and neither destitute nor criminal.

With reference to the class of children admitted, Mr. Turner advocates certain legislative changes which it may be worth while to particularise and consider. Having first suggested that the usual age for admission into a Reformatory School should be raised from 10 to 12—a measure which would have diminished the total number of admissions in 1875 by about one-seventh, offenders under 12 being sent, it is presumed, to Industrial Schools under the 15th Clause of the Industrial Schools Act—he proposes that the qualification of 'being without proper guardianship' should be more strictly defined, explaining that he would send all orphan and destitute children to the Union Schools, and give the latter schools power to detain such children. If in this category be included (1) children both of whose parents are dead, (2) children one or both of whose parents are destitute or criminal, and (3) children deserted by both parents, the number of admissions in the year 1875 (viz. 2,937) would have been reduced by nearly 700. Mr. Turner's object is to keep the number of Industrial Schools as far as possible within their present limits by drafting into the Union Schools children whose circumstances are such that no contributions for their maintenance can be obtained, and who are therefore, in his view, naturally chargeable to the Union.

In pp. 12-13 of his Report, Mr. Turner advocates the introduction in any amendment of the present Industrial Schools Act, of a clause having for its object to render parochial authorities equally liable with the parents of a child under detention in an Industrial School to contribute towards the maintenance of such child, if, by itself or by its parents, it had been chargeable to the parish within three months of its being sent to the school. A like provision is a marked feature of the Scotch Industrial Schools Act. Pecuniarily, the effect of a twofold security being provided for contributions to maintenance has been that the proportionate contribution in respect of every inmate is in Scotland considerably higher than in England and Wales, the figures last year being, in England and Wales, £7,774. 10s. 5d. in respect of 8,230 inmates; and in Scotland £3,892. 3s. 6d. in respect of 3,546 inmates. But Mr. Turner considers the chief value of such a provision to lie in its being 'a check on the possible abuse of Industrial Schools,' and he argues that local authorities are naturally responsible for the destitute and ill-trained classes, who are for the most part the ordinary inmates of the schools. This is doubtless true; the general condition of a district (especially a country district) largely depends upon local administration of Poor Law, and the due enforcement of measures having for their object the health and education of the poor in the district; and an efficient reminder of these local duties is the prospect of an increased rate.

In the Metropolis it is clear that such an additional burden ought to fall upon the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund. The unequal distribution of wealth and poverty in London—their striking separation from each other—has arisen largely from natural and economical causes that no human foresight or legislation could have greatly altered; and since the districts inhabited by the poorer classes are the natural nurseries of neglect and crime, it would be unfair to charge upon these exclusively the expense of contributing to the maintenance of inmates of Industrial Schools belonging to each district.

Both the above suggestions, if carried into effect, would be, *pro tanto*, an additional charge upon the poor-rates; but in most districts the expense might be recouped several times over by a stricter administration of outdoor relief, and it will be a satisfaction to local authorities to think that the money of their ratepayers so spent will, instead of being thrown away, prove to be literally a good investment.

METROPOLITAN CHARITIES.—The following statement of the income various kinds of Charities and Institutions is taken from the second annual edition of the 'Classified Directory to the Metropolitan Charities 1877' (published by Messrs. Longmans, 39 Paternoster Row, E.C., price 1

INCOME FOR 1875.				
	£	s.	d.	£ s. d.
4 Bible Societies	235,595	0	0	
14 Book and Tract Societies	98,588	0	0	
				334,183 0 0
62 Home Missions	422,766	0	0	
10 Home and Foreign Missions	155,370	0	0	
22 Foreign Missions	762,085	0	0	
				1,340,221 0 0
8 Church and Chapel Building				39,994 0 0
24 Charities for the Blind	47,622	0	0	
7 Charities for Deaf and Dumb	16,276	0	0	
9 Charities for Incurables	38,232	0	0	
6 Charities for Idiots	68,885	0	0	
				171,015 0 0
18 General Hospitals	269,337	0	0	
10 Consumption Hospitals	45,911	0	0	
5 Ophthalmic Hospitals	12,835	0	0	
3 Orthopaedic Hospitals	4,089	0	0	
4 Skin Hospitals	3,050	0	0	
17 Hosp. for Women & Children	55,326	0	0	
5 Lying-in Hospitals	7,076	0	0	
22 Miscell. Special Hospitals	89,294	0	0	
				486,918 0 0
33 General Dispensaries	23,003	0	0	
14 Provident Dispensaries	9,256	0	0	
2 Institutions for Vaccination	2,750	0	0	
5 Do. for Surgical Appliances	10,337	0	0	
35 Convalescent Institutions	39,719	0	0	
13 Nursing Institutions	3,642	0	0	
				88,707 0 0
172 Institutions for the Aged				400,411 0 0
98 Institutions for General Relief	283,797	0	0	
26 Food Institutions, Loan Charities, &c.	9,448	0	0	
				293,245 0 0
100 Voluntary Homes				102,778 0 0
54 Orphanages &c.				160,288 0 0
67 Institutions for Reformation and Prevention				94,776 0 0
112 Institutions for Education				482,418 0 0
53 " Social Improvement				56,002 0 0
16 " Protection				63,893 0 0
1,050				Grand Total £4,114,849 0 0

The Editor, in his introductory note, says:—'Four millions of money enormous as the amount is, must not be regarded as the sum total of money contributed annually to charities in the metropolis. To this must be added the incomes of numerous institutions which do not make returns, and amount distributed in relief by church and chapel congregations. There are also the amounts received by *fraudulent charities*, which, according to a statement made by the Earl of Shaftesbury, reach at least the large sum total of £250,000. In addition to the sums thus misspent, there are the receipts of professional begging-letter writers, street mendicants, and others, who prey upon the charity of the public. The aggregate total therefore be put down as between £6,000,000 and £7,000,000.'

The incomes quoted in the first (1876) edition amounted to £3,975, as against £4,114,849 in the 1877 edition, showing an increase of £139, which is shared principally by the Bible and Tract Societies, the Mission Societies, the Societies for aiding the Afflicted Classes, the Medical Charities and the Institutions for the Aged.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of January 1877, 39,026, and 45,832 received outdoor relief, making a total of 84,858. There was a decrease of 1,120 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 4,129, 15,058, and 22,050 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 728. This was an increase of 47 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 244 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct to 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 14d. s. d.
Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 204.

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 8, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Feb. 8	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday	„ 12	3 P.M., Council (for ordinary business). 4 P.M., Council. Special Meeting at the Society of Arts.
Tuesday	„ 13	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday	„ 14	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday	„ 15	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

There will be a Special Meeting of Council and a Conference on Monday next, the 12th inst., at 4 P.M., at the rooms of the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. A paper, on 'Personal work among the poor,' with special reference to the uses and improvement of district visiting, will be read by the Rev. S. A. Walrond, Hon. Secretary and Representative at Council of the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association. Numerous invitations have been issued. Persons, not being members of Council, may obtain cards of admission on application at the Central Office, or at the offices of any of the District Committees.

The Earl of Lichfield will take the chair, as Chairman of the Council.

The ordinary meeting of Council, for the despatch of business, will be held as usual, at 3 P.M.

The Secretary will be glad to receive from time to time Memoranda containing information on the following subjects,

with a view to their insertion in the *Charity Organisation Reporter* when space permits:—

Meetings on subjects connected with the improvement of the condition of the poor.

Efforts made to improve the machinery and working of existing District Visiting Societies.

Efforts made to promote provident habits among the poor; to improve the dwellings of the poor; to promote the welfare of the afflicted poor; to suppress vagrancy.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.*

The Administrative Committee met on Thursday, February 1.

There were present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major Nares, Major Prendergast, Major Yard, Captain Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Barrington, Brown, Lawrence, Miner, and Peters.

FINANCE.—During the week ending January 27 the receipts had been £103. 14s. for the General Fund, and £1 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £809. 6s. 8d. and £80. 0s. 7d. respectively, £7. 6s. 7d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANT.—They made a grant of £15 to the Stepney Committee, the amount granted to that Committee since the 1st of October last being £100.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of the Committee on the 30th ult. there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss Hill, Miss Howes, Messrs. Bousfield, Barrington, Edgcombe, Fletcher, Graham, and Lewis.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 31st ult. had been present:—

Rev. H. I. Cummins, in the Chair; Messrs. Hollond, Miner, and Peters.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 30th ult. had been present:—

R. A. Aspinall, Esq., in the Chair; Major FitzRoy, Hon. H. R. Scott, Mr. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 31st ult. had been present:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the Chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Rev. H. F. Mallet, and Mr. J. R. Hollond.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, February 3, 1877:—

<i>Donations:—</i>	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Anderdon, A. M., Esq.	0	5	0	Mitchell, W., Esq.	5	0	0
Blackburne, Rev. T.	2	2	0	Prideaux, F. G., Esq.	1	1	0
Brecks, Mrs.	5	0	0	Rokeby, Lord	10	0	0
Burton, Miss	1	0	0	Walker, W. N., Esq.	25	0	0
Eaton, A., Esq.	5	0	0	White, Major-Gen. H.			
'E. S.'	1	0	0	D., C.B.	10	0	0
Flint, John, Esq.	1	1	0	<i>Annual:—</i>			
'J. T. C.'	15	15	0	Blockow, H. W. F., Esq.,			
Lorne, Miss Alice	3	3	0	M.P.	2	2	0
MacGregor, John, Esq.	5	0	0	Brecks, Mrs.	5	0	0

* To prevent the publication in a single number of the *Reporter* of the names of members attending two meetings of the Committee and Sub-Committees, the 'Proceedings' of the Committee have been inserted, instead of the usual 'Report' to Council.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
'C.'	1	0	0	Reiss, Mrs.	5	5	0
Crowder, A. G., Esq.	5	5	0	'R. L. H.'	1	1	0
Grosvenor, Capt. Hon.				Wilbraham, Sir Richard, ...			
R. W.	5	0	0	K.C.B.	1	1	0
Holyman & Hewitt, ...				Wills, Michael, Esq.	10	0	0
Messrs.	0	5	0				
Loebl, Messrs. J. & S.	0	10	6				
Morse, Miss	1	1	0				
Paget, Miss A.	2	2	0				

District Committee Aid Fund:—
Innes, Mrs. 2 2 0

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

ST. SAVIOUR'S.—ANNUAL REPORT, 1875-6.—*Beneficent Charity.*—The Committee purposely abstain from introducing into this year's report a repetition in detail of the rules by which they endeavour to be guided in dealing with their various classes of cases, but there is one general principle which it may be well to bring into distinct prominence, because it underlies all their action, and because a clearer apprehension of it may much assist their subscribers, and others who make use of the office, to understand that action and the grounds on which assistance is often withheld. The principle is, that it is good for the poor that they should meet all the ordinary contingencies of life, relying not upon public or private charity, but upon their own industry and thrift, and upon the powers of self-help that are to be developed by individual and collective effort. Ample room will still be left for the exercise of an abundant charity in dealing with *exceptional* misfortune, and also in connection with large schemes for the benefit of the working classes which may require, in the first instance at all events, the fostering of wealth and leisure. But it is a hurtful misuse of money to spend it in assisting the labouring classes to meet emergencies which they should themselves have anticipated and provided for. The working man does not require to be told that temporary sickness is likely now and then to visit his household; that times of slackness will occasionally come; that if he marries early and has a large family, his resources will be taxed to the uttermost; that if he lives long enough, old age will render him more or less incapable of toil—all these are the ordinary contingencies of a labourer's life, and if he is taught that as they arise they will be met by State relief or private charity, he will assuredly make no effort to meet them himself. A spirit of dependence, fatal to all progress, will be engendered in him, he will not concern himself with the causes of his distress or consider at all how the condition of his class may be improved; the road to idleness and drunkenness will be made easy to him, and it involves no prophesying to say that the last state of a population influenced after such a fashion as this, will certainly be worse than the first. One thing there is which true charity does require the working man to be told, and it is the aim of this Society to tell it to him, not in words merely, but in acts that cannot be confuted. We desire to tell him that those who are born to easier circumstances sympathise with the severe toil and self-denial which his lot imposes upon him; that many are standing beside him ready and even eager to help if proper occasion should arise; that if he should be overthrown by sudden and unexpected misfortune, a fresh start will assuredly be given to him; and that if he, or wife, or child should be stricken with *protracted* sickness, or with some special infirmity, such as we all hope to escape, there are those at hand who will gladly minister to his necessities, and do their best at least to mitigate the suffering which it may be beyond their power to remove.

There is, in pp. 10 and 11 of the Report, a statement of work done by the Committee in *exceptional* cases of distress, which we should be glad to have space to insert at length. The number of cases dealt with by the Committee were, in 1875-6, 574; as against 340 in 1874-5. The following extracts from the Report shows how far one branch of the work of the Society—'Co-operation between Charities and the Poor-law, and amongst the Charities'—is being carried out:—

'The following is an account of 50 applications received during the month of August, and it may be taken as a fair sample of the rest. 8 persons were sent by the clergy, 4 by district visitors, 3 by Bible-women, 6 by Scripture-readers, 5 by the School Board authorities, 3 by relieving officers, 1 by a magistrate, 3 by private persons, 2 by societies, 1 by the central office, 2 by district offices, 2 had heard of the office, 3 saw it in passing, and 7 were advised to come by their neighbours.'—p. 6.

'Whilst this Report is being written 8 young children, whose cases have come before the Committee during the past twelve months, are being trained or otherwise cared for in various Homes and Institutions. In only one case was the admission free; in the other cases the cost has been met by friends to whose notice they have been brought by the Committee. It will be well understood that to effect in each such instance the necessary arrangements, to discover the most suitable Home, enlist the requisite assistance, and to conduct the matter to an issue, means an expenditure not merely of money but of thought, labour, and time. It is here that a

Committee, each member of which has his own circle and can do a little, one for one case, one for another, is so much stronger than a single individual, working only by himself, and familiar perhaps with only a few Institutions. In most of these instances some special and serious infirmity affecting the wage-earning power of the family was the ground on which they were taken up.'—p. 10.

EAST-END COMMITTEES.—STEPNEY AND POPLAR have received £15 each from the Thames Police-court; St. George's and Whitechapel £15 between them.

PROVINCIAL.

EDINBURGH.—*Annual Report, 1876.*—WASTREL CHILDREN.—The ninth Annual Report of the Edinburgh Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor gives us an opportunity of chronicling the extensive and very multifarious operations of the Association. Taking the various departments of work in the order in which they are mentioned in the report, we find that during the past year 2,841 orders for food, coals, &c., have been given. A Sub-Committee for the distribution of clothing has given away 444 articles. A sewing-room, opened during six months of the winter of 1875-6, was attended by about 80 women, who received temporary employment and assistance. A fire-lighter factory is used as a labour test: 460 have been offered employment; but while the offer of work 'has been accepted by 270, by far the larger number never troubled themselves to go to the factory at all; and out of the total number sent, only one-half availed themselves of the opportunities it affords, and many of these only for a short time.' The Association has been instrumental in getting employment for upwards of 200 persons.

Referring to the provision of food and clothing to such children as are prevented by destitution from attending school,* the report states, 'that a Sub-Committee of five was appointed to act in conjunction with a Sub-Committee of the School Board; that from December to May (1875-6) they held nine meetings, at which 220 cases, including 516 children, were decided upon, 'after a full inquiry into the circumstances of each individual case had been made by the School Board compulsory officers, and through the Organisation of the Association.' Of these 516 children, food and clothing were granted to 112, clothing only to 63; food, two meals a day, to 167. On the reopening of the schools, 180 out of the 220 cases were reconsidered at meetings held before the publication of the report: the decision on 33, was delayed for further inquiry, 80 were recommended for food, and the remainder were dismissed; 11, as not having benefited; 28, as not requiring relief owing to improvement in their circumstances, and 28, as having left town, died, or as not having been found. 53 new cases, including 123 children, were considered: to 77 of these, food was granted; to 5, food and clothing; to 14, clothing.

It would be satisfactory to know what proportion the 220 cases approved by the Sub-Committee in the first instance bore to the number of cases submitted to the Sub-Committee; and also how many out of the 53 new cases were rejected: 27 children out of the 123 were not assisted: this, taking an average of three children to a case, is a rejection of 21 per cent. Out of 19,173 cases dealt with by the Charity Organisation Society in 1876, 7,195, or 37 per cent., were dismissed as not requiring relief, or undeserving, or cases suitable for the Poor Law, or otherwise ineligible. There does not appear to be any means of checking this side of the work of the Association. At the same time the following passages bear witness to the fact that the Committee are on their guard lest such relief should be unwisely administered:—

'Your Committee think it only proper to state that, in every case which came before them, they have duly considered the circumstances of the parents or parent, or other guardian of the child or children before them, and, wherever they thought that such could be provided for otherwise, they did not hesitate to refuse all relief whatever, and repeatedly referred cases back to the School Board to be dealt with by it in the usual legal form.' 'No doubt the feeding and clothing children to enable them to attend school is a necessary evil, and ought always to be regarded as a temporary provision, which requires to be conducted with the greatest caution; and it has required all the skill acquired during long years of experience to prevent this movement being perverted to the increase instead of to the decrease of pauperism, and the degradation instead of the elevation of the really deserving poor. The clothing supplied has been of the greatest service, and, so far as can be ascertained, little or no abuse of such has occurred. The Committee are sure that the names of those gentlemen who, as a Sub-Committee, undertook and so faithfully carried out the task of investigating the individual cases, is a sufficient guarantee that every pains are taken to arrive at a proper decision in each case, and your Committee cannot but express to these gentlemen their warmest acknowledgments for the service so faithfully rendered.'

* Vide Reporter, No. 188, p. 135.

The children receiving food, &c. from the Association appear to be more regular in their attendance at school than the other children.

There remain several other branches of the work of the Association: they have a medical kitchen and supplied 68 invalids with nourishing food—some of them for very lengthened periods; they have 'an Improved Sick and Friendly Society, not held in a public-house, and whose funds (amounting to £833) are securely kept; of this 572 men and women availed themselves; 10,000 names of persons, respecting whom inquiry has been made, are on the register of the Association; 1,800 inquiries have been made; beggars have been detected and punished (but of this there is no classified return); private charity to old servants of the donors and others has been dispensed; and £400, donations for other charities, has been received and paid over.

The Association, it may not be generally known, has divided Edinburgh into 28 sections, in each of which there is a Committee.

PLYMOUTH.—It appears from the last Report of the Plymouth Mendicity Society that the wayfarers and tramps dealt with by the Managing Committee have increased from 62 in 1875 to 117 in 1876.

BURSLEM.—ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—At a meeting held on the 10th ult. at the Town Hall, Burslem, Mr. T. Hulme, the chief bailiff, was in the chair. Mr. W. Boulton, seconded by Rev. A. A. Walton, moved a resolution proposing the establishment of a Charity Organisation Society. Mr. W. Woodall then moved a resolution inviting the co-operation of the Poor-law Guardians, Benevolent Societies, District Visitors, and the inhabitants generally. After alluding to the tramps and others with whom such a Society would enable the public to deal, he said:—There would, however, still remain in their midst a large number of people with regard to whom great discrimination would be required. It was a great irony upon the wealth of this country that one-sixth of the people should be dependent upon the other sixth for their maintenance. In that summary of historical progress of the poor-law which the chairman had given them, they had seen various means resorted to for checking and controlling it. It was not surprising to find that the severe treatment resorted to defeated its own ends, just as they found that capital punishment for various kinds of offence broke down by reason of its severity. This agency would enable them to apply to those who were really deserving, not precisely the amount of aid which would benefit them best. He asked leave to read a few lines from a work by a distinguished writer, Edmund About, who described under the head of "Parasites" three classes—thieves, beggars, and gamblers. He spoke of men who had spent their lives in rags, and in whose mattresses, after death, large fortunes were found. M. About went on to observe that if that were the common experience of beggars, there would not be much to find fault with; but then, he added, that that which was so easily got was usually squandered. Then those people became a sort of caste, married, multiplied, and founded a stock of "parasites." M. About went on to say "Does begging create almsgiving, or does almsgiving give rise to begging? Each does its part. We are in a vicious circle. I have dwelt in succession in the part of France where the most is given to the poor, and the part of Italy where charity lavishes its larger alms. At Quimper, as at Rome, my first care was to search by what miracle so much money spread abroad had increased distress instead of curing it. At Rome, as at Quimper, the wisest and best people replied to me 'It is quite simple: the more you water weeds the more abundant their growth.' * * * Do you wish to manufacture beggars by the hundreds? Open your windows and throw a franc to those who come and sing or grind organs in street or court. On the morrow you will be visited by all the professional beggars; before a week is over fifty persons in your district who have not yet begged will desire to profit by the alms, and the evil of mendicity will spread from neighbour to neighbour like an epidemic; Heaven only knowing where it will end. There are villages in Italy and even in France where children run after strangers asking for coppers. The stranger gives the copper and thinks he acts the great man; he never thinks he is the corrupter of these children. Among us the modern spirit is strong enough to combat and cure this vice of education; yet I shall never forget that in 1858 in the province of Loretto peasants left their harvest which was splendid, to come and beg from us. I turned to one of them and asked him how he had the face to beg on the border of his own field. He replied, 'Sir, I have never missed doing so from my earliest boyhood; and as I have always got something, I continue doing so.'"

A committee and officers were then appointed.

The *Staffordshire Advertiser* in commenting on the meeting says:—'A hopeful beginning to the good work was made by the assurance that the benevolent societies and parochial associations would give hearty co-operation, and by the reading of a list of subscriptions to a very respectable amount. Now, what is strongly to be wished is that the other Pottery towns may join in the movement thus commenced, and so clear the neighbourhood of a real and infectious nuisance. In Charity Organisation, almost more than in

any other matter, union is strength. If we are to get rid of a most vicious, mischievous, and disgraceful class of the community, the crusade against them must spread all over England.'

NOTTINGHAM.—IMPOSTORS.—We have received the following letter from the Nottingham Society for Organising Charity:—'For some six months we have made it a practice to caution the public, by means of letters to the local newspapers, against giving alms to any impostors of whom we may get a description and whose doings are sufficiently extensive to merit such a notice. We give a description of the person and dress, the story, and alleged name and address of the mendicant in question. We find this practice very effective in checking further imposition, and in opening the eyes of the public to the advantages of Charity Organisation. It has also made our office a centre for information of this kind, so that we frequently receive communications from the police and from strangers.'

THE CASE OF LOUISA BARROW.—MISS STRIDE'S HOME.

It will be recollected that some few weeks ago a considerable amount of correspondence took place between the Board and the officials of Miss Stride's Home at Tottenham, in reference to the above child, who had for a long period been an inmate of that institution. She was deserted by her mother, and eventually Miss Stride communicated with the Union authorities, and the child was removed to the schools at Enfield. It was, however, discovered that she was in a lamentable state from disease and dirt; and on a report to that effect being sent to the Guardians, great astonishment was felt. The clerk was then instructed to forward a copy of the report to Miss Stride, and a reply was received from that lady and one of her matrons, conveying their surprise to the Board that such should have been the case—the matron adding that perhaps the 'change of air and diet' brought about the child's condition.

The following letters were now read from Mr. H. N. Capel, of 16 Upper Woburn Street, W.C.: 'Dear Sir—As chairman of the council of Miss Stride's Home, will you favour me with the date of the Master's report on the case of Louisa Barrow, a copy of which without date is enclosed in your letter to Miss Stride of the 1st ultimo?' 'Dear Sir—You will plainly see that this child left Miss Stride's Home in a clean and proper condition, as I believe Miss Janson has already stated to you—sufficient time having elapsed between her departure from the Home and the Master's report to admit of both statements being true. I have deemed it necessary to address you on the spot, especially as I have heard that the fact was mentioned in other quarters. In this, as in many other matters, strict accuracy as to date is all that is necessary to prevent misapprehension.'

Mr. Tye, Schoolmaster and Superintendent of the House at Enfield, wrote thus:—'January 16th. Dear Sir—In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, enclosing one from the Honorable Capel, relative to the child sent to this House from Miss Stride's Home, I cannot do better than simply state the facts connected with the case, without any comment. She was admitted November 29, 1876, in the afternoon, and examined on the following day by the medical officer, and immediately ordered into the infirmary. I saw a large ringworm underneath the chin, one on the right eyelid, and many on other different parts. I also saw great lice taken out of the hair of her head. Immediately after her admission into the infirmary the nurse discovered that she had the whooping-cough, and the child stated that she had medicine given to her while at the Home for it. I reported the case to the Board at their first meeting after the child was admitted.'

The report of the medical officer (Dr. Collyer) was also read, which corroborated the statement of Mr. Tye. The officer also gave his opinion to the effect that, judging from the condition of the child when it was admitted, it must have been suffering for several weeks previous.

It was resolved that the Chairman of the Council of Miss Stride's Home should be made acquainted with the latest particulars.—*Enfield Observer*, January 20, 1877.

DIFFICULT CASES.

No. 5.—A lady is desirous of putting into a home for cripples a boy about 10 years old who was born without arms. He is not eligible for the Homes that only receive inmates that have become cripples. Can any of our readers furnish us with the name of a home that makes no distinction between those who were born cripples and those who have become so?

S. F.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of January 1877 was 39,229, and 46,338 received outdoor relief, making a total of 85,567. This was an increase of 709 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 3,582, 14,082, and 21,858 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 758. This was an increase of 30 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 177 on the corresponding day of last year.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

The following is a Return of the Number of Paupers (exclusive of Lunatics in Asylums and Vagrants) on the last day of each of the four weeks of January 1877:—

Unions	January 1877			
	First Week	Second Week	Third Week	Fourth Week
WEST DISTRICT.				
Kensington	1,491	1,480	1,498	1,512
Fulham	1,182	1,166	1,160	1,187
Paddington	1,789	1,816	1,803	1,842
Chelsea	1,242	1,353	1,362	1,397
St. George's	3,720	3,751	3,786	3,760
Westminster	1,072	1,053	1,052	1,063
Total of the West District	10,496	10,619	10,661	10,761
NORTH DISTRICT.				
St. Marylebone	4,617	4,600	4,684	4,683
Hampstead	279	278	265	266
St. Pancras	7,966	7,994	8,146	8,257
Islington	3,908	4,019	4,040	4,054
Hackney	2,990	3,034	3,096	3,082
Total of the North District	19,760	19,925	20,231	20,342
CENTRAL DISTRICT.				
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury	1,958	1,898	1,954	1,965
Strand	1,122	1,129	1,135	1,129
Holborn	6,211	6,326	6,350	6,445
City of London	5,170	5,164	5,317	5,257
Total of the Central District	14,461	14,517	14,756	14,796
EAST DISTRICT.				
Shoreditch	1,936	1,969	1,988	1,966
Bethnal Green	2,149	2,134	2,179	2,237
Whitechapel	1,323	1,343	1,359	1,342
St. George's East	1,321	1,313	1,313	1,368
Stepney	1,071	1,072	1,084	1,079
Mile End Old Town	1,364	1,364	1,367	1,397
Poplar	2,807	2,862	2,925	2,933
Total of the East District	11,971	12,057	12,215	12,322
SOUTH DISTRICT.				
St. Saviour's, Southwark	5,236	5,304	5,390	5,455
St. Olave's, Southwark	3,734	3,739	3,789	3,809
Lambeth	4,696	4,784	4,838	4,920
Wandsworth and Clapham	2,596	2,629	2,628	2,638
Camberwell	2,497	2,537	2,607	2,661
Greenwich	3,529	3,542	3,557	3,646
Woolwich	3,182	3,259	3,303	3,333
Lewisham	798	826	883	884
Total of the South District	26,268	26,620	26,995	27,346
Total of the Metropolis, 1877	82,956	83,738	84,858	85,567
Do. corresponding period, 1876	86,711	87,413	88,987	89,149

TOTAL PAUPERISM OF THE METROPOLIS.

(Population in 1871, 3,254,000.)

	Number of Paupers			Total
	Indoor	Outdoor	...	
Fourth week of January 1877	39,229	46,338	...	85,567
" " 1876	37,405	51,744	...	89,149
" " 1875	37,039	62,610	...	99,649
" " 1874	37,059	70,366	...	107,425

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Vagrants relieved in the metropolis on the last day of the third week of January 1877.

Men	Women	Children under 16	Total
559	168	31	758

RETURNS FOR JANUARY.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of Cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, January 27, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Totals for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with	
	Not requiring relief	Under-employment	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise Ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.					Class total
Kensington	16	13	27	56	2	5	6	13	11	1	9	3	20	80	61	22	10
Fulham	6	1	1	7	1	1	54	54	1	1	1	2	3	64	16	10	17
Paddington	8	4	28	40	17	8	23	19	3	15	6	41	106	102	30	1	
Chelsea	7	4	5	16	12	2	14	3	2	4	3	12	42	22	10	4	
St. George's:																	
G. Committee	7	1	14	22	2	4	9	11	11	1	1	12	13	165	62	16	4
W. Committee	6	5	31	42	4	1	5	12	1	2	1	2	15	36	16	10	4
Westminster:																	
St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho	7	6	5	18	9	2	11	11	1	1	1	1	29	25	13	22	1
St. Marylebone	12	1	9	22	1	27	24	52	10	3	4	16	90	90	30	45	1
Hampstead	4	1	1	6	1	5	5	7	3	3	2	16	24	24	3	4	1
North St. Pancras	4	7	35	30	1	25	5	31	1	2	4	8	36	26	13	10	1
South St. Pancras	9	5	7	21	19	23	42	4	3	1	1	7	70	41	25	2	1
Islington	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	35	1	7	2	1
Hackney Union	2	2	12	16	12	4	16	8	6	1	1	1	50	12	22	2	1
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	1	5	19	25	11	4	15	1	4	1	1	1	48	22	24	1	1
Strand	4	1	8	13	42	3	44	2	1	1	1	1	60	16	45	1	1
Holborn	1	3	3	7	2	8	10	3	5	1	1	1	25	44	10	1	1
City	4	11	15	30	8	9	17	9	3	1	1	13	43	16	20	1	1
Shoreditch	5	7	17	29	3	2	7	6	1	1	1	1	43	13	15	1	1
Bethnal Green	3	4	16	30	4	4	8	1	1	1	1	1	36	20	6	1	1
Whitechapel	1	4	6	11	11	3	14	2	4	1	1	1	36	4	25	1	1
St. George's-in-the-East	1	4	6	11	11	3	14	2	4	1	1	1	36	4	25	1	1
Stepney	4	2	18	24	1	14	19	1	1	1	1	1	5	42	46	34	1
Mile End Old Town	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	36	12	24	1	1
Poplar	8	1	12	21	4	4	8	2	1	1	1	1	31	10	11	1	1
St. Saviour's	4	4	23	31	2	5	7	1	3	1	1	1	44	9	11	1	1
Newington	5	4	12	21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	31	4	11	1	1
St. Olave's	7	1	19	27	11	7	16	8	1	1	1	1	54	1	20	12	1
Lambeth	1	4	7	12	4	1	5	7	1	1	1	1	28	5	23	1	1
Brixton	3	2	1	6	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	11	1	4	1	1
Wandsworth and Putney	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	7	2	7	1	1
Whitechapel	4	2	12	18	1	1	17	5	1	1	1	1	22	42	7	10	1
Battersea	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Camberwell	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Grove Lane	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Woolwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Lewisham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	1	1
Totals	155	111	385	651	37	324	206	367	197	69	53	64	383	1601	776	806	1

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 205.

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 15, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Feb. 15	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Tuesday	20	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday	21	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday	22	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

There will be no meeting of Council on Monday next, the 19th inst. The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, the 26th inst., at 3 p.m.

Information respecting the case of Catherine McCourt can be obtained at the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee.

WESTMINSTER UNION COMMITTEE.—The name of this Committee will in future be the St. James's and Soho (Westminster Union) Committee.

Committees are reminded that there is at the Central Office a register of persons apparently well qualified to undertake the duties of Charity Agent or Inquiry Officer.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—**LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGH** (in the Chair).

FULHAM:—Sir Douglas Forsyth, C. J.
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Holland.
CHICHESTER:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. Seton Kerr.
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy.
MARYLEBONE:—Miss O. Hill.
HAMPSTEAD:—C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F. Mallet.
NORTH ST. PANCRAZ:—A. N. Butt.

HOLBORN:—T. W. Gorst, G. B. Baker.
CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford.
WHITECHAPEL:—C. S. Corkran, C. Lavers Smith.
ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—R. Barrington.
MILK END:—Hon. H. R. Scott, Major Nares.
ST. SAVOIR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond, W. F. Smith.
NEWINGTON:—F. D. Thornton.

LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
WANDSWORTH:—Miss Harriet Gurney.
DEPTFORD:—C. J. Lambert.
LEWISHAM:—G. Parker, A. Annesley.
SYDENHAM:—C. A. Barry.
VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir Charles Trevelyan, G. Blount. **TOTAL**:—34.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.
VISITORS:—J. F. Sapsford, Miss A. Scivens.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, February 8. There were present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the Chair; Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, Major Prendergast, Major Nares, Major Yard, Captain Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Barrington, Brown, Hill, Lawrence, Miner, Peters, and Roberts.

FINANCE.—During the week ending February 3 the receipts had been £144. 19s. for the General Fund, and £2. 2s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £932. 13s. 10d. and £47. 2s. 7d. respectively, £7. 6s. 7d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of the Committee on the 6th inst. there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss O. Hill, Miss Howes, Sir D. Forsyth, Messrs. Bousfield, Barrington, Edgcombe, Fletcher, Graham, and Lewes.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 6th inst. had been present:—

Rev. H. I. Cummins, and subsequently Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, in the Chair; Major Prendergast, Messrs. Corrie, B. Roberts, Holland, Miner, and Peters.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 6th inst. had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the Chair; Miss Howes, Hon. H. R. Scott, Capt. Gardner, Messrs. Barrington and Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 7th inst. had been present:—

Mr. A. H. Hill, in the Chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Rev. H. F. Mallet, and Messrs. J. R. Holland and Wilkinson.

The standing business having been disposed of, the Council, on the motion of Mr. J. R. Holland, seconded by Mr. R. Barrington, adjourned to Monday, the 26th inst.

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR AND HOW TO ORGANISE IT.

The Special Meeting of Council was held at the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, at 4 P.M. The Earl of Lichfield took the chair. There were upwards of 300 persons present, including a large number of clergymen and ministers of all denominations. The Secretary having read letters from Lord Hatherley, the Right Hon. Cowper Temple, M.P., Dean Stanley, the Rev. H. Adler, D.D., Rev. Brooke Lambert, and others, regretting their inability to attend, the Chairman said that this Special Meeting and Conference had been convened, not in order that the Council might submit any special plan of personal work among the poor, but to obtain from those in whom the administration of this branch of charitable work was vested, definite information for the guidance of the District Committees of the Society. It was most necessary in this department of work that there should be

inter-communication and co-operation between the charitable. It was also quite hopeless to fulfil the main object of the Society, to 'improve the condition of the poor,' if a sufficient knowledge had not been at first obtained respecting the conditions under which personal work among the poor was being done. But setting aside the question of the utility of District Visiting, a special difficulty met the Committees at work in the East of London: viz. that there were there so few visitors and charitable agencies with which to co-operate. Should an attempt be made to obtain visitors from the West? And, if so, how should the system be organised, and what instructions should be given to visitors to make their visits really beneficial? The Council wished that the meeting should afford an opportunity to those who had a personal acquaintance with charitable work amongst the poor of obtaining and interchanging information. He hoped that thus a more thorough co-operation between them and the Society might be brought about.

The Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, Hon. Sec. of the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association, then read a paper on Personal Work amongst the Poor and how to Organise it.

He dealt only with one special kind of 'Personal work amongst the Poor,' viz. House-to-house Visitation at the Homes of the Poor; and this he again limited to such visitation in the East of London, as it affected or might affect charitable relief. And lastly he confined himself to the consideration of the circumstances of the three Poor-law Unions of Whitechapel, Stepney, and St. George's-in-the-East. Out of a population of 200,000 in these Unions, he considered that 130,000 were likely to be those amongst whom house-to-house visitation might be wise and useful. The number of *bond fide* visitors in these unions he estimated at about 50: they were mainly ladies, generally non-resident, working with little or no inter-communication, and occasionally, as gift-distributing rivals. These were not all who visited the poor; there were 8 relieving officers, 10 or 12 School Board visitors, 3 agents of the Charity Organisation Society, about 50 clergy and recognised dissenting ministers, 12 almoners of the Society for the Relief of Distress, above 100 lay agents, such as city missionaries, Bible-women, Scripture readers, and the like, besides all sorts of religious adventurers, Gospel missionaries, and quite an army of Sunday-school teachers, who visited the homes of the poor from time to time, but did not as a rule visit regularly. The usual state of things might be described by what a clergyman in the East End had recently told him; viz. that a court in his parish might go unvisited altogether from year's end to year's end until some special calamity befell it, such as a police case, etc.—'then there was a swoop of rival charitable eagles from all sorts of religious quarters to settle on the body.' Personal work was thus inadequate, unorganised, and often tainted with religious prejudice and partisanship.

Referring then to the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association and the Charity Organisation Society, he said that the scheme of the Association was a system of house-to-house visitation; but this had not been found practicable. The Charity Organisation Society must undertake the work if an improvement was to be made in the East End. But members of this Society might object that house-to-house visitation was a wasteful plan, intrusive, inquisitive, gossiping, resultless: a careful inquiry by an experienced agent and an impartial decision were what was really necessary. Yet, surely, the whole question of relief should not be considered such a desperate matter of science; paid agents could not supply the place of visitors, who gradually and by degrees became acquainted with the poor, and did not visit them to make inquiries. Instead of dreading lest their method should be relaxed, the District Committees of the Society ought to become, more than at present, centres round which the charitable should gladly rally for advice and counsel. They should be content often to supply intelligent *principles* of action. House-to-house visitation in connection with the District Committees would lead to this.

Those assisted by the Society were at present, usually—those who applied: the deserving poor did not generally apply, or often, when they applied, they did so when they could find no help nearer home, or were past help. House-to-house visitation would find those who were in want in time to give them remedial assistance. He believed that this Society would not by any other means repress mendicity (stopping it at its outset), and really meet the wants of the people, or gain human and public sympathy.

The following proposal might be found an experimental method which would possibly lead to the solution of the difficulty. Take a small District, say in Whitechapel; secure the co-operation of the clergy and all other charitable workers, the artisan and tradesman class; obtain the aid of the almoners of the Society for the Relief of Distress, and the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association; above all, obtain the aid of those who, like Edward Denison, are willing to *live* amongst the poor: induce ladies to help you. Map out your district, and assign to each a division; lay down general principles of visiting &c., and make it a *sine quid non* that each visitor report at the District Committee, each week, fully and unreservedly respecting visits made and relief given. Such a system might be tried for a year, and would throw more light on East End poverty, its causes and cure, than statistics, theories, and reports could produce in twenty years.

Sir Charles Trevelyan pointed out that the subject had engaged the attention of the Council as early as 1870, and that in July of that year they had approved a system of house-to-house visitation. He then explained at length the system of Parochial Councils adopted in the St. George's (Hanover Square) District.*

Mr. G. C. T. Bartley, Manager of the National Penny Bank, considered the subject from a point of view entirely different from that of Mr. Walrond. He inquired what was meant by 'the poor,' and how were 130,000 people thus divided from the rest of the people in the three unions, that they should be subject to visits, while others were not? Was it not likely that such a system carried out by persons migrating from the West to the East would tend to make the people ask for relief; and thus make charity more often than it was at present, a step to ruin? It had been said that the most deserving did not often get relief. He believed that their long-suffering patience was most noble and should not be thus assailed. Personal visitation on this scale would check thrift, which he believed to be the power on which reliance must be placed, if there was to be any improvement in the condition of the poor.

Rev. J. D. McGachen, Vicar of St. Bartholemew's, Bethnal Green, said that Mr. Walrond and Mr. Bartley had spoken from quite different standpoints—the one considered District Visiting a right condition prior to giving relief; the other was opposed to any possible increase in the amount of relief given. He had in his—an East End—parish 11,500 people. Among these he had perhaps, in the course of the year, £50 to distribute; this could be used only in special cases, and it was manifestly impossible to distribute it in connection with any system of personal visitation.

Rev. J. M. Murphy, of the Borough Road Congregational Chapel, and a member of the London School Board, said that however careful the visitors might be, and however necessary it was to relieve cases in which there was real need, the assistance of an agent acquainted with the ways of the poor was absolutely necessary to prevent deception, and to ascertain what money was earned and how it was spent. Visitors of one sort and another were only too numerous. It was misuse of means, not the want of them, that the people suffered from.

Rev. J. Thomas, of Zion Chapel (Independent), Whitechapel Road, said he had been twenty-one years in Whitechapel. He begged that no visitors might be sent there. There were enough there already. Missionaries and Biblewomen were able, while engaged in their work, to find out indirectly what distress there was; and this was unostentatiously relieved. Any system of visits, visiting to find out wants, would fail. The clergy and Nonconformist ministers were ready to deal with all deserving cases, and the East End, if left to them, and if no money was sent to irresponsible persons without committees, &c., would be able to right itself.

Mr. C. L. Corkran, of the Domestic Mission, Spicer Street, one of the representatives of the Whitechapel Committee, endorsed this opinion.

Rev. — Hawkins, Canon of Llandaff, having pointed out that the discussion had turned to the question whether it was not better to administer charitable relief without any system of personal visitation, said that Hackney, a union not quite so large as those mentioned by Mr. Walrond, had, in 1866, at the time of the cholera, been divided into districts for the purposes of visiting. All the visitors, very many of them shopkeepers, were residents and members of the District Committee of the Society. The visitation was from house to house,

* Vide *Reporter*, No. 196, and No. 197, p. 172.

was conducted with great zeal and perseverance. The visitors were on the spot, reporting after a week. The system had now been in existence ten years, and had stood the test of experience. He believed that every year their charity was administered on sounder principles, and he was glad to have an opportunity of expressing admiration of the steady and progressive manner in which the work was being worked.

Mr. A. H. Hill, Director of the Labour Agency, Greek Street, approved generally of the line of argument adopted by Mr. May. The plan suggested by Mr. Walrond would perpetuate a class feeling which was one of the greatest difficulties in carrying out any social reforms, and would tend to draw between the rich and poor, and the visited and not-to-be-visited, a dangerous hard-and-fast line. The first and greatest function of the Charity Organisation Society, the best abused Society in London, was to be a great moulding, shaping, ingathering power; it was in this spirit its work should be achieved. He feared the day which the invasion of these lady-brigades from the West would do to the East. Would it not be better to let those who are neighbours visit and help one another, and let those who wished to sit and help the poor, make themselves neighbours of the poor, and then, while they lived among them? There was no necessity of multiplying agencies; what was wanted was, that the poor should be referred to whom, in trouble, they might without difficulty refer. There was a need of certain vital centres in each locality, to which the poor might go, and might be dealt with candidly and courteously. Such should be the District Committees of the Charity Organisation Society—composed, in accordance with the original theory of the Society, of representatives, of members who were visitors, going in search of need to the houses of the applicants, or lawyers giving advice to solve some of their numerous petty legal troubles, or doctors, or nurses, visiting the sick. It was not the fault of the Society that the District Committees were not such now.

Mr. Rev. H. I. Cummins, of St. Alban's, Wood Street, disapproved of any system of real house-to-house visitation. But friendly visitors, acting in co-operation with the District Committees of the Society, would be most useful. They were wanted to take up cases which the Committees had helped; to see what result the loan or the gift or assistance of any kind had produced. Volunteer visitors would not, he thought, be almsgivers. The gift of money imposed on the donor, as a matter of duty, the necessity for inquiring whether the want was real; and this scrutiny made the visitor an inspector. The visitor should be the friend and advocate of the poor; he should have a tribunal to which he could go if cases arose in which he believed relief was required; the relief should come from another and independent source.

Mr. A. G. Crowder, one of the Guardians of St. George's-in-the-Fields, supported Mr. Cummins, and pointed out that this plan would be a reason for going among the poor. It would be of the greatest service to the poor and to the Society, if persons would be forward who would bestow their time and thought rather than money in taking up and watching over cases, and obtaining for them what had been decided to be the wisest form of relief.

Mr. George Charles explained a plan which had recently been adopted in the parish of St. Paul's, Paddington.* All funds passed through the agency of the Committee, thus uniformity of relief was secured after inquiry had been made by the District Visitors, or, if necessary, by the Committee of the Charity Organisation Society.

The Committee also received from the Guardians a list of those who were in receipt of monthly allowances. Adequate pensions for deserving cases were sometimes arranged by co-operation with other charitable agencies.

Mr. Rev. Father Kay, of St. Mary's, Horseferry Road, Westminster, said he was only a junior member of the Society, but had experience of work amongst the poor in Liverpool, Glasgow, and elsewhere. He was a member of one of the Parochial Councils to which Sir Charles Trevelyan had referred. He had seen the harm that had been done by the confusion of charitable effort, and was sure that the degraded condition of the poorer Catholics in Westminster was due to a continuous flow of ill-directed and indiscriminate charity. He suggested that Committees might take a more parochial form; that all relief-givers of all sects should assemble at small local committees. The Parochial Council to which he belonged was com-

posed entirely of residents; and he could bear witness to the great good it was doing.

Rev. J. L. Elliott, of St. Mary's, Newington, said that there was in some districts a great lack of persons who, after a case had been decided upon, and assisted by the Society, could follow it up, working on the spot as residents. Such persons could give advice as to joining clubs, &c., and cases having been transferred to them, they might report as to results.

Rev. Z. B. Woffendale, of the English Presbyterian Church, Somers Town, pressed that a resolution should be passed. So far from district visiting being unnecessary, he believed that the only really serviceable plan would be to divide London into small districts for the purpose, without drawing any distinction between rich and poor. Thus he believed a great amount of good might be done, while, if each visitor reported as to the resources of the locality, it would be possible to know where such help was wanted. This would be a practical result of this special meeting.

Mr. H. N. Hoare, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the St. Giles's Committee, thought the system of personal visitation was generally approved by the meeting. Members of the District Committee should, he believed, take up and visit the cases relieved by the Committee, and thus try and secure good results.

Mr. J. Jones, one of the Relieving Officers of the Stepney District, considered that one of the best means of raising the poor was to bring them in contact with a superior class. A Relief Committee composed of the visitors, the givers of relief, but yet independent of them, appeared to him the best plan. In his neighbourhood there was no systematic visitation. Clergymen, ministers, and visitors worked without co-operation. The dole system should be suppressed, and something practical should be done to organise these various workers round a common centre.

After a few remarks from Mr. C. A. Miner,

Rev. M. S. A. Walrond replied that it appeared that a system of personal visitation had been approved by the Council; if such a system were right and good, the question was, how to organise and complete it. This was the problem which the Society had before it.

The Chairman, in summing up, said that it had been clearly shown that a great deal of the District Visiting now done was unsatisfactory. There was a want of 'system'; more care and discretion was wanted; a careful selection of the houses to which the visitor should go; a choice of fit persons as visitors; more insight as to cases in which relief was really wanted; but, above all, the variety of opinions expressed at the Conference had shown the absolute necessity for greater and more hearty co-operation. To give scope to the free expression of opinion on the subject no formal resolution had been submitted; yet if members had become convinced of this one conclusion—the necessity for co-operation—the meeting would have produced most positive and beneficial results.

Mr. H. N. Hoare then moved, and Mr. Fitch seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:

That District Visitors and persons willing to work personally among the poor be invited to co-operate, as far as possible, with the District Committees of the Society.

Rev. H. F. Mallet having then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting adjourned at ten minutes past six.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, February 10, 1877:—

Donations:—			Annual:—		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Agg Gardner, Mrs. E.	1	0 0	Angerstein, Mrs.	1	1 0
Bell, Mrs.	0	10 0	Blakiston, M., Esq.	5	0 0
Brooman, James, Esq.	1	0 0	Bousfield, W., Esq.	1	1 0
B. W., per E. Corrie, Esq.	5	0 0	Cobb, F., Esq.	1	1 0
Cabbell, J. Bond, Esq.	2	2 0	Cotes, Chas., Esq.	2	0 0
Dalton, Miss	2	2 0	Eastwick, Capt. J.	1	1 0
D. E. W.	10	0 0	Ermen & Roby, Messrs.	1	1 0
Law, John B., Esq.	2	10 0	Fraed, W. M., Esq.	5	5 0
Le Mesurier, John, Esq.	1	0 0	Fraed, H. B., Esq., M.P.	2	2 0
Lucas, E., Esq.	1	1 0	Taylor, Thos., Esq.	3	0 0
Marshall, A. C., Esq.	1	1 0	Wall, Rev. W. A.	1	0 0
Mildmay, H. B., Esq.	20	0 0			
Phillips, R. N., Esq., M.P.	5	0 0	District Committee Aid Fund:—		
Smith, Mrs. T. J. P.	0	5 0	Robinson, Mrs. E.	1	1 0
Virtue, N. H., Esq.	5	5 0			

* Vide Reporter, No. 198, p. 175.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

ST. GEORGE'S (HANOVER SQUARE).—SELF HELP.—We are informed that the following resolution has been passed by this Committee:—'That it is the duty of this Committee to ascertain what further steps can be taken to promote self-help among their poorer neighbours, and to elevate those who are living just on the verge of pauperism. And that it be referred to a sub-committee to consider by what means the best suggestions and ideas can be obtained, whether by arranging a conference or by some other practical plan.' The sub-committee was appointed on January 31, and held its first meeting on February 5.

STRAND.—MEDICAL RELIEF.—Referring to their inquiries on behalf of the Ormond Street Children's Hospital, the Committee in their Annual Report quote the following case which recently came before them:—'A. B. applied to have his hospital letter stamped, and stated that his wages, as a tailor, amounted to about 25s. a week. On inquiry it was found that the applicant had earned sometimes as much as £8 a week, and that his average wages were between £2 and £3. The man, on finding that inquiries had been made, withdrew his application.'

MILE END.—The magistrates of the Thames Police Court have sent a contribution of £15 to the funds of the Mile End Old Town Committee, and have expressed their desire to co-operate with the Society by assisting deserving cases after investigation by the Society.

MEDICAL CHARITIES.

The following is a report of the Medical Society at Liverpool:—

'The Medical Society at Liverpool, having had under its consideration the question of gratuitous medical relief, as afforded by our local charities as well as in the practice of some members of the profession, considers it incumbent, especially on the present occasion, to direct both public and professional attention to the following points:—

'1st. That whilst recognising the need of measures for affording gratuitous medical aid, it believes those now in operation in Liverpool to be considerably greater than are necessary, and the number of persons admitted to their benefits to be much larger than is either legitimate or just, and much more numerous in proportion to the population than is the case in any other town in the United Kingdom, as indicated by the following statistics derived from the *Medical Register*, 1875:—

Liverpool—excluding Homœopathic Dispensaries, Hospital for Consumption (Mount Pleasant), and others	159,063
Manchester—allowing 10,000 for Salford and Pendleton Hospital	94,265
Birmingham	81,113
Edinburgh	59,782
Glasgow—allowing 5,000 for Dispensary for Diseases of Chest, and two others	48,032

'2nd. That the indiscriminate bestowal of gratuitous medical relief interferes to a large extent with the rights and maintenance of medical men, and so far from its being a real boon to the working classes, it encourages many of them to take advantage of institutions intended to be utilised only under special circumstances, thereby fostering in such persons acts of imposition and dishonesty, which lead too often to the sacrifice of self-respect and to improvidence and pauperism.

'3rd. That, in order to ameliorate these conditions, this Society would suggest the formation of a committee for the purpose of acquiring additional information on the subject, and to institute such further action on the matter as may be thought desirable.

(Signed) D. W. PARSONS, President

'Dr. Maunsell, Hon. Sec. of the Northern Medical Society, brought forward the subject at the Medical Institute, and it was referred to the Council to appoint a sub-committee to make full inquiries on the matter. The question, however, was not mooted at the last Council meeting, but perhaps they are reserving it "to a more convenient season."—*Medical Examiner*.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

The Chief Registrar's first Report of Proceedings under the Friendly Societies Act, of 1875 has lately appeared, and, together with the reports of the Actuarial Commission, and the report of last year, which contains the Act, is full of value to, and even necessary for all who are connected with or interested in Friendly Societies. In order, moreover, to facilitate the working of the Act, a 'Memorandum for the Guidance of Societies under the Friendly Societies Act, 1875,' a copy of which is annexed to the Report, has been prepared as a pamphlet, and is on sale, at 4d. per copy, at Clowes & Sons, Charing Cross, and at other publishers'. The following extract from it is worth quoting: 'The Registrars will do their best for putting the Act into useful operation. But it is not their duty, nor is it possible for them to advise nearly 25,000 Societies, still

less 4,000,000 of members of those societies, as to the proper conducting of their business . . . With so many societies to deal with, it is not to be wondered at that there have been some 'misconceptions and misconstructions'; still, in summing up, the Chief Registrar feels 'confident that, when once the friction of transition has ceased, the machinery of the new Acts will be found far better adapted than that supplied by any previous legislation to the sound development of these organisations, which exercise so large an influence on the well-being of our working and lower middle classes. How much that 'sound development' is needed is exemplified in the statement that 'nothing has been more common than for Friendly Societies to send in applications for registry with the heads relating to quinquennial returns, valuations, and the right of members to demand an investigation of affairs struck out.'

Though the Report is full of most interesting matter, from which it would be easy to quote largely, we wish to confine ourselves to a few notes upon the subjects of the New Model Rules, Public Auditors, Loan Societies, Savings Banks, and Insurance of Children:—

New Model Rules.—Amongst other duties thrown upon the Chief Registrar was that of 'preparing and causing to be circulated, for the use of societies, model forms of accounts, balance-sheets, and valuations, as well as causing to be constructed and published tables for the payment of sums of money on death, in sickness, old age, &c. These forms and tables, based principally upon the recommendations of the Actuarial Commissioners, are for the most part printed in the Report. As, however, the forms of accounts are not, we are unable to say what steps (if any) have been taken as regards a very important recommendation to the effect 'that it will tend to promote economy if the expenses of management be defrayed out of a distinct fund, raised either by a special levy, or by periodical drafts upon one or other of the benefit funds, so that the cost of management may be kept directly under the observation of the members, and any wasteful or illegal expenditure receive a prompt check.'

Public Auditors.—Under the Act the Treasury has vested in them the functions of appointing Public Auditors and Valuers. No Valuers have yet been appointed, but the country has been divided into districts, and Auditors appointed to most. 63 appointments in all will have to be made, viz. 50 for England and Wales, 3 for Scotland, and 3 for Ireland. The public Auditors are bound to accept for audit the accounts of any society within their districts at certain fees, and to make half-yearly returns to the Treasury. Their employment by societies is not compulsory. 'Very great good,' the Chief Registrar states, 'has been done by the provisions for a more stringent audit, by the requirement of uniform forms of returns, and by the appointment of public auditors. There is clear evidence from various quarters, and in various ways, that societies are paying much greater attention to their accounts, and in many cases calling in the help of public accountants, when not of public auditors. The public auditors themselves, through the steps which they have taken to make their appointments known to the societies, by advertisements or by printed circulars, are bringing home to the societies their obligations in the way of audits and returns, as they never have been brought home to them before.' In commenting upon the proposed appointment of Public Auditors, the Parliamentary agent of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, after recommending that the persons selected as auditors 'should be those who have had practical experience, and who possess present knowledge of the working of Friendly Societies,' adds, 'I am fearful that, unless the importance of this is made manifest, the official mind (I say this with all respect) may lead to the appointment of Poor Law auditors, or similar officials, and the men whom I conceive should be appointed left out entirely. There is also a very strong feeling manifested by the members against any connection between the working of Friendly Societies and the Poor Law; so much is this the case, that I am convinced if Poor Law officials were appointed auditors of Friendly Societies, the clause of the Act as to independent audit would become a dead letter.'

S. F.

(To be continued.)

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fifth week of January 1877 was 39,466, and 46,666 received outdoor relief, making a total of 86,132. This was an increase of 565 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 2,791, 13,392, and 21,537 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 680. This was a decrease of 78 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 192 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 206.

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 22, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of a District Committee, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Feb. 22 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
 Monday, " 26 ... 3 P.M., Council.
 Tuesday, " 27 ... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
 Wednesday, " 28 ... 2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
 Thursday, Mar. 1 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, February 26:—
 To adopt a report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on Soup Kitchens.

HOLBORN.—Mr. Alfred Hoare has been appointed one of the Hon. Secretaries of this Committee in the place of the late Mr. W. J. Barlow.

ISLINGTON.—Mrs. C. S. Loch has been appointed one of the Hon. Secretaries of this Committee.

BETHNAL GREEN.—Mr. J. F. Sapsford, junior, has been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Bethnal Green Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee met on Thursday, February 15. There were present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the Chair; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Major Yard, Captain Portescue, Rev. I. Cummins, Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, Brown, Lawrence, Miner, Sters, and Roberts.

FINANCE.—During the week ending February 10 the receipts had been £81. 8s. for the General Fund, and £9. 0s. 4d. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £994. 0s. 9d. and £50. 2s. 11d. respectively, £7. 6s. 7d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—A grant of £50 was made to the St. Olave's Committee. To the North St. Pancras Committee a grant of £25 was made, on the understanding that it be repaid on the completion of the more energetic canvass about to be undertaken by the Committee.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR.—In consideration of the manifest interest felt in the question debated at the special meeting of Council on the 12th instant, it was resolved, that the attention of District Committees be especially drawn to the following resolution passed at that meeting, viz. 'That District Visitors and those willing to work personally among the poor be invited to co-operate, as far as possible, with the District Committees of the Society'; that it be a recommendation to District Committees to consider the subject and report what immediate steps they can take to give practical effect to the resolution; and that the Districts Sub-Committee be requested to report on the whole subject with a view to its being further discussed by the Council.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Committee on the 13th inst. there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss O. Hill, Messrs. Barrington, Fletcher, Graham, Lewes, and Mr. Beauford, visitor.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 14th inst. had been present:—

Lieut-Gen. Cavenagh, in the Chair; Rev. H. I. Cummins, Major Prndergast, Messrs. Hollond, Hill, Miner, and Peters.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 13th inst. had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the Chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, Capt. Gardner, and Mr. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 14th inst. had been present:—

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in the Chair; Major Prndergast, Rev. H. F. Mallet, and Messrs. Hollond, Hill, and Wilkinson.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, February 17, 1877:—

Donations:—			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
Austen, J. Francis, Esq.	21	0	0	Farley, Miss S. A.	0	10	0	
Dyers' Company	5	5	0	Hamilton, Lord Claud.	3	3	0	
Gaviller, Augustine, Esq.	2	2	0	Jacob, Archdeacon Philip	1	1	0	
Leaf, Mrs. F. H.	5	0	0	J. B. S.	5	0	0	
Penny, Rev. John	0	10	0	Johnston, T., Esq.	1	1	0	
Romilly, Lord	5	0	0	Ludlam, H., Esq.	2	2	0	
Round, Miss M.	0	2	6	Maurice, C. E., Esq.	1	1	0	
Stone, Mrs.	1	1	0	Puzey, Fredk., Esq.	1	11	6	
				Scott-Douglas, Lieut. J. H.	1	0	0	
Annual:—				District Committee Aid Fund:—				
Armstrong, Mrs.	1	1	0	Dashwood, Miss	8	8	0	
Chalk, Sir James	1	1	0					
Colvin, J. C., Esq. (1876)	1	1	0					

ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ORMOND STREET CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

The following is a Report of the Proceedings of Council of the 18th December last. (See Reporter No. 199, p. 178):—

The Secretary read the following Report of the Medical Committee on the arrangement between the Ormond Street Children's Hospital and the Society:—

Your Committee have considered the details of the existing arrangement with the Ormond Street Children's Hospital, described at length in *Reporter* No. 178, p. 91. They have also considered correspondence respecting an arrangement at present in force at the North Eastern Hospital for Children, and letters from the North St. Pancras, South St. Pancras, and Holborn Committees—the Committees of the Society in some of those districts from which a large proportion of the patients at the Ormond Street Children's Hospital are drawn; and they have compiled and analysed the subjoined tabular statement of the returns of cases dealt with by the District Committees of the Society.

The North St. Pancras Committee writes:—

'More recently the hospital authorities have granted a discretionary power to the District Committees to recommend applications in the event of there being exceptional reasons, although the parents may be earning more than 30s. weekly. This the Committee consider a wise course, and they have accordingly acted upon it occasionally.

'In several instances it has happened that merely asking the usual questions of applicants has been sufficient to cause them to decline proceeding further with their applications, and in others parents would rather forego the advantage to be gained than permit inquiries to be made of their employers respecting earnings. . . . Applications are frequently made from persons in fairly good positions, who would be glad to pay for advice &c., believing that such at the Children's Hospital is of a very superior nature.'

One of the Hon. Secretaries of the South St. Pancras Committee writes, with reference to deductions to be drawn from the returns of cases:—'There will still remain two important elements of uncertainty. Many cases are too simple to require a second attendance at the hospital at all; and many patients, no doubt, instead of coming to the Committees, get fresh letters either in their own names or other names, or go to another hospital.'

The Hon. Secretary of the Holborn Committee writes:—'I may say that, in general terms, the opinion of our Committee is that the present arrangement is working effectually to prevent the abuse of relief in this district. The arrangement has worked here in two ways. First, the inquiries that have to be made of the applicant have been a self-acting test, because those who are well off have refused to give information. Secondly, the inquiries of employers* have usually been readily answered by them, and their answers have been relied on by this Committee. Lately the Committee has had to deal with several cases within the margin of discretion which the newer arrangement gave them, and they think that this arrangement is working more satisfactorily than the older one.'

The tabular statement above referred to† gives the following results:—

Letters stamped	Stamped, but not called for	Not stamped	Totals	
1,359	8	274	1,641	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1875.
657	29	140	826	Quarter ending Dec. 31, 1875.
1,772	75	260	2,107	Half-year ending June 30, 1876.
3,788	112	674	4,574	Totals for one year.

It is noteworthy that there was an apparent gradual increase in the number of admissions to the hospital as soon as the supervision of the Society had given the first check to the abuse of the charity; that similarly also there was in the third and fourth quarters of the year an increase in the letters stamped, while there was a slight decrease in the letters not stamped, and in the letters stamped and not called for. The conclusion, therefore, to be drawn from these figures is, that the test which this Society has been able to impose on the cases referred to them has been gradually separating the eligible from those ineligible for charitable medical relief; and that a gradually larger number of applicants, but applicants of more suitable character, are being admitted to the benefits of the Out-patient Department.

At the same time it will be seen from *Reporter* No. 151, p. 125, that out of 3,498 letters referred to the Committees of the Society in the quarter ending September 1875, only 1,641 were taken to the offices of the Committees. The following analysis of returns for the quarter ending September 30, 1875, and the half-year ending June 30, 1876, has been submitted to

* There is a natural wish on the part of applicants to prevent it coming to the knowledge of their employers that they are soliciting charity.

† Vide pp. 31 and 32 for a tabular statement of the cases dealt with by the Society, and a return of the attendance at the hospital.

the Committee:—51 per cent. of new cases apply at the offices of the District Committees; 12 per cent. of these are refused; 3½ per cent. do not call for stamped letters; 43 per cent. become permanent patients at the hospital.

Your Committee have fully considered these returns, and are of opinion that, while the present system has done much to reduce the abuse of the charity by those who apply to it for gratuitous relief, there is a numerous class which might pay a small amount, and would thus be enabled to take advantage of the medical advice to be obtained at the hospital, without impairing those habits of self-reliance which it is the object of this Society to inculcate, while their contributions would meet a portion at least of the large expenses which the Out-patient Department entails on the hospital. A larger range of patients will, by the scheme they propose, be available for the medical practice of the hospital, while all who receive aid will accept it not as a right, but as a charity administered with a wise discrimination; those who claim gratuitous relief will still have to submit to the necessary but slight investigation which is now required.

The following is the proposed scheme:—

1. That in all cases the applicant sign a statement in accordance with the terms of the accompanying form.*
2. That the applicant, as a rule, pay 1s. the first two visits and 3d. a visit afterwards.
3. That, while every case is liable to investigation by the Charity Organisation Society, investigation will be considered indispensable in those cases only in which application is made for gratuitous medical relief; and that all these cases be treated in accordance with the arrangements now in force.
4. That persons receiving more than 30s. and less than 50s. a week shall be charged 1s. a visit, but persons in receipt of more than 50s. a week are, as a rule, ineligible for the benefits of the hospital.
5. That no one in receipt of parish relief be eligible for the benefits of the hospital by payments or otherwise, except in special cases referred to the hospital by the Poor Law Medical Officers.
6. That when there is reason to believe that the statement made by the applicant is false, the clerk shall, with as little delay as possible, forward such statement to the proper District Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, with any further information he may think necessary, writing across the statement 'Please investigate specially.'
7. That a notice be set up in the hospital, stating the terms of admission &c.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, Chairman of the Medical Committee, moved

'That the Report be received, with an expression of the approval of the Council of moderate payments at Out-patient Departments of Hospitals by persons who can afford them.'

He said—

At present all applicants are presumed to need gratuitous relief and all are inquired into. But the fact is that the great majority belong to the large intermediate class between those who can pay the usual professional fees, and those who stand in need of gratuitous relief, and persons belonging to this class, although willing to make a small payment, do not like to be inquired into, or to incur the inconvenience and waste of time caused by such inquiries. The result is, that a considerable proportion of the applicants are repelled, and many of the lower-middle and working-classes do not take advantage of the hospital. The remedy proposed is, that all applicants should make a declaration as to their circumstances; that those who are willing to make a small payment should be admitted at once without further inquiry; and that those who claim gratuitous relief should have their cases investigated by the District Committees of the Society. In other words, it is proposed that an alternative should be presented to them—payment or inquiry. Applicants who ought to pay the usual professional fees will be checked by the declaration of means, which can always be tested by subsequent investigation.

Mr. A. H. Hill seconded the motion.

Mr. Bousfield asked whether the Poor Law Medical Officers were,

* ORMOND STREET CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, NO.

Statement to be signed by all Applicants for Medical Relief.

Name in full, Present address,
The weekly income of my husband is.....; of myself.....
from my children and other sources we receive..... weekly.
I have..... children, and am..... in receipt of parish relief.
I hereby declare that the foregoing statements are strictly true.
Signature
Address
Date

as compared with the Medical Officers of Special Hospitals, sufficiently experienced to undertake the care of all pauper cases.*

Rev. H. I. Oummins said that the introduction of a system of moderate payments would be to the advantage of the industrious poor, and would largely increase the permanent usefulness of the Hospital.

Miss Collett said that the Committee of the South St. Pancras District believed that many applicants obtained a second and third attendance by giving their names merely. No record of second attendances being kept at the Hospital, applicants to whom letters were given, with the instruction that they should take them to the Committees of the Society, might destroy the letters and repeat their visit to the Hospital without any possibility of detection.

Mr. A. H. Hill pointed out that by the proposed scheme a statement, containing name and address and other particulars, was required of every applicant. This would act as a check on the abuse Miss Collett mentioned. The recurrence of the name and address would in all probability be noticed; and the fact that the statement might be used as evidence that the applicant was obtaining money under false pretences would in some measure deter such attempts to defraud.

Dr. Lee, who attended the meeting as a visitor, said the arrangement with the Society had produced an immediate reduction in the numbers of the out-patients at the Hospital. A full year had passed since the arrangement was adopted, and he and others believed that the figures that had been read conveyed conclusive information as to the effect of the scheme on the medical position of the Hospital. Only half the applicants at the Out-patient Department came more than once; and a large class of working people who formerly attended were now deterred. At the same time many of the applicants had said they would be quite ready to pay a small sum for medical advice and assistance; and if this were arranged, the average expenses of the Out-patient Department, 1s. 6d. a head, would be met. He then compared the system adopted at the North Eastern Hospital for Children, and expressed a hope that the Council would approve a scheme which appeared to combine assistance to the deserving with a minimum of investigation and expense.

After a few words from Miss Octavia Hill, the debate closed with the adoption of the motion.

The Council then adjourned.

Addendum to the Report submitted to the Council on the 18th December, printed by the direction of the Administrative Committee.

I. Taking the returns from the Children's Hospital as a basis, the following conclusions may be drawn:—

1. In the quarter ending September 30, 1875, out of 4,068† persons attending the Out-patient Department of the Hospital, 3,498 were referred to the District Committees of the Society; of these 3,498 the letters of 122 were 'not stamped' or 'not called for.'

2. In the quarter ending December 31, 1875, out of 2,083† patients attending the Out-patient Department, 1,776 were referred to the District Committees; of these 1,776 the letters of 124 were 'not stamped' or 'not called for.'

3. In the half-year ending June 30, 1876, out of 4,646† patients attending the Out-patient Department, 4,124 were referred to the District Committees; and of these 4,124 the letters of 122 were 'not stamped' or 'not called for.'

4. The total number of cases sent to the District Committees in the year ending June 30, 1876, was therefore 3,498

1,176

4,124

— 8,798. Of these the letters of 368 were 'not stamped' or 'not called for.'

II. Referring to the returns of the Charity Organisation Society, it appears—

1. That in the two quarters and half-year above mentioned, 1,641, 826, and 2,107 cases were received by the District Committees of the Society; that of these 282, 160, 335 respectively were either 'not stamped' or 'not called for'; that the remainder, viz. 1,359, 657, 1,772, were stamped.

* The terms of the arrangement now in force are, 'The Committee of the Hospital have determined to exclude as a rule . . . children whose parents are in receipt of parish relief.' *Vide Reporter* No. 178, p. 91. According to the fifth of the proposed new rules, special cases may be referred to the Hospital by the Poor Law Medical Officers, but, in truth, urgent and difficult cases will always be admitted from whatever quarter they come.

† Exclusive of cases summarily rejected on account of the infectious nature of the disease &c., viz. 47, 24, and 34 in these periods respectively.

2. That in the year ending June 30, 1876, 4,574 cases were received by the District Committees; 786 were either 'not stamped' or 'not called for'; and 3,788 were stamped.

III. By comparing the two returns it appears that in the course of the year 8,798 cases were sent to the Society, while only 4,574 cases, or 51 per cent. were received by the Society. Of these 4,574, according to the returns of the Society, the letters of 786 were either 'not stamped' or 'not called for.' This involves a further deduction of 786, and leaves, as the total of those who become permanent out-patients, 3,788, or 43 per cent. out of the 8,798, the total number of cases sent by the Hospital to the Society; that is, only 3,788, or 34 per cent. of the 10,797 who (exclusive of infectious cases) attended the Hospital as out-patients, and received medical relief once, became permanent out-patients at the Hospital or attended a second time.

It would appear from this, that the action of the Society has produced two results: it has (as stated in the Report) gradually separated the ineligible from those whose poverty gave them a title to gratuitous medical assistance; but it has also deterred a large number of applicants for charitable relief who, presumably, if they had had the opportunity, would have been able and willing to pay a fair sum for such special medical advice as they could not perhaps conveniently obtain for a moderate sum anywhere but at the Hospital.

CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

CENTRAL OFFICE: 15 Buckingham Street.

Return of Cases investigated, on behalf of the Ormond Street Children's Hospital, during the Twelve Months ending June 30, 1876.

District Committees	Letters			Total
	Stamped and called for	Stamped and not called for	Not stamped	
Kensington	92	0	21	113
Fulham	54	2	4	60
Paddington	70	0	9	79
Chelsea	7	1	0	8
St. George's	43	0	14	57
Westminster	154	0	36	190
St. Marylebone	86	13	51	150
Hampstead	45	3	6	54
North St. Pancras	289	11	73	373
South St. Pancras	567	24	199	790
Islington	599	0	69	668
Hackney	22	0	0	22
St. Giles's	203	0	15	218
Strand	93	0	4	97
Holborn	802	50	90	942
City	77	0	0	77
Shoreditch	89	0	14	103
Bethnal Green	19	0	2	21
Whitechapel	21	0	1	22
St. George's East	5	1	3	9
Stepney	8	0	0	8
Mile End	22	0	8	30
Poplar	40	0	6	46
St. Saviour's	14	1	9	24
Newington	22	0	2	24
St. Olave's	58	4	4	66
Lambeth North }	62	1	13	76
" South }				
Wandsworth	28	1	2	31
Battersea	26	0	2	28
Clapham	15	0	2	17
Camberwell	19	0	6	25
" (Peckham)				
Greenwich	32	0	0	32
Deptford	39	0	7	46
Woolwich	54	0	0	54
Lewisham	6	0	0	6
Eltham	1	0	0	1
Sydenham	5	0	2	7
Total	3,788	112	674	4,574

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN:

Great Ormond Street.

Return of Out-patient Attendance for the Nine Months ending June 30, 1876.*

	Quarter ending Dec. 31, 1875	Half-year ending June 30, 1876
I. Number registered	1,776	4,124
Casual papers: Minor ailments	248	409
Do. Ineligible, wages being over 30s. per week	50	113
Total number relieved	2,083	4,646
Rejected at hospital on account of being over age, suffering from infectious diseases, &c.	24	34
	<u>2,107</u>	<u>4,680</u>
II. Letters returned by Charity Organisation Society:		
Unstamped: Wages over 30s.	57	48
" In receipt of parish relief	10	2
" Decline giving information	41	63
" Various, wrong addresses, &c.	10	2
	<u>118</u>	<u>115</u>
Stamped, but not called for	6	7
	<u>124</u>	<u>122</u>
III. Total number relieved (see Table I.)	2,083	4,646
Deduct (seen by Medical Officer once):		
Casual	248	409
Ineligible	59	113
Returned by Charity Organisation Society 124 }	431	644
Total	<u>1,652</u>	<u>4,002</u>

PROVINCIAL.

HEREFORDSHIRE MENDICITY SOCIETY.—At the first annual meeting, lately held, of this society it was stated that the receipts had amounted to £58. 17s., and the expenses (including £35. 9s. 10d. for bread) to £48. 5s. 3d.; and that out of 11,512 bread tickets distributed, 4,259 had been exchanged for bread. The report stated that 'the general depression in trade and the reduction of large establishments has thrown a great number of hands out of work; many of them, traversing the county in search of work, are grateful for the temporary assistance afforded by this society; and it is to be hoped that this will prevent their being encouraged and induced to lead a vagrant life. If tramping the country is found to pay, such persons will, to a certainty, become professional vagrants, but if money is not forthcoming, they will take to work the first opportunity; and if by adopting such measures as have been recommended the charitable can be induced not to give relief in money, professional vagrants will necessarily be forced to abandon their occupation.' In the discussion that ensued, it was clearly shown that, although the number of persons who had applied for relief had increased, professional vagrancy had been greatly checked. In the course of a very able speech, Mr. Meysey Clive said: 'Although the statistics from the different unions showed a large increase in the number of vagrants relieved this year, yet he believed the increase did not consist of professional vagrants. He had the testimony of the hon. secretary for that statement. He (the hon. sec.) had followed up a good many of those beggars who had obtained tickets, had seen them relieved in the bakers' shops, and had seen them consume the food they had obtained greedily and readily; and he also stated that he had been told by many of the shopkeepers that they had witnessed the same thing, and that they were quite certain the people who presented tickets for food had been only too glad to get it, as they appeared to be almost starving, and, in fact, that there could be little doubt in the majority of instances tickets had been well distributed, and very gladly accepted.' The testimony of the Master of the Hereford Workhouse was quoted to the same effect, as also was that of the Hon. Secretary of the Dorsetshire Mendicity Society.

* For particulars as to the number of Out-patients in the quarter ending September 30, 1875, vide *Reporter* No. 151, p. 125.

FOREIGN.

TORONTO: *Want of Employment*.—The Organising Secretary has received the following letter from Mr. J. E. Pell, Secretary, St. George's Society, Toronto:—'Mr. A. E. Paull, our late Secretary, has handed me your favour of the 28th ult., and I have laid the same before our Board, who have instructed me to inform you somewhat of the state of affairs here at the present time. We have had to obtain the use of an old jail, from the County, wherein we have 150 young men who cannot get any employment. There are in round numbers 600 married men (*Englishmen*) besides, probably, a like number of other nationalities, who are seeking relief through want of employment.

'Of course, this state of things only continues during the winter season, say from December to April; but the distress in Toronto and other towns of Canada for the past two or three winters has really been fearful. Formerly, for some years, I voluntarily assisted Miss Rye and Miss McPherson in their work; but a sad change has come over things here; still I look forward to the time when business will rally again, when I shall be only too happy to render any fellow countryman any assistance in my power. You will thus see that it would not be in our power to assist the young man.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of February 1877 was 39,396, and 46,829 received outdoor relief, making a total of 86,225. This was an increase of 93 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 2,315, 12,992, and 21,076 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 670. This was a decrease of 10 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 151 on the corresponding day of last year.

JOHN LOCKE AND CHARITY ORGANISATION.—'He was naturally compassionate, and exceedingly charitable to those in want; but his charity was always directed to encourage working, laborious, industrious people, not to relieve idle beggars, to whom he never gave anything, or would suffer his friends to do so before him, saying such people as those were "robbers of the poor," and asking those that went to relieve them "whether they knew none that were in want and deserved help"; if so, "how they could satisfy themselves to give anything they could spare to such as they knew not to be in need, but who probably deserved to be so." . . . People who had been industrious, but were, through age or infirmity, past labour, he was very bountiful to; and he used to blame that sparingness with which such were ordinarily relieved, "as if it sufficed only that they should be kept from starving or extreme misery; whereas they had," he said, "a right to living comfortably in the world." Such is a picture of John Locke, drawn nearly two hundred years ago, and quoted by Mr. Fox Bourne in his recently issued 'Life of John Locke.'

S. F.

Now ready, price 1s.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 207.

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 1, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Mar.	1	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday	5	...	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday	6	...	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
		...	3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday	7	...	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
		...	3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday	8	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, March 5:—

1. The Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, to move:
'That the Council reconsider the report on house-to-house visitation, adopted by them in 1870; with special reference to the principle involved in that report of house-to-house visitation, as an indispensable basis of an effective system of charity.'
2. To consider and adopt the eighth annual report of the Council.
3. To receive a report of the Districts Sub-Committee respecting candidates for the post of Local Secretary.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's, on Wednesday, March 14, at 3 P.M.

An In-patient's Letter for the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, is much wanted.

MIGRATION.—District Committees are reminded that the St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee is able to give information on the subject of migration. Employment is obtainable for widows with not less than 2 or 3 children (girls preferred) from 8 to 13 years of age.

SOUTH ST. PANCRA.—Miss Gibson has been elected one of the representatives of this Committee, in the place of Lady Wilson, resigned.

BATTERSEA.—The office hours of this Committee will in future be from 9 to 12 A.M., instead of from 9 to 11 A.M., and from 5 to 6 P.M. as heretofore.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—A. H. HILL, subsequently LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGH (in the Chair).

FULHAM:—Sir Douglas Forsyth, Rev. H. Wilson, C. Stevens.
PADDDINGTON:—Sir R. Macdonald Stephenson, J. R. Holland.
CHICHESTER:—R. A. Aspinall, Capt. Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr.
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Major Prendergast.
WESTMINSTER:—W. Bevan, W. Bousfield.
ST. MARTYLBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill.
HAMPTHEAD:—Rev. H. F. Mallet.
NORTH ST. PANCRA.:—G. B. Dickison.
SOUTH ST. PANCRA.:—Miss Collett.
ST. GILES:—H. M. Keary.
STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson.
HOLBORN:—A. Hoare, G. B. Baker.
CITY:—Rev. W. H. Lyall.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford, jun.
WHITECHAPEL:—C. L. Corkran.

ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Lord Dunsany, R. Barrington.
STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
MILE END:—Major Nares.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond, F. Montgomerie.
NEWINGTON:—F. D. P. Thornton.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
BATTERSEA:—F. Green.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
DEPTFORD:—H. F. Cornish, D. Carpmal.
LEWISHAM:—A. Annesley.
SYDENHAM:—C. A. Barry.
VICE-PRESIDENT:—F. D. Mocatta.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, G. Blount, W. Wightman Wood.
TOTAL:—43.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.
VISITORS:—Mr. H. F. Lester, Miss Gibson.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, February 22. There were present:—

Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, subsequently Mr. J. R. Holland and Major Prendergast, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Captain Fortescue, Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, Brown, Hoare, Miner, and Peters.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending February 17 the receipts had been £149. 13s. for the General Fund, and £8. 8s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £844. 8s. 1d. and £30. 10s. 11d. respectively, £7. 6s. 7d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—Grants of £30 had been made to the Holborn and Bethnal Green Committees respectively, the amounts granted to each of these Committees since October 1, 1876, being £80.

LEGACY.—A legacy of £100, less £10 duty, had been received from the executors of the late Miss Biggs.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 20th ult. there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss O. Hill, Miss Howes, Messrs. Fletcher, Graham, and Lewes.

SCHOOL BOARD CASES.—The following is a report of the Sub-Committee on this subject:—

'The Sub-Committee on District Work, in submitting the returns of School Board cases for the quarter ending December 31, 1876, would draw the attention of the Administrative Committee to three points on which the treatment of School Board cases by the District Committees appears to be particularly defective—

'1. But little attempt is made to obtain co-operation with other Societies.

'2. With but few exceptions, no attempt is made to ensure permanent improvement.

'3. No attempts are made, in dealing with School Board cases, to assist by loans from the funds of this Committee, rather than by grants from Mr. Peek's fund.

'Your Sub-Committee are inclined to believe that, Mr. F. Peek's fund being at hand, grants, which would not be made in ordinary cases, are given without sufficient consideration in School Board cases.

'They have obtained your permission to circulate the following slip:—

'District Committees are earnestly requested to bear in mind—

'That the money placed at the disposal of the Society for the assistance of School Board cases, should, by Mr. F. Peek's wish, be expended in accordance with the principles of the Society.

'That School Board cases should therefore be dealt with, not as exceptional, but as ordinary cases; and should be decided simply on their merits, irrespective of the fact that, if necessary, there is money available for their relief.

'A paper containing the resolutions of Council on the subject, explanatory notes, and illustrative cases, will shortly be published and forwarded to the District Committees and the Divisional and Sub-Divisional Committees of the School Board. They hope that by these means School Board cases will be decided in strict accordance with the Society's principles, and that the quarterly returns will in future bear witness to greater uniformity of action on the part of District Committees.'

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 20th ult. had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the Chair; and Mr. Beran.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 21st ult. had been present:—

Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, in the Chair; Mr. Miner.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 21st ult. had been present:—

Mr. A. H. Hill, in the Chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Rev. H. F. Mallet, and Messrs. J. R. Hollond and Wilkinson.

INSTITUTIONS FOR IDIOTS.

The Second Report of the Charity Organisation Committee of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, on Imbeciles, Idiots, and Harmless Lunatics, was submitted.

SOUP KITCHENS.

Sir Charles Trevelyan moved the adoption of the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on Soup Kitchens.* He said that Soup Kitchens were a class of charity of great value in those very exceptional circumstances in which large present relief must be given without much regard to present abuses. During the Irish famine in 1846 the system of relief-works had been adopted; this drew together from their homes upwards of 750,000 able-bodied men, representing about three millions of persons, and, necessitating exposure to the weather and other evils, added to their misery. In the middle of the winter soup-kitchens were established throughout the country; and these saved the lives of the people. Since 1846 the scheme of soup-kitchens had been more than once tried—in Manchester, during the cotton famine, with much more doubtful results, and recently for the sick, wounded, and starving at Belgrade.

Soup-kitchens were established in London in consequence of their acknowledged usefulness during the Irish famine. In Ireland, as soon as the calamity was past, they were abolished. In London, having, as may be seen from the reports of the Leicester Square or Ham Yard Soup Kitchen and the Model Soup Kitchen, acquired some capital, purchased houses, &c., they continued.

The Report of the Council on Soup Kitchens and Dinner Tables,† published in 1871, thoroughly exposed the evils of the soup-kitchen system; but these charities were still supported by persons whose sympathies were excited by the lamentable and sensational appeals they received. Other modes of charitable relief were capable of abuse, but it was hardly possible that this mode of relief should not be abused. 'Soup was a perishable article, which must be rapidly brought into use in some way or other; and as it was made daily or two or three times a week, in fixed quantities, what was not wanted for ticket-holders had to be given to others who might happen to be present.' The prospect of such a distribution must, as he knew from personal inspection, draw together idle vaga-

* Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. Adopted by the Council February 26, 1877. Price 3d.

† Report on Soup Kitchens and Dinner Tables, price 3d., with Digest of Report and List of Soup Kitchens, 1s.

bonds and the most worthless and criminal portion of the lower classes. He had seen the cauldrons of soup: the first 'helping' given to a selected number of not very desirable applicants—often female tramps; the second 'helping' distributed among ticket-holders, still less desirable applicants; and then the remainder divided among those who had gathered together on the chance of getting a meal.

'The Committee of the Leicester Square Soup Kitchen had lately offered to place five hundred soup tickets at the disposal of our District Committees for the relief of cases of urgent distress; but the gift was declined by the Council on the ground that there was nothing to prevent any of the Committees of the Society, in cases in which soup might be considered the best form of relief, from sending applicants to the Leicester Square Soup Kitchen with the means of purchasing at such rates as the Committee of the Soup Kitchen might determine; and that in cases of urgency it might be undesirable to send applicants as far as Leicester Square, our Charity Agents having full power to furnish the necessary sustenance on the spot.' A meeting of residents in the district had lately been held to protest against this soup kitchen. The daily congregation of worthless persons from other parts of London creates endless inconvenience and annoyance, and is a great discouragement to the neighbouring poor who are struggling to obtain for themselves a respectable position.

But, while disapproving this system of improvident and indiscriminate charity, the Sub-Committee believed that self-supporting public kitchens would be most useful. Workmen's public-houses, people's cafés, temperance public-houses, cocoa-houses, coffee palaces, were being tried, and the information gained by these experiments proved that such institutions were producing a better moral effect, and could be worked at a fair profit. To establishments of this class the money wasted, and worse than wasted (for they do positive mischief), upon soup kitchens, ought to be given.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta seconded the motion.

Lord Dunsany, in supporting the motion, said that he could not approve the soup-kitchen system; but the necessity for an improved dietary among the poorer classes, and the great usefulness of soup as an article of food for the people, could not be doubted. What good and cheap nourishment the French had in their pot-au-feu! Soup had two excellences. It was hot, and it usually contained onions—a most wholesome vegetable, and an antiscorbutic. It was proved that soup kitchens, and other similar institutions, might be made self-supporting. He would suggest that they be also made centres for the teaching of cookery, and thus supply an educational want.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta considered the supply of cheap food, advocated by the report, a question of great importance. He had visited the well-known institution at Glasgow, and had seen the food supplied—homely nutriment of all sorts, various kinds of meat, sandwiches, broth, and soup—at wonderfully low prices. The rooms were crowded by the working classes at certain times in the day. He had lately seen a similar establishment at Hamburg. Both were appreciated by the people, and produced a fair profit.

Mr. A. H. Hill expressed the indebtedness of the Council to Sir Charles Trevelyan for having drafted the report. He had visited a soup-kitchen in Commercial Road, with Mr. Corbett's agent, and was struck by his remark to the servant, 'Eh, but, lassie, what about the bones?' He feared that a want of economy in the management made it more difficult to make such institutions self-supporting in England than in Scotland.

Mr. Russell Barrington thought that the Council should be as careful to advocate the supply of good cheap food as to abolish these most injurious charities. He had seen a small experiment in Chelsea—a kitchen at which a meal was provided for a penny. Till ousted by a larger and more attractive 'association,' the kitchen was self-supporting and most useful.

Rev. R. J. Simpson said he was the parochial proprietor of a soup-kitchen. When he first took charge of his parish he distributed the soup gratis. Sometimes the recipients threw it away; often they sold a large portion of it. He therefore charged a penny for a quart of soup, with a piece of bread. He had since made special inquiries, with a view to ascertaining whether the charity was still abused; but had discovered no case of imposture. He believed that free kitchens on a large scale were most objectionable, but that kitchens at which soup might be obtained on payment were most useful in winter time.

After a few words from Mr. Bousfield, Mr. J. Sapsford said that, though unwilling to discredit the usefulness of the introduction of commercial principles in the management of soup kitchens, he could not help stating that several such kitchens which had been established in the East End had proved failures.

Mr. A. H. Hill suggested that this was due to want of economy, and pointed out that the Liverpool Cocoa Company had recently issued a report, and declared a dividend of 10 per cent.

Major Prendergast said he was anxious that charitable persons should not overlook the reason why these soup kitchens were peculiarly injurious. Sir Charles Trevelyan had quoted the words of the report—'Soup was a perishable article, and must be rapidly brought into use in some way or other. There was no alternative but to distribute it quickly and indiscriminately.' The Society wished to co-operate with existing charities; this was a kind of charity with which co-operation was impossible.

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in support of this, mentioned two recent cases in which the nourishment of a good dinner was wanted day by day for a short period. But in neither case had it been found possible to utilise the local soup-kitchens.

Miss Octavia Hill said that a soup-kitchen in a street near Drury Lane had recently been converted into a coffee shop—open every day of the week. It was made a means of teaching the elder girls to cook; and the upper room of the house was used as a club-room. Between six and seven hundred workmen and others had their meals there in the course of the week. It was only just opened, and was in an out-of-the-way place. She had noticed in a local paper that the tradesmen and residents objected to a soup-kitchen in Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road; they complained that it caused an influx of idle people, who blocked up the road, and whose presence prevented people coming to their shops.

Mr. C. L. Corkran said the discussion pointed to a real want on the part of the Society—it made too little provision for giving the public information on these matters. Papers, informing the public of the principles of the Society, giving details and explanations on this and other subjects important for the well-being of the poor, would, if distributed by the members of District Committees and Charity Agents, be a useful educational medium. The poor often could not cook the simplest things—they wanted education. And to this end a Publication Fund and a Publication Committee of the Society would be most useful.

After a few words from Rev. H. F. Mallet and Mr. W. Bevan, the adoption of the Report was carried unanimously, and the Council adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, February 24, 1877:—

Donations:—			Subscriptions:—		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Allen, Mrs. Elizabeth	0	10 0	Aberdeen, The Earl of	5	5 0
Allen, Rev. E. E.	2	2 0	Ackland, Rev. C. T.	1	1 0
C. W.	10	0 0	Clark & Co., A. T.	2	2 0
Hunt, Mrs. C.	3	0 0	Durham, The Earl of	5	0 0
McQueen, Mrs.	0	5 0	Fortescue, The Earl	1	1 0
Percy, Lady Charles B., per R. A. Aspinall, Esq.	5	0 0	Gatliff, C., Esq.	1	1 0
St. George's (Han. Sq.) Committee	100	0 0	Hale, W., Esq.	1	0 0
Zetland, The Earl of	10	0 0	Luck, E. T., Esq.	2	2 0
			Mayne, Capt., R.N.	1	1 0

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

VOLUNTEER VISITORS OF THE POOR.*

SIR,—Now that there has been a formal discussion upon this subject, I should be glad if you would allow me to explain a little further the suggestion made by me in the *Reporter* of January 25.

I believe that those who have expressed apparently opposite opinions in respect to 'House-to-house Visitation' agree more nearly than might be at first supposed, only that, as so often happens, the parties engaged in the controversy are not disputing about the same thing; those who take the affirmative side having in view ideal visitation conducted by perfectly competent persons, the opposition thinking only, and very naturally, of visitation as it can be, with the materials now at our disposal.

* See 'Reporter,' Nos. 205; 202, p. 15; 200, p. 5; 198, p. 175, &c.

If this view be correct, it is not improbable that an intermediate scheme—preparing the way for house-to-house visitation in the future, whilst recognising the impossibility of organising it immediately—might win a certain amount of support from all parties.

Let me, then, begin by making the admissions which will place me *en rapport* with the disputants on both sides.

1. House-to-house Visitation is an admirable thing, linking together class with class, and blessing all concerned in it.

2. House-to-house Visitation is an objectionable thing; a cause of mere weariness to the visitor, humiliating and demoralising to the visitee.

When I assert the first proposition I have in view visitation by competent persons. But I go on to assert the second because I know that house-to-house visitation, if suddenly organised, would mean visitation by inexperienced and incompetent persons, and such visitation I take to be wholly bad. Why is it bad? Why is it a weariness to the visitor; a humiliation to the visitee? House-to-house visitation means the calling in a friendly way, at a poor man's house, without any immediate object in view beyond the establishing of pleasant relations with him and his family. I must not trespass upon your space by dwelling upon the bright side of such a practice. It would be enough to say that I believe it has a very bright side, that it is good for those who live softly to see something of the lives of those who have to endure hardness, and, on the other hand, that it may be good for those who live rough and hurrying lives to come in contact with those to whom circumstances have permitted more culture and refinement. The point I have to press is, that to do this sort of visiting will require, in most cases, a good deal of experience. It would be foolish to expect to find in the general run of inexperienced persons the combination of qualities necessary to make such visiting a success. As a rule, it is a failure, and the failure is covered by the dole. The visitor, unable to play his part as a casual caller, falls back on almsgiving to cover his retreat. The result is the complete obliteration of the higher aspects of his visit, and the rapid demoralisation of those he goes to see.

The question, then, before us is how to train our volunteers. Experience can only be acquired by visiting. Under what conditions can the inexperienced make a safe beginning?

1. The first condition is that when they visit it should be for a specific object. Then the call will be a natural one, involving no awkwardness on either side.

2. The second condition is that the responsibility of giving or withholding relief, in the event of there being distress, should not be borne by the visitor himself. I need not enlarge upon this point, as it is well understood by all who are likely to read the *Reporter*.

These conditions would be realised if the District Committees of the Charity Organisation Society would associate with themselves ladies as visitors. These ladies might in some instances be found working already in the District, in connection with the clergy and other agencies. Whenever a case had been taken down at the office a 'visitor' would be told off to attend to it. Resident visitors might, if they preferred it, take charge of a particular spot, but to assign cases to visitors in rotation would secure a better distribution of work. A combination, however, of both methods would very likely be found desirable. There would be no vague, formal, objectless visiting. The visitor would acquaint herself at the office with all that was there known about the applicant; she would visit the latter with the definite purpose of talking about the application; she would, when possible, be the instrument for carrying out the decision of the Committee; she would keep up her acquaintance with the family; she would get gradually and naturally to know other persons in the house, the court, the street; she would cultivate friendly relations with all whom she found working amongst the poor, and thus she would form a connecting link of a pleasant sort between the Committee and other agencies, with which at present the Society has too little to do. At the same time she would be a member, or associate, *without vote*, of the Committee, and thus by occasional attendances learn its principles without becoming responsible for its action.

In this manner a body of trained visitors would gradually be formed, able in turn to train others, and thus preparing the way for the ultimate institution of that house-to-house visitation which, I believe, under present circumstances, to be inexpedient, and which is, on a large scale, most certainly impossible.—I am, &c.

Y.

THE PAUPERISM OF OUT-RELIEF.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a letter in the *Tower Hamlets Independent* of the 17th ult. by the Rev. J. O. Harris, on the subject of the refusal of out-relief to a sick man, who appears to have been entirely without means, and who was consequently ordered by the Guardians to go into the Infirmary. Into the proper mode of treating this particular case, of which I know nothing beyond what appears in Mr. Harris's letter, I do not propose to enter. My object is merely to notice a fundamental confusion of ideas, which appears to me to underlie the whole argument of

the writer, and which may be seen constantly cropping up—as in a letter to the *Echo* of the 5th ult.—in these discussions on outdoor relief. It is said that you ought to give outdoor relief, because you pauperise a man by offering him the workhouse or the infirmary, and it is implied that one form of relief pauperises, while the other does not. But surely this position involves a confusion of ideas as to what 'pauperising' or 'being pauperised' really means. What constitutes pauperism is a failure to provide for the ordinary contingencies of life—such a failure as involves the necessity of coming upon State-aid for support and maintenance; and we speak of persons being pauperised when their dependence upon such compulsorily levied alms of neighbours has become permanent. The state of the case is in no way altered by the form in which the aid is given; both outdoor and indoor relief come from one and the same source; they are only available for those who have failed to provide for themselves; and the man who is dependent upon the one is as much a pauper as he who is dependent upon the other.

But perhaps it will be said that this is merely a technical point; that, though true in fact, it is not felt to be true; and that the extent to which one form of relief pauperises depends upon the extent to which it is felt to be degrading. But this again will not bear examination. It is a strange thing to make the laxity of opinion with regard to receiving outdoor relief an excuse for giving it, and perpetuating a system which has done so much in the past to lower the status of the English labourer. The thing that really pauperises is what tends to make the poor think that others will provide for them, and that they need not provide for themselves. The less agreeable, therefore, the form of relief is, the less temptation there is to rely upon it, the stronger the motives to forethought and self-help. So far, therefore, from pauperising, the refusal to grant outdoor relief has a direct tendency to do the reverse. Such seems at least, according to Mr. Harris's own showing, to have been the case in Stepney. It appears that the great decrease in the number of those in receipt of outdoor relief in the last few years has been accompanied by a decrease also in the number of those in the Workhouse and District Schools; but so far from joining Mr. Harris in his regret that this should be the case, I think the inhabitants of that district should be congratulated on the fact that their Guardians have so well succeeded in arresting pauperism on the slope that leads to the workhouse, and that a smaller number of persons are compelled to come upon their neighbours for support.

Yours, &c.

J. R. H.

DORSET MENDICITY SOCIETY.

The number of vagrants relieved in the 13 unions of Dorset during the quarter ending December 31 last amounted to 1,708, being an increase of 764 as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1875, but a decrease of 46 per cent. as compared with the year previous to the formation of this Society.

This system of dealing with vagrancy is now in operation in Dorset, Hereford, Kent, and West Sussex.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of February 1877 was 39,202, and 46,540 received outdoor relief, making a total of 85,742. This was a decrease of 483 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 3,187, 12,722, and 21,569 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 712. This was an increase of 42 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 216 on the corresponding day of last year.

DIETARY AND DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—In this connection the question of a more economic method of living and diet becomes highly important, and I think it might without much difficulty be shown that very large numbers of our town labourers are now subsisting on lower wages, and under far lower dietetic conditions, than any class of agricultural labourers in the worst-paid rural districts. Various recipes and manuals have been put forward showing how some are "to live on sixpence a day", and others to live and "marry on a shilling a day"; but without attempting any Draconian code of diet or discipline, I am convinced that the resources of the labouring poor might be very largely economised. In the matter of lodgings far larger and better provision should be made for single men, who are at present perforce almost driven to the common lodging-houses, or induced, at a very early age, to form improvident marriages. It is to be hoped that some of the great companies which have been projected for carrying out the provisions of the "Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Act, 1875," will not overlook this direction of extensive and remunerative development. Such well-organised quarters for single men as I here suggest would also facilitate that locomotion and migration of labour which so many of the manufacturing and constructive industries of the country now necessitate, while even in country towns and villages suitable accommodation for single labourers is urgently required. With the growth of popular clubs,

arranged to meet the requirements of the working classes throughout the country, this accommodation of single men might be provided under the most probable conditions of success.—*Labour News*.

RETURNS OF SCHOOL BOARD CASES FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1876.

Five District Committees had no cases:—

Stepney | Clapham | Brixton | Eltham | Sydenham.

Three District Committees had cases, but expended no money on relief:—

Hampstead. | Marylebone. | Battersea.

Twenty-nine District Committees expended money on the relief of cases:—

No money expended	Money expended	Total number of cases		Amount expended.
				£ s d
16	7	23	Kensington	8 15 8
4	11	15	Fulham	35 9 7
0	13	13	Chelsea	6 15 0
6	5	11	St. George's (Hanover Square)	2 15 0
18	6	24	St. James's and Westminster	10 15 0
2	1	3	Paddington	1 0 1
0	3	3	North St. Pancras	1 19 1
13	15	28	South St. Pancras	45 8 1
5	21	26	Islington	27 12 6
6	5	11	Hackney	4 11 9
13	15	28	Strand	17 16 8
14	12	26	Holborn	4 8 0
2	9	11	City	13 14 7
12	23	35	Shoreditch	18 15 0
21	25	46	Bethnal Green	22 6 2
9	6	15	Whitechapel	10 12 10
5	7	12	St. George's (East)	13 15 0
1	1	2	St. Giles's	0 9 6
8	3	11	Mile End	3 10 0
6	11	17	Poplar	15 15 0
17	11	28	St. Saviour's	6 14 4
0	4	4	Newington	1 8 6
3	9	12	St. Olave's	9 15 9
5	6	11	Lambeth (North)	6 4 2
0	1	1	Wandsworth	0 18 2
0	13	13	Camberwell (Grove Lane)	9 5 1
0	2	2	Do. (Peckham)	1 2 0
9	10	19	Deptford	4 15 8
15	26	41	Woolwich	36 6 11
2	9	11	Greenwich	4 0 6
1	2	3	Lewisham	0 15 7
213*	292	505	Total	£347 9 10

February 19, 1877.

C. S. LOCH, Secretary.

* Of these:—

47	were dismissed, or unfavourably reported on as	'Not requiring relief.'
48	do. do.	'Undeserving.'
104	do. do.	'Ineligible.'
8	were recommended to the Guardians.	
2	do. do.	Institutions or Local Agencies.
2	were assisted by Letters for Hospital.	
2	do. do.	Employment.

Total 213, being the number of cases upon which no money was expended.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 208.

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 8, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Mar. 8	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
	11.30 A.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee (Budget Estimate).
Monday	12 ... 3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday	13 ... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
	3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday	14 ... Annual Meeting (see below).
Thursday	15 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, March 12:—

1. To receive the Annual Report of the Sub-Committee on District Work.
2. To adopt the following recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—
 - (1) That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the Stepney Committee, at their discretion, to the amount of £121—the remainder of the estimated deficit of that Committee for the current year.
 - (2) That, at Special Meetings of Council, persons who are not members of Council be allowed to second motions.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's, on Wednesday, March 14, at 3 P.M. Lord Elcho will take the chair. The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G., the Earl of Lichfield, Mr. J. F. Shaw Lefevre, M.P., Mr. Albert Pell, M.P., and others will take part in the proceedings.

District Committees are informed that a man named Cop-pinger is obtaining money from clergymen in London, by falsely representing that he is a son of the Rev. R. Chester, Rector of Middleton, County Cork, Ireland, and that he has returned from Australia penniless, and deeply repentant for past transgressions.

District Committees are also warned against a man named 'Richard Nott,' a draughtsman, of St. Neot's, who gives as reference the Rev. — Steele, a clergyman of St. Neot's, who knows nothing of him.

ST. SAVIOUR'S.—Mr. Russell H. Barrington has been elected an Hon. Secretary of this Committee.

NEWINGTON.—Mr. C. Stuart Barker has resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of this Committee.

STRAND.—Mr. W. W. Wood has been elected Hon. Secretary of the Strand Committee, *vice* Mr. E. W. Garrett, resigned.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGH (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—Dr. F. Anderson.	STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
FULHAM:—Rev. H. Wilson, C. J. Stevens.	MILE END:—Hon. H. R. Scott, Major Nares.
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Yard, J. R. Holland.	ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. Montgomerie, Rev. W. A. Richmond, W. F. Smith, R. Barrington.
CHULSEA:—Captain Boyce, R.N., Dr. B. Daniel, W. S. Seton-Karr.	NEWINGTON:—F. D. P. Thornton.
ST. GEORGE'S (Hanover Square):—Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Hon. J. H. Lawrence.	ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.
WESTMINSTER:—W. Bevan.	LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill, Major-General Blunt.	CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
HAMPSTEAD:—Rev. H. F. Mallet.	WOOLWICH:—S. Topley, Rev. J. Bond.
NORTH ST. PANCRA'S:—G. B. Dickinson.	LEWISHAM:—Geo. Parker, R. A. Annesley.
ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare.	ELTHAM:—Capt. Gardner, R.N.
STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson.	SYDENHAM:—H. Reid.
HOLBORN:—Rev. W. Thornhill Webber, Captain Fortescue, T. W. Gorst, G. B. Baker.	VICK-PRESIDENT:—F. D. Mocatta.
CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brookes, Rev. H. I. Cummins.	METROPOLITAN VISITING AND RELIEF ASSOCIATION:—Rev. M. S. A. Walrond.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford.	ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, C. A. Miner.
WHITECHAPEL:—C. Lavers Smith.	TOTAL:—£1.
ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Lord Dunsany.	SECRETARIES:—Mr. Loch, Secretary; Mr. Ribton Turner, Organising Secretary.
	VISITORS:—Miss Whiteman, J. Bramley, and the Recorder of Dublin.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, March 1. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the Chair; Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, Miss Octavia Hill, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Major Yard, Major Nares, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Rev. S. A. Barnett, Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, Brown, Bond, Hoare, Hill, Miner, and Peters.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending February 24 the receipts had been £173. 2s. 11d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £903. 8s. 11d. and £79. 10s. 11d. respectively, £7. 6s. 7d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—Grants of £30, £30, and £25 had been made to the Fulham, Shoreditch, and Mile End Committees respectively, the amounts granted to each of these Committees since October 1, 1876, being £60, £30, and £100.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 27th ult. there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss O. Hill, Miss Howes, Messrs. Barrington and Lewes, Miss Huntington (Visitor).

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 27th ult. had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the Chair; Hon. R. Capel, Major FitzRoy, Captain Gardner, Miss Howes, Messrs. Barrington and Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 28th ult. had been present:—

Mr. Wilkinson, in the Chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, and Messrs. J. R. Hollond and Hill, Mr. A. G. Crowder (Visitor).

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 1st instant had been present:—

Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, in the Chair; Rev. H. I. Cummins, Major Yard, Messrs. Hollond, Miner, Peters, and Corrie.

SOUP KITCHENS.

With reference to the following letter from Mr. G. Hintzen, of Rotterdam:—

In the last number of the *Charity Organisation Reporter* I read the discussion on Soup Kitchens, an institution well known here, though usually badly managed. For several years an analogous establishment, with a view of providing cheap meals, and also issuing tickets, which were given to the poor, was managed by a philanthropist who lately turned out to be an impostor. For this reason the dinner-house had to wind up, but the usefulness of such an establishment being generally acknowledged, if based on sound economical principles, some gentlemen resolved to have it continued under their supervision. The success depends, of course, upon the management of the concern. Being aware of the existence of many institutions of the same kind in London, but not knowing their relative value, I venture this inquiry as a member of the Committee—

Sir Charles Trevelyan inquired what establishments had been formed in London of the kind recommended in the last paragraph of the recent report upon soup-kitchens, that is, houses 'of a better sort, at which not only soup, but also coffee, cocoa, and well-cooked food of various kinds are supplied at moderate prices, and some of the advantages of club life are also afforded in well-lighted and warmed rooms, provided with newspapers and other means of instruction and amusement.' Information on this point was given by several members of Council, and further details were promised, showing that the movement in favour of establishing places of refreshment of this description in London had already made some progress, and was full of promise for the future.

LOCAL SECRETARIES.

A report was read respecting endeavours recently made to obtain (for the District Committees of the Society) the services of gentlemen as "Local Secretaries." It appeared that several gentlemen suitable for the work had come forward.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

It was resolved that the Annual Report, having been carefully revised by the Administrative Committee, should be taken as read, and distributed to Members of Council; and notice was given that it would be considered again by that Committee at their meeting on the 8th instant.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR.

The Rev. M. S. A. Walrond then moved—

That the Council reconsider the Report on house-to-house visitation adopted by them in 1870, with special reference to the principle involved in that report, of house-to-house visitation as an indispensable basis of an effective system of charity.

He summed up the leading points of the paper which he had read on the 12th ultimo at the special meeting of Council, viz., that relief, to be rightly given, must be coupled with personal visitation; that in East London there were but few visitors; that the Charity Organisation Society should supplement the staff of visitors at present at work, or, when necessary, organise such a staff; and that, in the first instance, a small district should be chosen for the experiment of a thoroughly adequate and complete system of District Visiting. These propositions were in harmony with the Report adopted by the Council in 1870, the opening words of which were—'the systematic visitation of the poor at their own homes is an indispensable basis of an effective system of charity.' But Members of Council had entirely dissented from the proposals contained in his paper. He wished, therefore, to ask the Council to reconsider their Report. With a view to assisting those who desired to organise charities and to bring them into co-operation, some line of action, some explicit policy on this important subject should be adopted by the Council.

District Visiting Agencies *would* exist—they were strongly supported. It was for the Society to set before them definite principles, the gradual recognition of which would necessarily result in more thorough co-operation and more effectual charity.

Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber seconded the motion.

Sir Charles Trevelyan acknowledged that the expression of opinion at the special meeting of Council had thrown great light on the subject, and had led him to modify his views. Previously he had accepted house-to-house visitation as a tradition, handed down from Dr. Chalmers, and, subject to certain modifications, he still considered it the basis of an effectual system of charity. The Sub-Committee that drafted the Report had before it the management of some West End parishes, in which almost all the residents were members of the Church of England, where the number of the rich and the poor were nearly equal, and where a quasi-feudal relation between the rich and poor still existed. In these the system proposed in the Report would work well. But it would not work in districts of a different character—such as those in the east of London—in which almost all the residents were persons of the industrial class. In these the District Committees of the Society might be centres, or 'pivots'; there might be associated with them, as visitors, members of all classes, who would visit all the cases dealt with by the Committee, and might in time obtain a special knowledge of a particular locality and visit the cases in it. But no system like that at Elberfeld was practicable. At the special meeting all were agreed on two points: that the Society was founded on a right principle, and that in the extension of personal work among the poor the District Committee should be the 'pivot.'

The Chairman thought that in the scheme suggested in Mr. Walrond's paper there were two blots. The visitors were to be allowed to relieve; and persons of leisure (but not necessarily persons of experience), resident in the West of London, were to be asked to become visitors in the East. All who had been present at the special meeting acknowledged that the contact of the rich with their poorer neighbours would be beneficial.

Miss Octavia Hill said no one had objected to wise house-to-house visitation. Among those that had dissented from the opinions expressed by Mr. Walrond were persons who had themselves communicated with her, with a view to obtaining, with her assistance, visitors in their districts. They were, however, afraid of an influx of unwelcome visitors. District Visiting Societies existed, and were at work; and this Society had to deal with them in the same spirit as it would with other existing charitable agencies. There was, doubtless, a very great difference in the circumstances of East and West London; yet it would be deplorable if this Society undertook to meet the deficiencies of personal work among the poor in places in which there were already a certain number of visitors. Such a course would inevitably lead to the District Committees relaxing their efforts to bring in visitors. It had been so with relief. District Committees which could give relief, did not exert themselves to get relief. Where District Visitors were too few, the District Committees should reinforce them by obtaining for the local visiting agency new recruits. The system should grow out of the needs of the poor. It was well in the first instance that the visitor should visit special cases of distress; information about other cases would thus gradually reach her, and in time she would know everybody in the court. She had found it best to give a visitor a large district, and then to divide and subdivide, as the circumstances of the people became better and better known. Thus, as a visitor gained more experience, she would have a smaller division. If out of the local Visiting Societies a good hon. secretary could be found, a large amount of definite work would immediately be forthcoming in connection with the Guardians, the School Board, and the Charity Organisation Society. The initiative should *not* come from the Charity Organisation Society. The Charitable Societies should come forward. The clergy should assemble their visitors, and out of them select an hon. secretary. The whole body of visitors could not serve in connection with the Local Committee of the Society; but one out of their number might easily do so, and under her the visitors would be educated rapidly.

Mr. H. N. Hoare moved the following amendment—

That although the principle of House-to-house Visitation appears to this Council to be practically inexpedient, it is nevertheless desirable that District Committees of this Society should appoint certain members who would undertake the duty of visiting personally any case coming before the Committee, in case such visitation seemed likely to be beneficial.

He advocated visiting in connection with the work of the District Committees on the same principle as that upon which it was usual for a Committee to try and obtain adequate and suitable assistance for cases which the ordinary charities were unable to deal with. Personal visitation, when no district agency was at hand to take up a case, gave the District Committee the means of obtaining prompt information respecting it, such as could not be expected from the official statements of an agent.

Rev. H. I. Cummins seconded the amendment. Mr. Walrond appeared to him to advocate a division into 'visitable' and 'non-visitable,' but gave no reason for such a distinction. Why should the poor and 'visitable' be separated from the rich and independent? Would it not be more logical—perhaps equally beneficial—if the industrial classes in the East of London visited in Belgravia, the social arrangements of which they might be disposed to question, while persons from the West visited the poor in the East? One other flaw in Mr. Walrond's scheme appeared to be, that he left the visitors to do pretty much as they liked; they had only to report fully to the District Committee of the Society. A visitor who relieved must be received as a Charity Relieving Officer, and must be subject to the same attempts to defraud and cheat as those to which the administrators of State charity were liable. They purchased their right to visit by the gifts they were expected to make. The Report of the Council appeared to him to be based on deductive principles, and to suggest an impracticable reproduction of the Elberfeld system in the administration of charity in England. The fact was that, by assisting an applicant, the Committee established a claim which might prove the beginning of a further connection, and which, if supported by experienced visitation, might ultimately be the means of elevating his condition.

Sir Charles Trevelyan gave notice of the following amendment:—

That, although this Council entirely adheres to the principle of visitation of the poor, they are of opinion that the proper mode of applying it to the different districts of the metropolis requires special consideration, and that a Special Committee be appointed to report upon the subject.

Mr. J. R. Holland pointed out that Mr. Hoare's amendment required the Council to reconsider the Report of 1870, and come to a very important conclusion respecting it in the course of a single debate. He believed it to be most desirable that the Council should reconsider the Report. It had a manifestly doctrinaire tone; and a fresh scheme, based on its reconsideration, would accord better with the real circumstances of charitable work in London. The co-operation with visiting societies, which Miss Octavia Hill urged, was going on. No time would be wasted by a careful revision of the report; and the Council should be slow in coming to a decision on so important a matter.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta thought the Council might do well to omit a discussion on a document now seven years old, especially as the Education Act and the Society itself had produced changes that had largely altered the circumstances of charitable work amongst the poor. It was undoubtedly the work of the Society to organise charity—to strengthen beneficent agencies that were weak, and to add to the strength of the strong. This was what Miss Hill asked them to do. But the existence of numerous religious denominations, each of them with their visitors and workers, greatly enhanced the difficulty.

After a few words from Mr. W. Seton-Karr, Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, and Major Prendergast, Miss Hill said the Society had two courses before it. It might either with much earnestness and with great difficulty obtain the co-operation of already existing charities; or it might establish a new and different system of district visiting. What Mr. H. N. Hoare had said showed how some of the Committees, reinforced from a distance, would be compelled to do work which, if the representatives of local charities joined them, they would leave in the hands of residents.

The following modification of the motion having been proposed by Mr. Walrond, and accepted, viz.:—

That a Committee be appointed to reconsider the Report on House-to-house Visitation, adopted by the Council in July 1870, the amendments were withdrawn.

Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, Miss Octavia Hill, Mr. A. H. Hill, Mr. A. D. Graham, Rev. H. I. Cummins, and Mr. H. N. Hoare were appointed members of the Committee.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, March 3, 1877:—

Donations:—			£ s. d.		
Bosanquet, Rev. R. W.	5	5	0		
Bridgwater, Miss M. A.	0	1	0		
Duke, Roger, Esq.	0	5	0		
Philips, Capt. (from the London Knot of the Friendly Brothers of St. Patrick).	10	10	0		
Rice, W., Esq.	0	10	0		
Subscriptions:—					
Angerstein, Mrs. M. A.	1	1	0		
Birley, W. H., Esq. (1876)	1	1	0		
Do., 1877	1	1	0		
Clarke, Miss Jane Selina	1	1	0		
Everett, S., Esq.	1	0	0		
Hall, Miss	1	1	0		
Hardy, George, Esq.	1	1	0		
Horsley, Mrs.	1	0	0		
Horsley, Miss M. C.	1	0	0		
Lucas, Mrs.	1	0	0		
Muir, H. B., Esq.	1	1	0		
Tatton, R. G., Esq.	10	0	0		
Scott, Mrs. Arthur	2	2	0		
District Committee Aid Fund:—					
Jodrell, T. J. P., Esq. (a)	10	0	0		

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

A COFFEE PALACE.

SIR,—With reference to the recommendation at the close of the recent Soup-kitchen Report, that the pecuniary support hitherto given to Soup-kitchens should for the future be employed in establishing houses for providing cooked food on an improved self-supporting footing, including some of the advantages of club life, such as are afforded by well-lighted and warmed rooms, provided with newspapers and other means of instruction and amusement, I beg to call attention to the following description, which has been kindly furnished by Sir Douglas Forsyth, of the refreshment and lodging-house which has been built according to a carefully considered plan opposite to the Knightsbridge Barracks, and opened under the name of a 'Coffee Palace.' Persons wishing to undertake the same good work in other parts of town may profit by the experience thus acquired, and some may be induced to pay a visit to Knightsbridge and judge for themselves. There ought to be a 'place of entertainment' of this description in every neighbourhood frequented by working people, and arrangements should be made for keeping it open on Sunday, without unduly interfering with anybody's Sunday rest. Of all the days in the week Sunday is the one on which opportunities of innocent refreshment are most required, because our people are most on the move on that day, and they ought not to be driven to the gin palace in the absence of the coffee palace. The margin of profit seems ample for this or any other useful purpose.—I am, &c.,

March 3, 1877.

C. E. TREVELYAN.

To-day I visited the Coffee Palace in Knightsbridge, opposite the Barracks, with Lady Hay, who was so kind as to show me the working of the establishment in all its details.

This Coffee Palace was started about two months ago by a few ladies and gentlemen who subscribed £2,000, and purchased the premises lately occupied by a disreputable public-house, which has now been thoroughly renovated, and converted into its present form of eating-house and club, with lodgings for single men.

It is conducted on purely commercial principles. The eating-house department is managed by a respectable man and his wife, who receive a salary of 17s. a week, with board and lodging. Eight servants are kept to wait on the lodgers and people who frequent the eating-house.

The refreshments supplied are all of the very best kind, and well cooked, and at the lowest prices consistent with a fair profit. A scale of prices is attached to this. Comfortable little tables and separate accommodation in the outer saloon are provided. There are inner rooms where greater privacy can be had; or, if it be desired, the refreshments can be bought and taken away. Dinners of hot beef and potatoes, costing sixpence, are constantly taken out. An excellent cup of coffee can be got for one penny.

Upstairs there is a large reading-room, where the chief daily newspapers are to be found. This reading-room is free, and coffee or tea may be served here.

This establishment is opened at 5 A.M. and closed at 11.30 P.M. It is not opened on Sundays, partly for religious reasons, and also because the managers require rest, and no arrangement for supplying their place on Sundays has as yet been made.

The lodgings for single men are exceedingly comfortable. By a very ingenious distribution of space three comfortable bed-compartments have been made out of an ordinary-sized room; a good spring bed, washstand, dressing-table, and looking-glass is in each compartment, and there is a good bath in a room on the stairs. The cost of the rooms is from 4s. to 4s. 6d.

a week. Separate rooms are charged 5s. a week. A matron and one maid occupy—or are to occupy—a room at the top of the house, to look after the comfort of the lodgers. These lodgers can have their meals cooked on Sundays.

The financial results, so far, are most encouraging. Out of the £2,000 subscribed, only £1,700 have been expended, and in less than two months a profit—clear profit at the rate of £160 per annum has been made—or more than 9 per cent.

There is a religious element in this undertaking, which must not be lost sight of. Texts of Scripture are placarded on all the walls, and a special missionary is employed to give lectures or services on Sundays in the reading-rooms, and to be ready at all times to give religious aid.

February 27, 1877.

T. D. FORSYTH.

ROSE AND CROWN COFFEE PALACE, KNIGHTSBRIDGE.—List of Prices: Cup of Tea, 1d. (Pint do., 2d.); Cup of Coffee, 1d. (Pint do., 1½d.); Cup of Cocoa, 1d. (Pint do., 2d.); Slice of Bread and Butter, ½d.; Slice of Bread and Jam or Marmalade, ½d.; Slice of Seed or Currant Cake, 1d.; Roll and Butter, 2d.; Loaf and Cheese, 1½d.; Lemonade, 2d. and 3d.; Soda Water, 2d. and 3d.; Plate of Beef, 6d.; Plate of Mutton, 6d.; Plate of Pork, 5d. and 6d.; Beef Steak and Kidney Pudding, 5d.; Pint of Pea Soup, 2d.; Scotch Broth, 2d.; Eggs, 1½d.; Rasher of Bacon, 2d.; Hot Sausages and Mashed Potatoes, 3d.; Fruit Syrups, per Glass, 2d. and 4d. Most of these articles can be bought and taken away at the same price. Dinner Hour, from 12 till 3. Lodgings for Single Men (Good Spring Beds), from 4s. to 5s. a week. Reading Room Free.

CASE OF LOUISA BARROW.—MISS STRIDE'S HOMES.*

The Edmonton Board of Guardians were engaged for a long time inquiring into the case of Louisa Barrow. The matter has been repeatedly before the Board, and has been fully reported in our columns. The circumstances are simply these: Some time ago, a young woman named Barrow was received into Miss Stride's Home at Tottenham, and brought her infant child with her. Both were maintained in the Home for a considerable period, but the mother eventually deserted her offspring; and after keeping it a time, Miss Stride applied to the Guardians—through one of her matrons, who waited on the Board on the 29th December last—to receive the child into the Union. This the Board agreed to do, but at their next meeting, a report from Mr. Tye, the Schoolmaster and Superintendent of the House at Enfield, stated that 'the child Louisa Barrow, aged five years, recently removed from Miss Stride's Home, Tottenham, to the Workhouse, was afflicted with lice, suffering from ringworm, and also had the whooping-cough.' General astonishment was expressed at this, and the authorities at the Home were communicated with. Replies were received, which substantially denied that the child had been neglected by Miss Stride and her officials, or that she (Barrow) was in the state described while an inmate of the Home. Since then the subject has on several occasions received the attention of the Guardians. It would seem that through publicity the matter has become widely circulated; and Miss Stride, considering that the welfare of her institution was endangered in consequence, if a refutation were not forthcoming, has not allowed the question to remain in abeyance.

To-day, Mr. H. N. Capel (chairman of the Council of the Home) and Miss Stride attended. Mr. Tye was also present. Mr. Capel having reminded the Guardians of the object of the interview, said that the matron was present to assist in the investigation, and that she would be able to state what condition the child was in when it left the Home.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, the clerk read the correspondence which had ensued between the Board and Miss Stride and her officials. After this had been done, Mr. Capel said they admitted the whooping-cough, but denied that the child had received the ringworm or the vermin in the Home. He considered it very improbable that she should, because she was in the habit of playing with the matron's child, who was quite free from anything of that sort.—Rev. Hugh McSorley: Are you able to nullify the medical evidence?—Mr. Capel replied that he was in a position to adduce medical evidence himself. As he had said, the whooping-cough was admitted, but with respect to the ringworm he thought that complaint could have been received by the child even while being conveyed to the Union, or elsewhere.—Mr. Bennett: Oh! that won't do for me.

A member inquired the explanation of the condition of the child's head.—Mr. Capel replied that that also might have occurred while Barrow was being removed—it might have been brought about by the journey in the train ('Oh! oh!' and laughter).—Mr. Ingersoll: Save me from the train, then.—Mr. Tye, in reply to a question, said he had had several cases of ringworm brought under his notice, and his experience led him to believe that it could not be received as stated.—Miss Stride said the matron was ready to state on oath that Barrow left the Home in a proper and cleanly state.—The Chairman remarked that they could not administer the oath there.

Miss Stride said the matter was of great importance to her, and she would like to prove how the Home was conducted.—Mr. Tye said the child was admitted under his own eyes to the House at Enfield, and the next morning, when the medical officer was paying his usual daily visit, he

noticed the condition Barrow was in. A nurse discovered the whooping-cough the same day.

Miss Stride said the subject had become circulated; it had been reported in the newspapers, and she was anxious to show how the matter really stood.—Rev. H. McSorley said they could not prevent the Press from giving publicity to the proceedings; the reporters were there independent of them (the Guardians), and he was very pleased to think it was so.

Mr. Capel said he read in the *Enfield Observer* accounts of the case, and he noticed it stated that the Board expressed its astonishment that 'such should have been the case.' Was that so?—Several Guardians: Yes, and quite right too.—Mr. Capel: There is also this: 'The Chairman, after hearing the report read, said it was a matter which should be particularly noticed, as it gave the public an idea how children were kept in these "Homes."—The Chairman: I was not in the chair on that occasion.—A member observed that it was Mr. Richmond.—Mr. Capel: I wish to know if you agree with that expression; whether the Board endorse it?—The Chairman said he did not think the Guardians should be asked that; it was not necessarily their utterance.

Miss Stride said it had gone forth that the children under her charge were neglected. She had brought with her that day two children, inmates of one of her Homes, and she would like the Board to look at them, and judge of the treatment received.—The Chairman: I do not think that has anything to do with what is before me.—Rev. H. McSorley was of a similar opinion.—Mr. Capel said he also wished the Board to see the children.—The Chairman repeated that it had nothing to do with the present matter.—Mr. Ingersoll thought there could be no harm in having them brought into the Board-room.—Miss Stride: If you say such is the manner in which we treat children, it is but right you should see those we have brought.—The Chairman failed to see how that could alter the case of Barrow.—Miss Stride said it would go to show that she had received proper care.—Several Guardians took the same view as the Chairman.

In the course of some other observations Miss Stride said, that 'beautiful Society for the Organisation of Charity' had interested itself in the case. With regard to the report on the condition of the child, she held it to be false.—The Chairman said it was by no means the wish of the Board to injure any charitable institution, but they could not prevent it from being reported.—Mr. Capel said he complained that the accounts of the child forwarded to the Board by their officers were garbled ones, the dates were not precisely given, and it was a notable circumstance that the child had slept one night in the Union after she had been removed from the Home.—Miss Stride having again suggested that the Matron should be called in and questioned, Rev. H. McSorley objected, on the ground that Dr. Collyer (the medical officer) was not present.

The Chairman inquired if Mr. Capel or Miss Stride had any objection to have the matter adjourned for a week, so as to have Dr. Collyer in attendance. This course was acquiesced in, Mr. Capel adding that his desire was to act courteously with the Guardians throughout the case, it being only sought to have the matter fully gone into. The Chairman assured Mr. Capel that a similar feeling pervaded the Board.

It was then decided that the investigation would be resumed next Wednesday, at two o'clock. The Board shortly afterwards adjourned.—*The Enfield Observer*, February 3, 1877.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of February 1877 was 39,179, and 46,692 received outdoor relief, making a total of 85,871. This was an increase of 129 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 3,185, 12,480, and 22,674 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 739. This was an increase of 27 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 243 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

* See *Reporter*, No. 202, p. 16, and No. 204, p. 23.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL
BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 209.

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 15, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Mar. 15	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday	19	11.30 A.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee (Budget Estimate).
Tuesday	20	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday	21	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday	22	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

There will be no meeting of Council on Monday next, the 19th instant. The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, the 26th instant, at 3 p.m.

District Committees are warned against a woman of the name of Amelia Reed, who has recently applied to the St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee.

NEWINGTON.—Rev. T. B. Dover has been elected one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Newington Committee.

ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST.—Mr. A. G. Crowder has been elected a representative of this Committee, *vice* Mr. Russell Barrington, resigned.

POPLAR.—Mr. G. H. Allen has been elected one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Poplar Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—A. H. HILL (in the Chair).

NEWINGTON:—Dr. F. Anderson.
FULHAM:—Rev. Herbert Wilson.
BADDINGTON:—Major Yard.
GRANGE:—Captain Boyce, R.N., Dr. B. Daniel.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Major FitzRoy, Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Lieut.-Col. Sandford.

ST. JAMES AND SOHO (Westminster Union):—W. Bevan, W. Bousfield.
HAMPTREAD:—C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F. Mallet.
NORTH ST. PANCRAZ:—G. B. Dickenson.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAZ:—Miss Gibson.
ISLINGTON:—F. Burdett Roberts.

HOLBORN:—T. W. Gorst, G. B. Baker.
CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brookes.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford, jun.
STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
MILE END:—Hon. H. R. Scott.
POPLAR:—R. Ellis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. B. Montgomerie, Rev. W. A. Richmond, R. Barrington.

ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
LEWISHAM:—A. Annesley.
SYDENHAM:—C. A. Barry.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley, C. A. Miner.
TOTAL:—34.
SECRETARIES:—C. S. Loch, *Secretary*; C. J. Ribton Turner, *Organising Secretary*.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, March 8. There had been present:—

Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major Prendergast, Major Yard, Major Nares, Captain Fortescue, Messrs. Barrington, Brown, Hill, Lawrence, Miner, Mitchell, Peters, and Roberts.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending March 3rd the receipts had been £40. 10s. for the General Fund, that the receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund had been £10, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £874. 19s. 10d. and £54. 10s. 11d. respectively, £7. 6s. 7d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—That a grant of £25 had been made to the St. Olave's Committee, the amount granted to this Committee since October 1, 1876, having been £70.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 6th inst. there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss O. Hill, Hon. J. Lawrence, Messrs. Barrington, Bousfield, Fletcher, Graham, and Lewes, Miss Huntington (Visitor).

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 6th inst. had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the Chair; Captain Gardner and Mr. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 7th inst. had been present:—

Mr. Wilkinson, in the Chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Rev. H. F. Mallet, and Messrs. J. R. Hollond and Hill.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 7th instant had been present:—

Mr. Miner, and subsequently Major Prendergast, in the Chair; Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Messrs. Hollond, Hill, Peters, Roberts, and Corrie.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.

The Annual Report of the Sub-Committee on District Work was read.*

GRANT TO THE STEPNEY COMMITTEE.

On the motion of Major FitzRoy, seconded by Major Yard, the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee was adopted, viz.:—

That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the Stepney Committee, at their discretion, to the amount of £121—the remainder of the estimated deficit of that Committee for the current year.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF COUNCIL.

Sir Charles Trevelyan moved, and Mr. R. Barrington seconded, the adoption of the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee, which was unanimously agreed to, viz.:—

That at Special Meetings of Council persons who are not members of Council be allowed to *second* motions.

On the motion of Mr. R. Barrington, the Council adjourned to Monday, the 26th instant.

* The Report is printed at length on p. 42.

THE LATE MR. JOHN GLENNY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Glenny, of Highbury, who has long been conspicuous as an earnest supporter of the Charity Organisation Society. He was chiefly instrumental in forming the first Islington Committee, and acted for several years as one of its Hon. Secretaries. Till the beginning of his last and fatal illness he continued to be a zealous and most liberal member.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, March 3, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Subscriptions:—	£	s.	d.
Baird, C. G., Miss . . .	2	2	0	Alderson, C. S., Esq. . .	0	10	6
Bury, R., Esq.	0	10	0	Browell, E. M., Esq. . .	2	2	0
Forster, Mrs.	1	0	0	Corbett, I., Esq., M.P. .	1	1	0
Grant, J., Esq.	10	10	0	Coutts & Co., Messrs. . .	21	0	0
Grindlay & Co., Messrs. .	10	10	0	Elliot, C., Colonel . . .	1	1	0
Hare & Co., Messrs. . .	10	0	0	Gray, G. M., Esq. . . .	5	0	0
March, The Countess of .	1	0	0	Rosling, A., Esq. . . .	1	0	0
Ransom, Bouverie, & Co., Messrs.	10	10	0	District Committee Aid Fund:—			
Sancton, P., Esq. . . .	5	0	0	Gray, J. M., Esq. . . .	5	0	0
Scott, E. H., Esq. . . .	10	10	0	Loyd, W. J., Esq. . . .	25	0	0
Scott, Messrs. Sir S. & Co.	50	0	0	Nares, Major	1	1	0
				Peck, Francis, Esq. . . .	250	0	0

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.

In presenting this first Annual Report, your Sub-Committee wish to draw attention to the system of work they have selected as the one best calculated to accomplish the object for which they were appointed; and, further, to point out the way in which other members of the Society can best forward the same object—one that demands the co-operation of every member.

The efficiency of the Society depends on each District Committee recognising that it is part of a larger whole, and that the strength of each is the strength of all. This fact is not yet sufficiently realised either by the Council or the Committees. While seeking to leave local effort free to develop itself in all ways to the utmost possible extent, it must be borne in mind that a weak or wayward Committee is a grievous blot on the whole Society, certain to attract the attention of the public, and to impede the work of the better organised District Committees. The desire of your Sub-Committee has been, therefore, so to act as to encourage in members of the Society the feeling that they are parts of a corporate body, that they have a common cause to advance, and that one spirit should animate them. The isolation of the District Committees was due to very natural causes. London is a gigantic whole; the parts of it are various in character; residents in outlying districts have few opportunities of meeting and learning to understand one another. Your Sub-Committee felt that their first duty was to learn something of the characteristics and requirements of the several District Committees, and to become acquainted with the men composing them. They therefore sent representatives to visit District Committees, when questions arose on which a conference seemed advisable, or invited members of District Committees to attend their meetings whenever subjects of local interest were to be discussed. They are satisfied that thus a more united spirit is growing up in the Society, and that they have themselves gained a far better understanding of the special strength and special need of each Committee. It is encouraging to come face to face with the earnest men who are grappling with the difficulties of Charity Organisation in out-of-the-way districts; helpful to study what each Committee has found out for itself; valuable to carry hints gained at one Committee to others in remote places; and essential to learn where the weak points of each Committee lie.

In order to be able to spare visitors for this important branch of work, and yet to secure a quorum at the weekly meeting, your Sub-Committee have, in accordance with the permission lately granted by you, added to their number several experienced members of District Committees.

In contemplating London as a whole, it has been increasingly clear that it is necessary to find some method of presenting forcibly to residents in one part their obligation to fellow-citizens in another. There is a tendency in District Committees to claim the right to decide some important points without due regard to the effect of those decisions on the whole Society—such points, for instance, as retaining inefficient agents, closing during summer holidays, failing to secure thorough investigation. There is also a strange insensibility as to the great claims poor districts have on those which are stronger in men and money. As an evidence of this, it may be shown that there are places where there are two or even three hon. secretaries, each able to supervise agents and to give some time to help besides; where, moreover, there are frequent Committee meetings, attended by many

members; or where there are hundreds of rich residents and few poor; yet neither secretaries, members of Committee, nor residents respond to any appeal to go into districts where there is no hon. secretary with time to supervise agents at all, where the Committee meets only once weekly, and is but poorly manned by busy clergy and others who are overworked. Your Sub-Committee cannot help thinking that however important it may be to develop local interest and effort, for the present considerable assistance must be sent from the rich localities to the poor ones. Until the principles of the Society are more heartily and fully recognised, many parts of London must depend for some of their leaders and workers on the places where there are more men of leisure. Whenever the care of the poor becomes one which every citizen feels it a duty to deal with wisely, there will, no doubt, be forthcoming men and women enough, and abundant small subscriptions, even in the poorest neighbourhoods, to support a well-managed office. But it is a question whether, even then, we should desire that the heaviest claims on charity should thus fall most heavily on the poorest and most overworked men, as our Poor Rate has done.

At any rate, for the present, help is needed. Your Sub-Committee are convinced it would be offered, if the necessity for it were as deeply felt by members of Council as it is by them. And the problem before them is how to get these wants distinctly presented to those who may help to meet them.

Your Sub-Committee have, of course, great facilities for judging of the defects of District Committees, from its power of comparing one with another. They, therefore, think it well to summarise the facts which are thus before them, in the hope that the statement of them may suggest means of meeting the wants as soon as possible.

I. The agents employed in many offices are far below the standard which it is desirable should be maintained. Especially is this the case where little supervision of them is to be had. It is important not only to secure a trustworthy man, but one with judgment as to the duties of his office. A fair education, business-like habits, some interest in the work, kindly manner, and prompt attention to all business are most important. To meet this want advertisements have been issued for local secretaries—gentlemen so far interested as to undertake, at a very moderate salary, either the actual work of agents or the direction of the agents. Several such have applied, and a few appear likely to fulfil the requirements of your Sub-Committee. Your Sub-Committee have recently also sent to Council a recommendation, which met with approval, that meetings of agents should from time to time be held, at which papers should be read. It is hoped thus to promote a more intelligent interest in the work of the Society; to bring the agents and hon. secretaries into closer communication, and thus produce a stronger *esprit de corps*.

II. The great need of more volunteer workers has been referred to above. Hon. secretaries are needed at several Committees, and additional help in many places is urgently required; at the same time it is noticeable that there never has been a time at which more, and more valuable, volunteers have come forward, and during the past year the number of those who have gone to districts wanting help has been considerable. Your Sub-Committee ought to add that the accession of volunteers, and the hope they have from the local secretaries, postpones, at any rate for the present, the necessity of further paid work at the centre.

III. In many Committees very little effort has been made to obtain additional funds. This appears to arise sometimes from the Committee being engrossed in dealing with the work that comes to the office, and finding it easier to ask Council for funds than to make a vigorous canvass in its own area; sometimes from its being discouraged by the poverty of its neighbourhood, from the labour involved in collecting even a small sum, and forgetting that the process of collection is also one of advertisement and explanation; and thirdly, the neglect of collection arises sometimes from the fact, that enough comes in from rich neighbours for the needs of the District Committee itself, and that it is absolutely blind to the wants of more than half the rest of London, for which it should be helping to collect funds. Your Sub-Committee have endeavoured to impress on District Committees the advisability of telling off some of their members to supervise the finance and collection, or to appoint a financial secretary. The arrangements made for lending collectors from the centre will also materially alter these deficiencies.

IV. One of the most serious flaws in the work of the District Committee which has come before your Sub-Committee has been that of defective investigation. Part of it appears to arise from want of discretion as to the points to be ascertained, part to insufficient records being kept of cases dealt with. Cases of delay, which might have been avoided, have also come before them.

V. But the most fatal of all the wants revealed to the Sub-Committee, as they reviewed your District Committees, has been the want of detailed, individual, careful dealing with the cases which came before them. Sometimes the deepest need of the applicant is not discovered; sometimes it is discovered, but a mere dole is given; sometimes the right thing is done at the crisis, but the absence of a continued watchfulness makes the help useless. These mistakes arise largely from the want of cordial, continual

co-operation between the District Committees and the vast number of persons visiting among and relieving the poor. Such charitable persons, each taking charge of the family which belonged to his or her district, or came under his or her care, would supply for the poor what no agent, no hon. secretary, no Committee even, in its corporate capacity however excellent, can provide—that individual watchfulness which is essential to discover, and to apply the remedy for individual want. District Committees require the co-operation of various people—of ladies, of clergymen and ministers, of guardians, of tradesmen, and artisans. They require also on every Committee persons who will undertake to find or to give separate attention at their houses to applicants who need this help. Such help is essential if the Society is not to become a mere machine for discovering impostors. If it is to organise charity, it must win the charitable, and use them. It would be better to find than to supply visitors such as are needed, for the same reason that it is better to find than to supply relief, because we want to gather in existing agencies, not to establish new ones. A vigorous effort should be made to secure the co-operation of the charitable. A member of the Sub-Committee has lately succeeded in interesting the Archbishop of Canterbury in the subject, and he has kindly promised to preside at a meeting of Metropolitan Clergy at Lambeth Palace, a step which it is hoped will bring the necessity of their co-operation, and that of their visitors, fully before them. During the past few months, partly through the assistance of the same member of your Sub-Committee, three meetings have been held of workers among the poor to bring this subject before them, and other meetings are planned. District Committees should be urged to welcome most hospitably all who may come forward to help them. The work before them is a very large one, and there is need not only of many workers, but of every kind of worker; and the Charity Organisation Committee should be the largest, most hospitable-hearted body, willing to welcome all workers, or would-be workers, among the poor.

VI. Many of the District Committees appear to find it most difficult to deal with School Board cases in accordance with the principles of the Society. It is noteworthy that in the agreement with Mr. Francis Peek no mention is made of boots and shoes to enable children to go to school; and yet a glance at the returns shows that, notwithstanding the circular letter sent to District Committees in April last, this is by far the most usual form of relief. Your Sub-Committee are still of opinion that the School Board authorities have misunderstood the object of the gift, and that they send cases for boots and shoes, the chief need with which, as a rule, they concern themselves; when, however deserving the case may be, relief of this nature is frequently both inadequate and inappropriate if any permanent good is to be done to the recipients. It is hoped that a paper containing "the arrangement," "illustrative cases," &c., which is to be distributed among the divisional and sub-divisional Committees of the School Board and the District Committees of the Society, will produce a real reform in the administration of this fund.

During the past year the Assistant-Secretary has carefully examined and reported on the Annual Reports of the District Committees. A series of recommendations were in consequence sent to the Committees, and your Sub-Committee believe that there has been a considerable improvement in the arrangement and compilation of the reports. Much useful matter of local interest has, in some cases, been added.

The following, amongst many other general subjects, have been considered:—1. An exhaustive set of questions, specially intended to assist those who are good enough to visit and confer with District Committees, has been prepared; this was printed at the expense of the Chairman of Council. 2. Much general and detailed information has been obtained from the District Committees as to their relations with the almoners of the Society for the Relief of Distress and the Guardians. 3. Arrangements have been made for the investigation of applications for out-relief at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, and of applications for the benefits of the Samaritan Fund established in connection with the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square.

Your Committee have had the greatest possible interest in the work which you have entrusted to them, and are glad to have had the opportunity of learning to know so many good workers from all parts of London. The sight of so much earnest and devoted work is a real satisfaction; and if, when the work of District Committees has come under their notice, they have, in many instances, rather pointed out flaws than paused to comment on successes achieved, it has been in the certainty that members of District Committees, having to look forward to a great and difficult work, a stupendous work, the issues of which are of the deepest importance to the citizens of London of all classes, and which cannot adequately be dealt with by any body of men yet gathered together without much reinforcement, are sure to desire to set their faces steadily and with awed sense of responsibility on what they have not yet managed to do, and to note where their greatest dangers lie, rather than to listen to pleasant words of thanks or even of appreciative sympathy.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

BRITISH WORKMAN PUBLIC-HOUSES.

SIR,—Surprise having been expressed that the Knightsbridge Coffee Palace is making a clear profit at the rate of more than nine per cent., I beg to call attention to the Report of the Directors of the 'Liverpool British Workman Public House Company, Limited,' dated only last month. They have opened ten houses during the year, making, in all, eighteen houses now in operation, and, in addition to the Huskisson Dock Branch, three other houses are now being got ready. The Directors are gratified by the support given to their houses by working men and their families; and they look upon it as a proof that such refreshment houses are greatly needed, and are found to be a suitable substitute for the ordinary public-house. They recommend a dividend on the paid-up capital of the company of ten per cent., free of income tax, and that the balance at the credit of the profit and loss account be carried forward to next year. They also recommend that additional capital be raised by the issue of 5,000 shares of one pound each, to be offered *pro rata* to the present shareholders.

I am, &c.

C. E. TREVELYAN.

March 12.

RETURNS FOR FEBRUARY.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, February 24, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total			
Kensington	14	22	11	47	12	10	22	44	13	1	21	1	35	103	61	25
Fulham	3	3	1	4	3	7	10	20	3	1	1	1	6	31	13	17
Paddington	9	5	22	36	14	3	17	34	16	5	13	9	43	96	66	18
Chelsea	4	2	6	12	1	13	2	16	9	3	4	13	29	69	47	11
St. George's G. Committee	3	1	16	20	3	3	3	9	14	5	..	1	20	117	56	22
W. Committee	9	2	23	34	1	22	2	25	11	3	..	2	16	..	..	7
St. James's and Soho Westminster	6	3	15	24	1	9	..	10	6	1	1	2	10	44	39	41
St. Marylebone	14	2	17	33	3	60	21	84	8	4	3	8	23	140	30	46
Hampstead	3	1	2	5	1	4	2	7	2	1	1	2	6	17	1	3
North St. Pancras	7	1	5	13	..	25	1	26	..	2	1	2	5	44	7	12
South St. Pancras	17	12	18	47	..	37	5	42	2	1	1	1	5	94	14	37
Islington	8	6	8	22	..	22	16	38	4	2	..	..	6	96	45	22
Hackney Union	2	3	6	11	5	1	..	6	8	1	..	..	9	26	..	15
St. Giles's & Blooms- bury	3	3	8	14	..	17	2	19	11	4	..	1	16	49	9	27
Strand	4	3	15	22	..	11	4	15	3	6	1	..	10	47	81	53
Holborn	9	2	16	27	..	69	9	78	2	4	..	..	6	110	3	29
City	1	2	3	6	..	6	9	15	4	5	..	..	9	30	25	135
Shoreditch	6	3	18	27	..	11	14	25	8	5	..	2	15	67	15	43
Bethnal Green	8	9	19	36	..	5	3	8	12	3	..	1	16	60	35	27
Whitechapel	4	4	11	19	2	7	2	11	1	..	..	..	1	31	37	4
St. George's-in-the- East	6	2	9	17	3	7	4	14	1	5	1	8	15	40	16	28
Stepney	23	9	11	43	..	15	3	18	..	2	..	..	2	65	75	37
St. Mary's	4	5	22	31	1	8	2	11	..	2	..	..	2	48	26	22
Poplar	4	3	13	20	..	10	4	14	4	2	2	4	12	46	14	30
St. Saviour's	2	6	18	26	..	1	1	4	4	2	1	..	7	24	13	12
Newington	1	16	14	31	..	1	5	6	2	1	..	3	6	37	5	10
St. Olave's	9	4	9	22	..	8	11	19	13	2	..	1	16	37	9	19
Lambeth	2	4	9	15	1	5	1	7	14	..	..	..	14	36	12	24
Brixton	1	1	..	2	..	1	..	1	5	..	..	..	5	8	..	5
Wandsworth and Put- ney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Battersea	..	8	16	24	..	..	3	3	14	2	..	..	18	45	19	5
Clapham	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	3	4	3
Camberwell	..	3	3	..	..	12	..	12	5	2	..	..	7	33	5	10
Grove Lane	..	1	2	4	1	2	2	5	..	2	..	..	2	3	1	1
Peckham	..	1	4	7	..	1	..	1	6	5	3	3	17	25	4	1
Greenwich	4	2	2	8	..	6	6	2	..	..	..	2	2	10	5	10
Deptford	..	3	3	1	1	3	5	2	..	..	1	3	11	..	3	127
Woolwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	6	12	5	2	129
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	6	11	..	67
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	189	141	381	711	21	451	160	632	222	86	55	81	444	1,787	835	673

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of February 1877 was 39,174, and 46,429 received outdoor relief, making a total of 85,603. This was a decrease of 268 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 2,820, 12,723, and 23,235 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 719. This was a decrease of 20 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 179 on the corresponding day of last year.

CASE OF LOUISA BARROW.—MISS STRIDE'S HOMES.*

The Board, at two o'clock, resumed their investigation into the case of Louisa Barrow, already fully reported in the *Observer*.

There were present in the room, besides the Guardians: Dr. Collyer (medical officer for Enfield), Mr. Tye (schoolmaster and superintendent of the House at Enfield), Nurse King, Miss Stride, Mr. Capel, and Mrs. Jansen, matron of the Home at Tottenham.

The Chairman remarked that he was not present on the last occasion, and suggested that the Clerk should read the correspondence which had ensued on the matter. This having been done, the Chairman said he supposed Miss Stride and Mr. Capel had attended to deny the statement of the child's condition when received. Mr. Capel said they had come there to produce evidence of the state the child was in when she left the Home. He thought it would facilitate matters if the medical gentleman would explain the condition he found the child in.

Dr. Collyer said he examined the child the day after she was admitted. He found that she was suffering from porrigo; her head was infested with vermin, and the hair was covered with knots; from the appearance of the child's head he had not the slightest doubt that they had been there for some time. In reply to Mr. Capel the doctor said porrigo was a scalp disease, and it was apparent on the child's head to such an extent that almost a blind man could see it. This would not arise from a weak constitution.

Mr. Tye and Nurse King fully bore out the medical officer's statement. In answer to Mr. Capel, Nurse King said, from the appearance of the child, she believed the ringworm had existed for some time previous to the child's admission. She (the nurse) happened to be at the door when Barrow was received in the House at Enfield, and she noticed the ringworm directly.

Miss Stride then proceeded to detail the circumstances which led to her receiving the child into the Home, and having done so she emphatically stated that it was impossible for Barrow to be afflicted as described. She called upon the Matron, who stated that she combed the child's head the day before she left the Home, and there was nothing the matter with it. Had there been ringworm she must have noticed it.

The Chairman said he did not know how to reconcile the Matron's statement with the medical evidence. The Matron also said, in reply to a question, that a bath was given to the child shortly before she left, and nothing was noticeable. Mr. E. Clarke said the combing must have been very superficial. The Matron said Barrow had played while in the Home with her own child and others, and if she had ringworm some of the children must have also had it. The Chairman said the Matron could assume that, but although ringworm was contagious it did not follow that the other children were bound to be affected.

Rev. Hugh McSorley directed Miss Stride's attention to the following part of a letter which she had sent to the Board:—'I regret now that I did not send her to the workhouse when her mother deserted her; but she was in such a fearful state of disease and dirt that I kept her, contrary to the rule, to see if we could improve her health—which, by good food, we have done to a certain extent.' [The rev. gentleman emphasised the last four words.]

Miss Stride replied that the child was of a sickly constitution. She also said she supposed that Barrow was taken into the receiving ward; and she (Miss Stride) knew that often not very clean persons were taken there.

The Union officers denied that the condition of the child was attributable to her presence in the receiving ward.

Mr. Capel having asked if there was any mistake as to the identity of the child, Louisa Barrow was then called into the room, and Miss Stride said the child was the one she had had in her Home.

The investigation continued for some time longer, Miss Stride and Mr. Capel contending that the child left the Home in a cleanly state, and the Guardians holding an entirely opposite opinion. Eventually, the Chairman said he would not for a moment say that the Matron of the Home came there for the purpose of stating what she knew to be untrue. He had no doubt that she believed what she said, but still they (Miss Stride and the others) could not expect the Guardians to disbelieve their officers. With regard to what he had said at a previous meeting about the way in which these Homes were being conducted, it was not at all his intention to injure any one of them; but institutions such as those were dependent in a great measure upon the charity of the public, and it would only be just that the latter should know something about them. (Hear, hear.)

Miss Stride said she courted inspection of the Homes.

Rev. H. McSorley thought sufficient inspection had already been made.

The investigation having been concluded, the whole matter stands thus: Miss Stride and her friends emphatically deny that the child was in the state described when she left the Home, or that she had been neglected while in it; and the Guardians, on the other hand, adopt the statement of their officers, and as firmly believe that Barrow, when received into the house, was in the state reported.—*Enfield Observer*, Feb. 10, 1877.

* See 'Reporter' No. 208, p. 40.

OUT-RELIEF AND ILLEGITIMACY.

It is encouraging to find from the last Annual Report on the Relief of the Poor in Scotland that the experience of our neighbours is quite in favour of increased stringency in the administration of outdoor relief, as tending to improve the social life of the community.

There was a general idea that the restriction of relief in the case of mothers with illegitimate children to an offer of admission to the Poorhouse tended to the death of the children from inattention and starvation; 'it being found impossible,' in the words of a medical officer, 'to induce the mothers to go to the Poorhouse, the children are farmed out, with the too well known sad result.'

Fortunately an occasion presented itself for proving the accuracy of this opinion, as it was expressed in one instance by the Chairman of a Board, whose parish returns showed a high average of illegitimacy, 22·4 per cent. of the whole number of births, in a period of seven years, having been of this class. A careful inquiry in this parish showed that out of 118 illegitimate children, whose deaths were registered in the seven years, the mothers of only 19 had ever been applicants for relief, and of these only two refused indoor relief when offered—but not in either case while burdened with the children whose deaths are registered. There is therefore nothing in the registers to show that the 'hard and fast line,' or offer of the Poorhouse, will occasion the starvation of many children; but it may be argued, fairly enough, that it acts indirectly by preventing application being made; and with a view to meeting this objection a comparison was instituted between two periods of seven years—before and after the opening of the Poorhouse—from which it appeared that a slightly greater mortality had occurred among illegitimate children in the first period than in the second.

It may be noticed, in passing, that the chances of life for the illegitimate child would seem to be about one-fifth less than for the legitimate; and this is not to be wondered at, considering the adverse conditions before him as well as after.

The comparison mentioned above further showed a decrease in the actual percentage of illegitimate births in the second period—small, it is true (about 0·5 per cent.), but, such as it is, favouring the opinions expressed by Mr. Campbell, the General Superintendent of the Poor, 'that giving poorhouse relief alone in these cases checks immorality by detaching the burden of supporting the children on the parents instead of on the parish, the dislike of the mothers to enter the poorhouse causing them to look better after the fathers and obtain more assistance from them; and likewise, that the chances of the children for life are greater when dependent solely on their parents, than when natural instincts are deadened by the expectation of outdoor relief.' At all events, the benefit is plain and substantial; the supposed hazard, so far as could be ascertained by inquiry, has no existence.

R. M. H.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

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[EXTRA NUMBER.]

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Mar. 22	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Friday " 23	4.30 P.M., Medical Committee.
Monday " 26	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday " 27	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
	3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday " 28	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
	3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.

The following business stands for Monday, the 26th inst. :
To adopt the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on Out-relief and Charity.*

There will be no meeting of Council on Monday, the 2nd April, being Easter Monday.

There will be no meeting of the Administrative Committee on Thursday, the 29th instant, being the Thursday next before Easter.

The Central Office will be closed on Good Friday, and reopened on Easter Tuesday.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

REPRESENTATIVES AT COUNCIL.—The attention of District Committees is drawn to the following extract from Rule VII. :

The Representatives of District Committees shall be elected annually, within one month after the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

* See Reporter, No. 192, p. 149, and No. 198, p. 173.

District Committees are requested to send the names of their representatives to the Secretary, not later than Thursday, the 5th of April.

The election of the Administrative Committee is fixed for Monday, the 9th of April.

Six copies of the Annual Report of the Sub-Committee on District Work will be sent to each of the District Committees. Hon. Secretaries are requested to apply to the Secretary for further copies, should their Committee require a larger number.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee met on Thursday, March 15. There were present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the Chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Major FitzRoy, Major Yard, Major Nares, Rev. A. Wedgwood, Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, Brown, Crowder, Lawrence, Miner, Peters, and Sapsford.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 13th inst. there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the Chair; Miss O. Hill, Messrs. Barrington, Fletcher, Graham, and Lewes.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 13th inst. had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the Chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major FitzRoy, Captain Gardner, and Mr. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 16th inst. had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the Chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, and Messrs. Wilkinson and Hill.

FINANCE.—During the week ending March 10 the receipts had been £143. 6s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £281. 1s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £1,000. 1s. 5d. and £102. 0s. 2d. respectively, £49. 4s. 10d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—A grant of £25 was made to the Mile End Committee for general purposes, and a grant of £10 to the permanent loan fund of the Islington Committee, the total amount granted to these committees since the 1st of October last being £125 and £50 respectively.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER.*

The Administrative Committee have directed that the following letter should be sent to the Country and Foreign Societies with which the Council is in correspondence:—

DEAR SIR,—During the past few months the Council of this Society has more than once considered the question of the advisability of enlarging or altering the character of the *Charity Organisation Reporter*, with a view to securing for it a more extensive and remunerative circulation. At the last discussion the further consideration of the subject was postponed, and it is probable that at no distant date it will again engage the attention of the Council.

Meanwhile, I am directed to ask you whether your Committee are of

* See Reporter, Nos. 182, p. 109; 187, p. 127; 188, pp. 161-2; 201, p. 10.

opinion that there is room and scope for such a *Charity Organisation Reporter* as might become the official organ and journal of this Society and the Charity Organisation Societies throughout the country: whether your Committee believe that they could send to this office fortnightly, monthly, or from time to time, a letter or statement respecting their work and the organisation of charity in their neighbourhood: and whether members of your Committee or members of your Society would avail themselves of such a paper for correspondence, and for the discussion of those new questions, and new aspects of old questions, which continually come under the observation of those who are engaged in the organisation and reform of Charities.

In addition to these statements of work and correspondence, it is proposed that there should be criticisms of Parliamentary and other books and pamphlets which have special relation to the better administration of the Poor Law, Friendly Societies, and other forms of organised and unorganised charity. It is believed that such books, carefully reviewed from the stand-point of the principles of Charity Organisation, would often reveal difficulties and fallacies which escape the observation of those who draft the short notices and summaries which usually find their way into the general Press.

It is hoped, also, that from time to time short articles may be inserted, which may be of value in explaining the work and objects of Charity Organisation Societies, and thus educating the supporters of the movement and the public generally.

A journal of this character might also become a useful medium for notices of meetings and advertising.

It is extremely desirable that, by means of a paper or otherwise, those who in very many parts of England are spending their time, thought, and money on the work of Charity Organisation, or other kindred work, and are deeply interested in those social reforms which the success of the Charity Organisation movement must necessarily further, should be able to act with greater concert, and should, by the interchange of their experiences, add to their common strength. To be successful the movement must become national, and must obtain the support of thoughtful men of all classes throughout the country. It is with a view to effecting this, and raising those larger issues which are involved in the attempts hitherto made to promote a system of remedial and preventive charity, that these proposals are submitted to you.

If your Committee consider that they can assist the Society in the establishment of such a journal, I should be glad if you would let me know what circulation you would be able to secure for it: what suggestions you would offer as regards size, arrangement, and price: whether you would consider a weekly or fortnightly issue the most convenient. In short, I should be obliged to you if you would kindly give me the benefit of your assistance and advice on these and any other points that may occur to you.

I may add that the work of editing, &c., will be undertaken by the Council of this Society.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
C. S. LOCK.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS.*

The following resolutions, containing the conditions in accordance with which the Council is prepared to assist those Committees which apply for aid, or are invited to accept assistance, in the collection of their funds, were passed by the Administrative Committee on the 15th February 1877:—

1. That the Administrative Committee is ready to give District Committees every assistance in arranging local public meetings, and in forming deputations, including members of District Committees and other influential persons, to wait upon large firms and persons of known wealth in each district.
2. That the Administrative Committee is further ready to provide and pay the salary of a suitable collector to canvass and collect funds on behalf of the District Committee.
3. That all sums gathered in by the collector be paid to the account of the District Committee.
4. That if a deputation be organised by a District Committee, the funds obtained by it be paid into the account of the Committee; but, that if the deputation be organised by the Finance and Collection Sub-Committee from

* See *Reporter* No. 200, p. 1; and for the various Resolutions of Council on the subject, see *Reporter*, Nos. 181, p. 102; 184, pp. 115-116.

The Resolutions of Council to which the above more particularly refer, are as follows (see *Reporter*, Nos. 180, p. 98; 183, p. 112; 184, p. 115; 187, p. 128):—

That each District Committee shall collect funds within its own district; but that the collection should be made not merely for its own work, but also on behalf of the Society. That in districts in which the Council has reason to believe that much larger sums might be collected, the local Committee shall be invited to accept assistance in collection from the Council.

the Central Office, and the appeal be made for the wants of the whole Society, the funds raised be carried to the general account of the Council.

5. That the Committees in the poorer districts be informed, that in providing a paid collector it is the object of the Administrative Committee, not merely to obtain additional pecuniary aid for the Committee, but also to make known to residents the objects of the Society, and induce them to co-operate personally with the Committee.

6. That the District Committees be requested to take a special interest in furthering the efforts of the Collector, and to give him the local information and detailed guidance which cannot be given from the Central Office, but which is essential for the effectual performance of his work.

7. That the Collector be instructed to report regularly, and in detail, to the District Committee. And that he report the results of his work weekly to the Assistant-Secretary at the Central Office.

8. That the District Committee be requested to report to the Administrative Committee from time to time regarding the progress of the canvass and collection; also whenever a Collector appears inefficient or unsuitable for his work.

9. That, after consultation with the Collection and Finance Sub-Committee, the Assistant-Secretary arrange with District Committees in what district the Collector shall work, and the period for which he shall be at the disposal of the Committee.

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS.

The following is a list of some of the Reports and Pamphlets recently received at the Central Office:—

Annual Reports of the Kensington, Paddington, Chelsea, St. George's, S. James's and St. Anne's (Soho), St. Marylebone, Hampstead, North St. Pancras, South St. Pancras, Islington, Hackney, St. Giles, Strand, Holborn, City, Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, St. George's-in-the-East, Stepney, Mile End, St. Saviour's, Newington, St. Olave's, Lambeth, Wandsworth, Battersea, Camberwell, Greenwich, Deptford, Woolwich, Lewisham, and Eltham Committees.

Annual Reports of the following Country Societies:—Brighton, Bristol, Chester, Dover, Eton, Horsham, Hull, Kingston, Liverpool, Leeds, Norwood, Nottingham, Oxford, Southampton, Shrewsbury, Winchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Perth.

The thirty-third Annual Report of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, 1876.

Handbook of the Benevolent Institutions and Charities of New York, 1877.

Report of the Board of Guardians for the Relief of the Jewish Poor, 1876.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, March 17, 1877:—

Donations:—	£ s. d.	Annual:—	£ s. d.
'A. D. H.'	10 0 0	Barnard, J. C., Esq.	1 1 0
Boyce, Capt., R.N.	5 5 0	Belcher, Miss	1 1 0
Elcho, Lord, M.P.	25 0 0	Cockerell, E. J., Esq.	1 1 0
Galton, Francis, Esq.	10 10 0	Cockerell, G. J., Esq.	1 1 0
Hampson, R., Esq.	2 0 0	Corrie, E., Esq.	2 2 0
Hill, J. S., Esq.	5 5 0	Crosse, Miss L. J.	2 2 0
'J. G.'	1 0 0	Ewart, J., Esq.	2 2 0
Kemble, T., Esq.	1 0 0	Hennell, T., Esq.	1 1 0
Landor, Miss E. S.	1 0 0	Lyndhurst, Lady	2 2 0
Latham, Mrs.	5 0 0	Penzance, Lady	2 0 0
Minton, Rev. S.	1 0 0	Robarts, H., Esq.	1 0 0
Sewell, Miss E. M.	1 0 0	Stone, E. M., Esq.	5 5 0
Wright, E., Esq.	1 1 0		

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

BENEFIT SOCIETIES.—During the year 1875-76 at Wandsworth 22 applicants out of 127 had subscribed to some club or benefit society; at St. Olave's, 64 out of 302; at Paddington, 209 out of 821; at Greenwich, 57 out of 417; at Holborn, 17 out of 364; at Bethnal Green, 62 out of 545; at St. George's-in-the-East out of 387 only 20 were in a first-rate benefit club. A considerable number had been, at one time or other, members of clubs. . . . Many were in burial clubs. At Newington, about 22 per cent had at one time subscribed to a provident club. The Committee add: ' . . . it is rare to find a case among those which come before the notice of this Committee in which the head of the family has put by a shilling a week out of his earnings as an insurance against temporary disablement by sickness or accident.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the Metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of February, compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of January 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week January	4th week February	4th week January	4th week February
Kensington	1,006	1,059	417	393
Fulham	488	464	699	696
Paddington	807	794	1,035	963
Chelsea	934	945	463	439
St. George's	1,972	1,944	1,788	1,761
Westminster	721	738	342	326
St. Marylebone	2,490	2,538	2,193	2,208
Hampstead	183	184	83	86
St. Pancras	2,981	2,931	5,276	5,230
Islington	1,446	1,450	2,608	2,653
Hackney	928	895	2,156	2,084
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury .	1,299	1,284	666	588
Strand	796	783	333	363
Holborn	2,641	2,633	3,804	3,862
City of London	2,150	2,138	3,107	3,167
Shoreditch	1,180	1,162	786	798
Bethnal Green	1,531	1,542	706	710
Whitechapel	1,218	1,212	124	132
St. George's East	1,109	1,192	169	164
Stepney	883	907	196	194
Mile End Old Town	859	854	538	591
Poplar	1,177	1,177	1,766	1,756
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,477	2,518	2,978	2,984
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,471	1,474	2,338	2,434
Lambeth	1,631	1,689	3,289	3,259
Wandsworth and Clapham	945	943	1,693	1,642
Camberwell	1,154	1,165	1,507	1,524
Greenwich	1,407	1,409	2,239	2,318
Woolwich	868	843	2,465	2,508
Lewisham	300	307	584	606
Total	39,229	39,174	46,338	46,429

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of March 1877 was 39,184, and 46,821 received outdoor relief, making a total of 86,005. This was an increase of 402 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 1,639, 12,472, and 22,229 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 621. This was a decrease of 98 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 104 on the corresponding day of last year.

PROVINCIAL.

CHARITY ORGANISATION AT SOUTHAMPTON.*—On Monday, February 5, a Conference of Clergy and Laity was held at the Audit House, Southampton, to consider the best means of obtaining co-operation between the various charitable agencies of the town, with a view to preventing the overlapping of charity, and ensuring that really deserving cases should not be overlooked. The meeting had also special reference to the aims and objects of the Local Charity Organisation Society. Amongst those present were several members of the Board of Guardians. Dr. Maclellan was voted to the chair, and in opening the proceedings, said that the Conference was invited to assemble not for the purpose of discussing the question of the formation of a Charity Organisation Society, but with a view to bringing about the harmonious working of the various charitable institutions of the town, so that the poor might be relieved in a wise way. The Rev. A. C. Blunt then proposed the first resolution:—“That it is desirable that charitable

* Want of space has hitherto prevented the insertion of this account of an important meeting at Southampton.

centres should administer their relief upon similar principles, and when relief has been offered by any centre and not accepted, other centres should be chary of giving it without full investigation and ability to give adequately.” This was seconded by Mr. G. Lungley, Deputy President of the Board of Guardians, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. H. H. Carlisle, LL.B., moved the second resolution:—“That as charitable funds are of limited amount, good character, provident habits, and efforts at independence should give the first claim; when any surplus is applied to supplementary outdoor relief, discretion should be shown, as such supplementation tends to relieve the rates and the Guardians from the necessity of granting sufficient out-relief. It should also be remembered that out-relief is in a state of probation, and that the larger the charitable funds are that the Guardians suspect to be expended in supplementing out-relief, the more persons will they be inclined to throw continually on the support of the charitable.” Referring to the last clause of the resolution, he said he was not responsible for it, and he could not quite understand its relation to the rest of the motion, and it required some explanation. It was seconded by Dr. Longstaff, and supported by several gentlemen, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. Canon Wilberforce then submitted the third resolution:—“That it is important that all centres of charitable relief should be supplied fortnightly with a list of those relieved by the Guardians in their respective districts.” Mr. Hankinson seconded the motion, which was agreed to; and

The Rev. Dr. Wright moved that “In order to economise funds, and to ensure mutual knowledge as to the relief each charitable centre is giving, it is recommended that a fortnightly list of those relieved, with their addresses, be sent by each centre to the Charity Organisation Society; and further, that all doubtful cases be submitted to the Society for investigation.” Sheriff Le Feuvre seconded the proposition; when

The Rev. A. Blunt moved, and the Rev. Canon Wilberforce seconded, as an amendment, “That it would largely check imposture if a fortnightly list of such persons as the administrators of relief may think desirable, with their addresses, were sent to the Charity Organisation Society; and if all doubtful cases were submitted to the Society for investigation.” Both speakers objected to what they deemed the imperative character of the motion, maintaining that there were cases which it would not be desirable to report. Some discussion took place upon this amendment, but ultimately it was accepted by Dr. Wright and the Sheriff, and was carried as a substantive motion.

FOREIGN.

The following is an extract from a letter describing the system of poor-relief in Holland:—

“I advocate quite the same principles of charity as alluded to in your letter; I am sorry to say there are few persons in my country who, while troubling themselves with charity, have studied it and are convinced of the dangerous character of small gifts. Of course political economists must come to this conclusion, but practically a sound system has never been established. And this is not astonishing. The chief charitable institutions in Holland are the “diaconies,” the churchwardens having for ages taken care of the interests of the poor.

“There are large capitals, and the interest, &c., is used for the relief of the poor; but assistance is invariably given in the shape of weekly doles (clothing, bread, money). Rich diaconies are known to give up to 7s. a week; others confine themselves to 50 cents, or 1s. a week.

“They adhere to the old Christian benevolence principle, which Ramford, De Gérauds, and the old school have defended. With us the Church has always claimed the lion's share in charity matters; unfortunately Church quarrels are very common, and the higher and most intellectual classes have often been obliged to leave the interests of the Church to the less educated. I need scarcely add that charity is seriously affected by such proceedings.

“If diaconies refuse to relieve, the State may interfere; the Poor Law does not give any rule as to the mode of relieving by the authorities, but I know not of a single community where the system is based on other principles than those which custom has sanctioned.”

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

VOLUNTEER VISITORS OF THE POOR.*

SIR,—Before the interest in the subject of District Visiting evoked by the reading of the Rev. Mr. Walrond's paper, at the Society of Arts, subsides, perhaps you will afford me space to explain the system adopted at this East End parish—a system which, after some years experience, is found

* See Reporter, No. 207, p. 38.

to answer well, in providing for both the spiritual and the temporal wants of the poor.

The parish of St. Stephen's, Spitalfields, with a population of about 5,000 of the poorest class of persons in the metropolis, contains a church and parsonage, with a clerical staff consisting of the vicar and two curates, all zealous men; an 'Institute,' partly religious, partly social, managed by the Society of Friends; and a Mission Hall, worked on independent principles.

In addition to these established agencies there are City missionaries and Scripture readers, whose duty it is specially to visit the poor at their homes.

By means of these various agencies it is thought that the religious wants of the people are sufficiently cared for, without the addition of visitors, who, unless trained, and submitting to some kind of direction, would be of little use in a neighbourhood like this.

With the exception of that supported by the Quakers, none of the institutions give relief. To provide for the temporal wants of the people a Relief Society is established, which is under the management of a committee composed of gentlemen connected with the district, who meet periodically—as frequently as once a week in times of exceptional distress. These meetings are attended by the clergy and the lay agents before mentioned, when they submit for the consideration of the committee such cases of distress as have come to their knowledge in the performance of their ordinary duties. If a *prima facie* case for assistance be established, the almoner (a member of the committee) in whose district it is, is requested to call, and afford such relief as in his judgment is required. The result of these visits is reported at the following meeting of the committee, when the further steps to be taken in regard to the cases are agreed upon. One of the committee attends the weekly meetings of the local Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, of which he is a member, and in cases of more than ordinary difficulty, or where there is suspicion of imposture, it would be his duty to apply for their assistance and advice; but recourse is rarely had to the funds of the Society, or any other aid sought but that which it is its primary object to afford, viz. investigation by the agent, or intervention to obtain special forms of relief—such as hospital letters, recommendations to convalescent homes, &c.

Under no circumstances are paid agents ever employed to give relief, their duty being simply to afford information for the guidance of the Committee. The advantages offered by such a system of relief over that of irresponsible visitors, however intelligent and painstaking, but without organisation, is manifest.

In the first place, there is a complete separation of religious from temporal ministrations, whereby the incentives to hypocrisy are done away with.

Secondly. No encouragement is given to imposture, for as soon as it is known that no relief is given without investigation, the undeserving cease to apply.

Thirdly. No case of real distress remains long unattended to, as it must come to the knowledge, sooner or later, of those whose duty it is to visit periodically every house and every room in the parish; in addition to which there are the almoners, who, of course, are well known in their respective districts, and the clergy, to apply to in cases of emergency.

Lastly. There is no overlapping, or would be none, if there was no interference with the working of the system, as each almoner visits only in his district, while anything approaching indiscriminate almsgiving is impossible where the almoners give only out of the funds of the Society and report every case.

It may be useful, in conclusion, to mention a few of the rules ordinarily acted upon in the administration of relief:—

Relief to be given in temporary cases by ticket, not by money.

To give relief at the home only.

To give liberally as the case requires, and to endeavour to get the whole charge of a case.

Not to assist an able-bodied man a second time, unless he either is or has been a member of a provident society or otherwise shown a disposition to save.

Always to see the husband (if alive) before assisting the family.

Never to give towards funeral expenses.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Spitalfields, February 22, 1877.

C. LAVERS SMITH.

COFFEE HOUSES.*

SIR,—The subject of Coffee Houses and Refreshment Rooms is becoming so important and interesting, that I am anxious to suggest if some plan cannot be adopted for aiding not only in the establishment of them, but in the more important work of carrying them on.

Having struggled through a year and a half in the management of one

* See Reporter No. 207, p. 24; No. 208, pp. 28 and 29; No. 209, p. 42.

such Refreshment Room, I can speak most strongly of the need of some such central help, counsel, and advice, as I would suggest.

We have tried to enlist the co-operation of the Café Company in our effort, but the managers naturally consider a comparatively small local and parochial concern to be outside their scope and aim. At the same time, I am convinced how much failure, disappointment, extravagance and waste might be avoided if some such central company could give the assistance of experience and knowledge of business necessary to ensure success, as well as supply or recommend suitable persons as managers. I can only say that though it is easy to start such a work, I fear that under private management it is certain to be financially a failure, and that to a large extent. The success of the Knightsbridge Coffee House seems to prove that on a larger scale such places can be made remunerative, or at least self-supporting, which is all that we ask for in a parochial concern.

The sort of help I desire is much that which is supplied by the Central Working Men's Club and Institute Union, 150 Strand, and unless some plan can be adopted by which provisions can be bought on a large scale, and by experienced business people, I much fear that the present eager desire to extend this most excellent work will end in disappointment and failure, which these houses must do, if not carried out on commercial and therefore remunerative principles. Our experience has proved (in which I believe all similar trials agree) that it is impossible to supply meat dinners to working men on any terms that will repay the cost. What we want in London is just what the 'British Workmen Public House Company' seems to be at Liverpool. I rejoice to see that the subject is being brought forward in your columns.

Your obedient servant,

LOUISA TWINING.

20 Queen Square, W.C., March 17.

ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE THE WORKHOUSE.

DEAR MR. LOCK,—I have been requested by the Tower Hamlets Pension Committee to forward the accompanying circular, in the hope that it may be allowed to appear in the Reporter. The Committee will feel much obliged to those who, taking an interest in the experiment, will kindly make it known amongst their friends; and I shall be happy to forward copies of the circular to any who may be willing to co-operate with us in this way.

Yours very truly,

ALLEN D. GRAHAM.

69 East India Dock Road, E.:
March 17, 1877.

'Tower Hamlets Pension Committee. [For the Provident Poor of the East of London.] Object: The object of the Committee is to provide Pensions, so far as its funds permit, for those poor persons who seem by their character and circumstances to be worthy of assistance outside the workhouse. Committee: Albert Pell, Esq., M.P., Chairman, Carlton Club, S.W.; the Rev. S. A. Barnett, Vice-Chairman, St. Jude's Vicarage, Whitechapel, E.; A. G. Crowder, Esq., Treasurer, 65 Portland Place, W.; Russell Harrington, Esq., 8 Queen's Gate Place, S.W.; the Hon. C. W. Fremantle, the Royal Mint, E.; Allen D. Graham, Esq., United University Club, S.W.; J. R. Holland, Esq., 67 Lancaster Gate, W.; Sir R. Macdonald Stephenson, 72 Lancaster Gate, W.; the Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, the Charterhouse, E.C.; the Rev. S. A. Thomson Yates, 396 Commercial Road, E.

'Committee Room: 69 East India Dock Road, E. All communications to be addressed to the Treasurer, A. G. Crowder, Esq., 69 East India Dock Road, London, E. Post Office Orders to be made payable at the Limehouse Office to Allen D. Graham. Cheques to be made payable to "the Tower Hamlets Pension Committee, or bearer," and crossed to the London and County Bank, Limehouse Branch.

'No part of the funds entrusted to the Committee will be expended on salaries or rent; full use will be made of the machinery of the Charity Organisation Society; and the rest of the work will be done by members of Committee, aided by other volunteers.

'The reduction of outdoor relief which is taking place in various parts of the country has been very strictly carried out by the Poor Law authorities in certain Unions in the East End of London. None who are conversant with the mischievous effects of a too liberal system of legal relief can feel themselves justified in objecting to what they believe will prove, in the long run, a salutary reform. At the same time, a sudden and unexpected change may in some cases entail hardship; and it is to meet such cases that this Committee has been formed.

'It is proposed to grant "pensions," not exceeding four shillings weekly, to respectable and deserving persons who have been careful and industrious, who are resident in Unions where out-relief has been, or is being abolished, and whose friends, if able to assist, are doing for them all they can.

'The scheme here briefly sketched out will, it is hoped, be free from some of the defects that have been found to accompany outdoor relief. The improvidence which cannot but be fostered where there is the universal

expectation of a provision for old age in no way dependent upon the character or exertions of the recipient, will receive no encouragement when the boon is conferred as a matter not of right, but of favour, by private individuals instead of by the State, and lastly, not upon all that are destitute, indiscriminately, but only upon those whose past lives give evidence of industry and thrift. There will be no weakening of family ties, since the strict investigation to be instituted in every case will tend to secure the rejection of all whose relations are in a position to maintain them. And, finally, the rule that recipients must have attained their fortieth birthday on the 1st of January 1872, securing, as it does, the gradual extinction of the scheme, will clearly show that it is not the purpose of the Committee to create a permanent charity, upon which the younger members of the working classes can depend.

'This mode of dealing with the more respectable of the aged poor has the further advantage of throwing the burden of their support upon those who are both able and willing to bear it, and it thereby relieves the struggling ratepayer, who, taxed as he is with the cost of indoor relief, may well deem it hard that he should be called upon to maintain outside the workhouse a multitude of persons not very much worse off than himself.

'The Committee believe that many benevolent persons, aware of the evils incident to out-relief, and yet sympathising with the intense desire of the respectable poor to avoid the workhouse, will be glad to have placed within their reach an agency by means of which a salutary Poor-Law Reform may be facilitated, and its operation rendered less harsh in regard to the more deserving of those who, after living for many years under the influence of a defective system, find themselves suddenly confronted with a more strict and sound administration of the law.'

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The eighth annual meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, March 14, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, Lord Elcho, M.P., presiding, and was perhaps the most numerously attended annual meeting the Society has ever held. There were present the Right Hon. Lord Hatherley, Earl Stanhope, Lord R. Grosvenor, Albert Pell, Esq., M.P., P. Ralli, Esq., M.P., G. J. Shaw Lefevre, Esq., M.P., A. McArthur, Esq., M.P., U. J. Kay-Shuttleworth, Esq., M.P., Sir Charles Trevelyan, K.C.B., Ven. Archdeacon Hannah, Sir Baldwin Leighton, Sir D. Forsyth, Sir Graham Briggs, Sir R. Wilbraham, C. B. P. Bosanquet, Esq., A. H. Hill, Esq., Lieut.-General Cayenagh, H. N. Hoare, Esq., the Rev. J. R. Simpson, M.A., the Rev. H. F. Mallet, &c.

Lord Elcho, who on taking the chair was warmly cheered, called upon the Secretary to read any letters he had received.

Mr. Loch, the Secretary, said he had received letters from several noblemen and gentlemen who had been unable to attend, but had written very heartily in support of the Society. His Grace the Duke of Westminster had written to say that he was prevented from attending, and Earl Granville, who also could not attend, had made himself an annual subscriber. (Cheers.) Lord Lichfield wrote to say he was very sorry at finding himself precluded from attending, and that nothing but unavoidable circumstances would have kept him from being present. Lord Wharfedale and Lord Rosebery also wrote regretting their absence, the latter stating that he was in Edinburgh; and the Bishop of Manchester was absent through having to discharge duties in his diocese. The Lord Mayor, Sir James Hogg, the Hon. E. A. Fremantle, and Mr. Wm. Burn, of Glasgow, had also written in excuse of absence.

The Chairman then proposed that the report should be taken as read.

This was put to the vote, and carried.

The Chairman, who was received with cheers, said that on finding himself presiding over that most important meeting he felt that he ought to apologise, for, although he yielded to no man in admiration for the objects and work of the Society, yet he had nothing to do with its management, and until lately knew nothing of its details, and little of its inner life. When, therefore, he was asked to preside at that meeting, he was told that the founders of the Society, in this the eighth year of its existence, considered it desirable that some one should take the chair who could bring to its work and objects an unbiassed mind, and view these with the same impartiality with which Sir John Lubbock studied his bees and his ants. The best thing would be for him to survey the general subject, to see what were the objects of the founders, to see whether those objects had been attained, and also if anything was wanting to render success still more successful. Before he entered upon these points, he begged his audience to cast their minds back eight years, and consider the state of the metropolis as regarded pauperism in 1869, at the time when this Society commenced its operations. There were then under Poor Law administration—receiving Poor Law relief—36,000 indoor and 110,000 outdoor paupers, all charged to the metropolis. Besides this huge amount of poverty receiving legal relief, mendicity, in the shape of mendacious mendicants, was at that time rampant, and sturdy beggars infested the streets—mostly of the West End—many of whom, if they had lived in the good old times, would have been punished

by whipping for the first offence, mutilation for the second, and the gibbet for the third. In addition to street charity and the Poor Law relief, there were endless charities for giving relief in the metropolis. Taking the list of charities at present existing and in 1869 there were 1,060, and, excluding the religious ones, 930; and of these there were 24 for the blind, 98 for general relief, 100 voluntary homes, 172 institutions for the aged, with a total annual income of £4,114,849, and, excluding the religious charities, of £2,400,451; and, enormous as these sums were, they were not to be regarded as anything like the sum-total of the charity funds annually collected in London, which the editor of the 'Classified Directory to the Metropolitan Charities' stated at between £6,000,000 and £7,000,000 per annum, including £250,000 a year levied by fraudulent charities. In 1869 there was no organisation among these charities—no combination among them to prevent over-lapping—and the consequence was that there was great waste in many cases and inefficiency of relief. (Hear, hear.) The charities were, indeed, like a bundle of sticks without a wish to bind them, and this Charity Organisation Society was formed on the combined principles of the Mendicity Society and of the Society for the Relief of Distress, its purpose being to bring about concerted action, inter-communication, and organisation between all who were administering relief—the Poor Law authorities and the charitable societies. (Hear, hear.) In the Mendicity Society and the Society for the Relief of Distress they found the principles of the Charity Organisation Society. He was speaking of these matters, not for the information of the active workers in the Society, but for the information of the public out of doors, by whom it was not understood; for, intentionally or unintentionally, wilfully or accidentally, views of the Society had been spread which altogether misrepresented its aims, work, and operations. (Hear, hear.) Work was thus expected of it which the founders never intended; one part of its operations was brought prominently forward, while other parts were carefully ignored. It was spoken of as a harsh impostor-suppressing Society, but little was heard of the good it effected for the deserving, and of its efforts that not one deserving case should suffer from want. (Cheers.) The Society, in short, started with the main object of the improvement of the condition of the poor by bringing about co-operation between the charities and the Poor Law, and among the charities, by securing due investigation and fitting action in all cases, and by repressing mendicity. Thus there was a strong Samaritan as well as a police element in the Society, and while turning on the 'bull's-eye' of truth upon every case, it was at once really the handmaid of the charitable and the protector of the deserving poor. (Cheers.) He congratulated the Society upon the signal success which had attended its work up to the present time, even if it had not carried all the objects precisely as it had hoped. In the course of its existence the Society had established 37 district committees, one in every Poor Law district of the metropolis, each having communication with the Poor Law authorities, and ready to act with the charities too in each district; and, besides, there were now more than 30 towns in England carrying out the system, and places in all parts of the world had adopted it. (Cheers.) He held in his hand a long list of the places with institutions at which the Society was in communication—the meeting need not be afraid, he should not read the long paper (a laugh); but he might say that in different parts of Europe, America, and in the colonies, the principles had extended, so that the soundness of the views of the first zealous workers were proved by the extension of the work beyond the borders of our own land. (Cheers.) To those zealous workers he would not refer by name, for they would not wish it; but perhaps he might be allowed to mention the name of one no longer a worker—one who had settled in the East of London that he might be better enabled to deal with the poverty of that part on sound principles, and who injured his health probably in these endeavours to do good to his fellow-men—his lordship referred to the late Mr. Denison. (Cheers.) Money was certainly necessary to carry on the business of the Society; but what was most urgently required was a band of workers like the late Mr. Denison, who would assist in this task of bettering the condition of the poorer classes. (Cheers.) Now, what had been the indirect results of the work of the Society in six years? Well, the indirect results of the Society's working were very striking. Public opinion had been enlightened upon the principles which should guide relief; Poor Law outdoor relief had been nearly abolished at the East End, to the advantage of the people and the inculcation of independence; and the outdoor pauperism of the metropolis, which stood at 110,000 in 1869, now stood at only 41,000. (Cheers.) Besides this startling fact, the mendacious mendicant had been almost entirely suppressed, and this by the simple remedy of tendering to a beggar a ticket offering inquiry. The direct results of the Society during six years showed that the committees had dealt with 31,623 of the class not requiring relief, undeserving, or cases for the Poor Law; 27,272 of the class who were recommended for relief, either to Guardians, to institutions, or to local agencies, or to private persons; and 30,293 had been assisted by grants, by loans, by having employment found for them, or by receiving letters which they required for hospitals. In all, the Society had dealt with 89,188 cases

and, moreover, the Society had dealt with 47,256 vagrants in addition to all the other classes. (Cheers.)

Now in these figures the public had a thoroughly satisfactory proof of the good work which the Society had done and was doing, and to do more the Society needed what he should point out presently. In addition to the direct dealing with the poor to the large extent he had described, the Committees had dealt with many other subjects of a kindred nature. (Hear, hear.) The Council had entered fully upon the subject of vagrancy, and had called upon others outside the Society to sit upon a committee to enter into an inquiry as to the best means of dealing with it, and he was himself among those thus invited to consider the question. Then, too, the Society had dealt with the subject of necessary sanitary reforms in working-class homes, and had been largely instrumental in getting the act passed for giving the industrial classes improved dwellings. (Cheers.) He held, too, in his hand another result of the labours of the Society, in the shape of a measure which was about to be brought into the House of Lords by Lord Shaftesbury, for the purpose of protecting charitable funds from fraud. (Cheers.) This was an excellent list of work, and showed the need and value of the Society. (Cheers.)

But he should ill describe the feelings of the active members of the Society if he said they were ready to rest satisfied with the grooves in which the Society worked, on the one hand, or with legislation they had promoted, and were promoting, for the benefit of society in general and the poor in particular. *Excelsior* was the motto of the Society; but it was as well, he thought, to see if, notwithstanding the great success of the Society for the time it had existed, there were any of the original intentions of those he would call the 'pious founders' which had not been carried into effect: to see, in fact, if every Committee and every member of the Society had given full effect to the intentions and principles laid down in the little 'Manual.' As he had said, up to the time when he undertook the engagement to discharge the duty of presiding at the annual meeting, he knew but little of the working of the Society, and it might, therefore, now appear presumptuous in him to speak of that working; but when he undertook the duty, he sifted for himself the whole action of the Society (cheers)—for a fortnight he made the lives of the hardworking officers—from the secretaries downwards—a burden to them. (A laugh.) The position he took was that, having consented to preside at the annual meeting, it was but right that he should, as it were, use his endeavours to the utmost to get at the facts of the case, and though he did not pretend to be a 'Daniel come to the judgment,' still he thought it was not impossible that he might give expression to some views, after a full examination of the Society and its working, which might be useful to those who were interested in the work it was endeavouring to carry out for the benefit of suffering human kind. (Cheers.) The conclusion he had come to was that there were two things which the Society would do well to look to. In the first place, taken as a whole, the system of the Society ought to be uniform, whether its Committee worked in the East or in the West of London. (Hear, hear.) But the fact is, there were exemptions from this uniformity. The Society did not have complete subordination, on the part of all its District Committees, to the guiding authority of the central body, and some of the District Committees did not work uniformly with the others; and to his mind it was necessary that there should be complete subordination to authority and complete uniformity of working in all parts of a Society which desired to have a long life. (Cheers.) That there should not have been this complete subordination and this complete uniformity at first, might only be the natural outcome of the rapid springing up of the Society at a time when its details of work had not been practically proved, and when many minds were striving to find a solution for the problems then presented. Perhaps, indeed, the time had not yet come for this uniformity; but then the Society was open to its being said by a subscriber, 'I send money to the Central Office in the belief that the administration of the Society is in accordance with certain principles uniformly carried out; but the Central Office gives aid to District Committees, and while there is one branch Committee which does not go exactly in the same lines as the other Committees, the money I send may go in directions of which I do not approve.' (Hear, hear.)

Another point which was open to consideration was the co-operation of the Society with other bodies, in dealing with the relief of the poor. There was no want of co-operation on the part of the Poor Law authorities, who co-operated and communicated with the Charity Organisation Society fully and completely. (Cheers.) Some of the members of this Society, in fact, had even become members of Boards of Guardians, and information between the District Committees and the Poor Law officers was interchanged as fully as had been proposed and intended when the Society was born. But besides this co-operation, it was intended to establish co-operation with the many existing charities, and to bind those charities with the withy without which they were so many sticks, each administering relief without any knowledge of what the other was doing. Well, the endeavour to bind these charities to defined principles, had, it must be confessed, to a certain extent failed. He was justified in calling attention to this point

when he found a remarkable statement in the Report of the St. Marylebone District Committee, a Committee of which the Chairman of Council (the Earl of Lichfield) was the chairman. The passage to which he wished to direct attention referred to the fact that the 'pious founders' of the Society always assumed that the Committees should consist of members representing all the charities within the area of their districts; and the Marylebone Committee said, that though they were, perhaps, more than ordinarily successful in enlisting representatives of local charities in the work of charity organisation, yet they had to 'confess that this most essential point is very far from being arrived at.' The Committee further took the opportunity of '*impressing*' (the word being in italics) the supporters of the Charity Organisation Society with 'the urgent necessity of using every influence to induce charities to co-operate with, and, by representation, to become an integral part of the Society.' (Hear.) The necessity which he saw of all the charities co-operating with the Society was not, then, his opinion only, but it was an opinion which was held by the Chairman of the Council, Lord Lichfield. (Hear, hear.) If, then, from any reason or cause, the representatives of the charities could not attend the Committees of the Society—if the mountain could not come to Mahomet, why, let Mahomet go to the mountain; let a special agent be appointed to go between the Committees to the charities. (Cheers.) Every subscriber to a charity, and every one else, should use every influence, in order that the charities might be brought to act with the Society in the way mentioned by Lord Lichfield. (Cheers.) Now, what was the consequence of the existing want of intercommunication with the charities? Why, the answer was, that, to a great extent, there was now that very overlapping, faulty principles in charity distribution, the multiplication of societies for one and the same purpose, the waste of funds, the encouragement of impostors, and the neglect of the deserving poor—evils which it was one of the main objects of the Charity Organisation Society to remedy and to overcome. (Hear.) If these evils still existed, the fault did not rest with the Charity Organisation Society, but with those charitable institutions and societies which did not come forward and lend their aid in order that the utmost should be done with the funds subscribed for charitable purposes. (Cheers.)

There were two courses open to the Society—one to accept things as they were, the other to go upon the lines laid down originally. The Society did not profess to be an alms-giving, but an alms-getting Society (hear, hear), and through the charities it was intended that relief should be given. (Hear, hear.) Then there was a necessity for uniformity in the action of the Committees; else the Society would drift, more and more, into a large alms-giving Society. (Hear.) It appeared to him, looking at the matter impartially and without bias, that endeavours should be continued for bringing about uniformity of action in the Society's various District Committees—the thorough co-operation with the charities, and a reasonable subordination of all the Committees to the guidance of the central representative body. (Hear, hear.) These ends ought to be attained; the charities ought, by some means or other, to be brought to unite, and to be brought into combined action with the Poor Law through the Charity Organisation. (Hear, hear.) He had thus troubled the meeting at some length in stating what he considered to be the condition and work of the Society. In so doing, and in pointing out what little hitches he could find, and in what way they could be overcome to give the Society that efficiency and that beneficial effect it ought to have, he wished it to be understood that he was speaking from his own impressions; but he also knew he was likewise expressing the views of some of the most able Members of the Council—some, too, who sat at the cradle of this Society; and his words ought to carry with them the weight of influence, as coming from those who had, from the outset, had at heart the good of this Society. (Cheers.) He hoped, therefore, the remarks he had made might be found deserving of some consideration, and that these matters—in this eighth year of the Society's existence—would be placed on a satisfactory basis. (Cheers.) Certainly, he had spoken only with that view and intent (cheers); because, as he had said before, no one could have, more than he had, the good of this institution at heart. (Cheers.) But he did not wish to end with what might be considered to some extent controversial matter; he should therefore conclude his remarks—which he thanked his audience for having listened to so patiently—with the expression of a wish, in which they could all heartily join, for the success and permanence of a Society which was founded upon the truest and, therefore, the most effective principles of sound practical benevolence; and which, by its action, was doing incalculable good to the deserving poor of the Metropolis, and, by its organisation and example, to the nation at large. (Loud cheers.)

Lord Richard Grosvenor moved the adoption of the report, and, after praising the practical and brilliant speech of the noble Chairman, said that, for himself, he had studied the detailed work of the Society. The classes of 'poor' which the Society had to deal with, and was anxious to deal with, might be divided into three; but no figures could be given of them, as they varied from day to day, from month to month, and from year to year. Taking the class of vagrants and criminal impostors, he was happy to say this was a class which the Society had been able to deal with most

ally by the aid of his friend, Mr. Ribton-Turner, and at a very small upon the funds of the Society as compared with the charges for food (ing found for them at the cost of other and more official funds. ter and cheers.) The next class was one upon the fringe between ge-earning class and the vagrants. Sometimes the people in this ere wage-earning, and sometimes they were vagrants. The cause of eople coming into this position opened up good reasons for inquiry; reason for the condition of these people was not far to seek; for longed to a necessary class—those who had to depend upon casual ment. There was no doubt that the welfare of the country—that ditions of trade—necessitated that there should be a class who nly be casually employed; and it was necessary that an employer always be able to find as many hands as he required, even on a emergency. This was one of the effects in a country where the of labour was greater than the demand: a condition of things had a beneficial effect in increasing the wealth of the country by ting enterprise. (Hear.)

y asked where these casual workers came from, the answer was, that me from the class above them—from the regular wage-earning class. w that at times—at the end of the London season, in a time of lackness in any particular branch of trade, change of fashion, any change of trade when 'hands' have to be discharged—the er does not care to discharge his best hands: he dismisses those who apelled to keep 'Saint Monday'; in other words, those who 'went e drink,' as well as men who were not regular, from sickness and . All these fall into the class seeking for employment, and they casual workers—a class there would always be. There was another why men were out of work. This country maintained its superiority omy of production greatly by the subdivision of labour, and in this sion of labour, in which classes of men learnt only parts of a trade, a were unable, when out of work, to turn their hands to anything a fact, the Englishman could not move 'without the shop behind The American could turn his hand to anything, for he was much : than the English mechanic—a state of things which was the un- le result of the subdivision of labour in this country; and the man rown out of work was unable to work at anything else than that to e had been trained.

, in its effects of producing dependent people, arose the 'drink n.' (Hear, hear.) This drunkenness was unquestionably the curse ountry. He had listened to the most interesting speech made in use of Commons by Mr. Chamberlain (cheers), and that gentle- statements as to the terrible results arising from this evil could not adicted, and one point showed beyond doubt that drunkenness was increase. The coroners' verdicts in 1861 were to the effect that this from excessive drinking were 199, and in 1875 the number was a increase of 260 per cent.—while the increase of the population in e years had not been anything like 260 per cent. (Hear, hear.) e were bound to take the fact that where there was an increase perism it arose from the fact that the consumption of alcoholic e was also upon the increase. (Hear, hear.)

best method of encouraging temperance and promoting self-help grooves in which this Society worked, and a Committee was now to inquire into the circumstances connected with the drinking habits people, and to endeavour to bring about a diminution of this evil. .)

most careful inquiry had shown that the way in which the working could be best benefited was by teaching them the advantages of nd self-help. (Hear, hear.) To attain this purpose, not only was required but helpers also. The work so much needed among the ; classes could only be carried out by conversation with the indi- and, indeed, in this personal help was as much—in some cases, more ary than money. In some cases money was not of the slightest use a harmful in fact; and he had known cases where the best means of s in saying to an applicant, 'What you want is not money—it is to give you money—you want a little energy to seek for and find nd an economical use of your money when you have earned it.' To o the cases which had to be thus dealt with, required personal work, could tell individuals in conversation more in five minutes than he scribe in general terms in a speech of an hour; and in these cases tact had done good, while none would have been done—and harm f hundreds of pounds had been forthcoming for the same people. ear.) At the same time that he said this, he must say that money ssary: no society could get on without money, and this Society did many directions, and was ready, moreover, to take any hint of working l for the people by directing attention to the wants of the people, with- , departing from the original principles of the Society—principles with the Chairman, he held were the right principles to proceed upon. .)

This Society gave work and a duty to many. The words, 'Why e here idle all the day?' were not addressed to actual labourers in ay work, but to the class of society represented in that room.

(Hear, hear.) The vineyard in which they were told to work was at hand. Those who came in even thus late would receive the wages which would be given to those who had come in early, and those who remained aloof—those who remained outside idle—would have to answer for that idleness. The workers and helpers in this work would, he was certain, have their reward. (Loud cheers.) He proposed the adoption of the Report.

Mr. A. Pell, M.P., seconded the motion, and said that as his name had been referred to by the noble chairman upon the question of the diminu- tion of outdoor relief in London, he might speak generally upon the subject of charity—not troubling the audience with figures. He came rather late into the work of charity and relief; but having looked into it with great interest, he could bear testimony to this fact: that the dimi- nution of outdoor relief could not have been made if it had not been for the co-operation and assistance of members of this Society, especially of the co-operation and assistance of one who would not like to have his name mentioned. The assistance which this gentleman had given had enabled the Board of Guardians of St. George's-in-the-East (of whose body Mr. Pell is one), to refuse out-relief, and they could not have done this if they had been in doubt as to the question that the applicant's position rested between nothing on the one hand and the workhouse on the other. (Hear, hear.) Personally, he (Mr. Pell) was interested in this question, for his derivative settlement was in St. George's-in-the-East; so that if he ever stood in the position of needing, the relief which he now meted out to others would be meted out to him. (A laugh and cheers.) What the Guardians of St. George's-in-the-East had done was an en- couragement to thrift, and he, having the prospect of his settlement on that parish, was not likely to forget the lesson. (Cheers.)

Now he should proceed to say a word or two upon the subject of charity generally. It was not often that a layman had an opportunity of preaching to parsons, and therefore he would avail himself of his opportunity—there being many of the clergy present—to call to their attention how much the great virtue of charity lost because the clergy did not speak oft more plainly upon the facts when dealing with the subject in the pulpit. (Cheers.) He was speaking at a time of the year when the attention of the public was called from the pulpit of the church and chapel to the necessity of practising this great virtue; but how very frequently was the opportunity lost of teaching the public their responsibilities and their duties because the preacher preferred to look at the subject from a conventional point of view? (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Now, in this way of dealing with charity in the pulpit he should like to see some change. Lord Elcho had told the meeting that the operations of the Charity Organisation Society had been misunderstood—either carelessly or wilfully—and, indeed, the same thing might be said of the great principle of true charity itself. (Loud cheers.) It was often an onerous and disagreeable task to expose to those who had money to distribute that their protégé was undeserving, and that their ideas were wrong. He believed that on every occasion when a member of the Charity Organisation had had to place such unpalatable truths before persons who had asked for facts, those persons left with a sense of disappointment, and, indeed, with an ill-feeling. That mischief—the mis- chief of such feelings existing at the statement of the truth—must be undone, and the clergy would have to undo it. (Hear.) A very mistaken meaning had come to be placed upon the meaning of the word 'charity.' He believed that as man's practices fell below the ideal of that great Apostle who placed so much stress upon the blessedness of 'considering' the poor, the clergy had lowered their principles to meet their practice. (Hear.) There was the mischief; and now principles would have to be raised, and the clergy would have to do it. (Hear.) Principles have been lowered until of all the noble virtues which clustered around the Apostle's idea of charity, nothing now was left, speaking broadly, but the one action of almsgiving—the most dangerous one, and the most selfish one. (Cheers.) Now, alms- giving, to his mind, did not express charity, unless it was given in such a degree that its practice was accompanied by self-restraint and inconvenience at the loss of the money—that, in fact, the giver gave that which was not of his superabundance. (Hear.) What, however, was generally given produced no inconvenience to the giver. Look at the gift of a man who had made a fortune in trade or commerce, and let them conceive the difference between the gift of his money and his time. (Hear.) The gift of money would entail no sacrifice upon such a man; but look at the benefit which such a man would confer if he would but bring his mind to bear upon the question not only of relieving the necessities of his fellow man, but of removing the origin of the need. The gift of his time, too, would be a sacrifice. (Loud cheers.)

The Charity Organisation Society did for people what they could not do for themselves. Its first principle was to inquire into the necessities of cases, and the best mode by which they might be relieved—making these inquiries for those who had not the time or power to make the inquiries for themselves before they gave relief. Now this was a most useful func- tion, and he trusted that it would not be lost sight of in mere money-giv- ing; and also that this Society would not allow itself to become another agency for the distribution of funds. (Cheers.)

As reference had been made to the subject of the diminution of outdoor relief, he desired to protest against the too common idea that if a man became a Guardian he had merely to proceed upon the principle of withdrawing all outdoor relief, and might then rest satisfied with himself that he had done his duty. This, indeed, would be a very erroneous belief. Any man might vote in all cases alike—any man might harden his heart so as to vote for not giving out-relief in any case; but for all that he would fail in his duty. (Hear.) A great opportunity was given to everyone who engaged in this work to inquire into every case by means of the agency of the Charity Organisation, and unless this was done, the action of Poor Law Guardians, in regard to the diminution of outdoor relief, would fail.

In *résumé*, he would say that it is not the duty of the charitable to give money to the poor, but to 'consider' the poor. To quote the Bible and the words of One who was all-wise, we were told, 'Blessed is he who considereth the poor; not blessed is he who gives money to the poor; not blessed the man who practises almsgiving; for the one who practised only almsgiving harmed the poor morally and socially; while considering them, by finding the means of raising them, was the extreme blessedness, and this was the duty imposed upon all who desired to help the poor and honour the precepts of their religion. (Loud cheers.)

The Ven. Archdeacon Hannah, of Brighton, in supporting the motion for the adoption of the report, thanked Mr. Pell most warmly for his lay sermon, and said he should not dispute any one point he had presented, but he thought the clergy would be much obliged for the good discourse about charity which they had heard. (Hear.) He was himself one of those who had had to deal with the principles of Charity Organisation in one of the daughter societies mentioned—that of Brighton. This had been in existence for five years, and in that time it had got to be very firmly organised, and could be reported of as working very fairly in the principles of its parent. (Cheers.) Those principles had now been tried far and wide, and suggestions had come in as to the improvement of its machinery. It was no new claimant in the list of charities; but it was, in fact, a regulating spring in the machine of existing societies. It assumed that societies for the distribution of charity were already in existence; but it was seen that there was both much overlapping in the way of distribution, and much neglect of worthy cases—that while some people were overclothed, others were exposed to draught—that, in fact, better work might be done, and more effectively, with the same means, by the aid of Charity Organisation, which was, in fact, the coping-stone upon the arch of our charities; and without this coping-stone the others would fall and be a mere heap of stones. (Hear.)

Again, it was found in Brighton that, by means of Charity Organisation, a much broader platform had been established than was before possible. People came into the work who were not previously working with the clergy of the Church; brethren of the Nonconformist ministry attended; and both sides found the benefit of union on this neutral ground. (Cheers.) Then, too, relations had been established with the Guardians, with the magistrates, with the police, and with many of the charitable institutions. There had, certainly, been some reluctance upon the part of some of the charities, rather more than on the part of other bodies; but in Brighton the principles of Charity Organisation had secured a large amount of general co-operation. (Cheers.) He should only weaken his case if he put the figures of what had been done in a provincial town by the side of the work done in so enormous a place as London; but he must tell them that the Society had dealt with 16,000 cases, a number, though small in comparison with London figures, yet large for a provincial town. (Hear, hear.) There were two fallacies which people held about the Charity Organisation of which it was worth while to speak: one was that the officers were relieving officers, and the other was that they were policemen. They were neither one nor the other. (Hear, hear.) Sometimes they were considered to be officers to supply the relief which was needed in cases of pressing temporary distress, although the organisation was not a charity-giving society. Then, with respect to the idea of the officer being a policeman, some friends had told him that they did not approve of the clergy hunting up these poor people and preventing some vagabonds getting odd half-crowns. Now, the friends who spoke thus did not consider and did not know the mischief done by those who could speak thus lightly and carelessly of one of the greatest evils of the present day. (Cheers.) He was very glad to hear some very appropriate remarks by the preceding speakers regarding the necessity of personal work in regard to charity. If some of those who had spoken lightly about its being no evil for some impostors to get odd half-crowns would only give their personal aid in the cause of charity, the police officer fallacy would soon be corrected—the personal work of gentlemen, or, what was better still, that of ladies, would soon abolish the idea that the work of the Society was merely to prevent some poor rogue getting his livelihood by his miserable dishonesty. (Cheers.) The Charity Organisation Society was only, as he had said, a regulating spring in the great machine of charity, and its purposes were to be summed up in a few words: all it did was done in the interests of true charity, and it asked that the action of charity should be guided by that noble view of it which St. Paul laid before the world as the greatest of Christian graces. This

was not to be confounded with the selfish indulgence of almsgiving. If charity was the first watchword of a people, discretion should be the second; and the two should be combined, so that true charity should be carried out to the benefit of the deserving by steady personal work. (Cheers.)

The Report was then put to the meeting and adopted *sem. con.*

Mr. Shaw Lefevre, M.P., said he was only a raw recruit of the Society, and had come for the purpose of hearing his friend, the noble lord in the chair, give the full explanation of its work which they had all listened to with so much pleasure. (Cheers.) If he had known, however, that he should have been placed in the prominent position of moving a resolution he should, perhaps, have followed the example of Lord Granville, and sent a cheque in place of making a speech. (A laugh.) As, however, his friend Mr. Ribton-Turner had asked him to move a resolution, he had great pleasure in doing so. The resolution was—

'That this meeting pledges itself to give the Charity Organisation Society every assistance in its power towards obtaining the hearty co-operation of charitable societies and individuals in encouraging a spirit of thrift and self-reliance.'

The exposition by the noble lord who occupied the chair was one which had been listened to with the greatest pleasure (cheers), and for himself he could say that he was convinced the Society had done good work in the past, and was founded upon true and good principles. (Cheers.) The object of the Society was not to repress charity but to organise it, to give it a proper direction, and to make indiscriminate almsgiving give place to true charity, by finding workers as well as givers in the interests of the deserving poor. He entirely concurred in the remarks of Mr. Pell, that mere almsgiving, in an indiscriminate manner, was selfish and mischievous. Upon the same subject Daniel Defoe wrote nearly 150 years ago, and laid down what were truly the same principles as those upon which this Society was founded; and it was interesting to look into the pamphlet which Defoe wrote and see how many of the evils of which society generally complained were then existing. Defoe pointed out that much of the charity which was intended to do good produced the opposite, and also that much of the evil and poverty existing arose from those same habits of drink of which complaint was made at the present day. (Hear, hear.)

In speaking of the objects of the Society, his noble friend in the chair referred to the action taken in regard to the Artisans' Dwellings Act. The Society found, early in its existence, that one of the greatest evils to which the poor were exposed and subjected were the miserable dwellings in which they were lodged; and one of the first legislative works the Society set about was to find a remedy for these evils. (Cheers.) Without wishing to detract from the merit of the present Government in framing the measure, it was but just to say that the main lines of that measure were laid down, after the most careful consideration, by this Society (cheers), and that it was brought forward by Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth. (Cheers.) In consequence of the warm support which was generally given to Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth, it was possible for the Government to take up the question, and to carry through the measure which had earned the gratitude of the public, and would benefit unborn generations of our people. (Cheers.) But, though the Act was passed, there was still much to be done; for it was extremely necessary that this Society should watch the proceedings under the Act, in order to take care that the principles of the Society, so carefully laid down, should be carried out in the details of the work. (Hear.) He had been lately asked to attend a public meeting in St. Luke's, where it was proposed to carry out one of the schemes under the Act, and no fewer than 7,000 persons were to be dealt with in that case. In that scheme there were two grave defects: there was no provision for the people while the places were being built, and, for another thing, the dwellings proposed were not suited to the people; nearly all of them were costermongers—a hard-working and useful class—and they were afraid that the practical effect of carrying out what was intended to be a beneficent measure would be to drive them from the neighbourhood where they carried on their trade, than which no worse thing could be done for them. (Hear, hear.) He hoped, however, that the utmost consideration would be shown to the wants and wishes of these people; and he put it to the Society that a watch should be kept on these things, to see that the principles of the Act were properly and fully carried out in letter and in spirit. (Cheers.) Then he urged that the Society should watch over the endowments given for charitable purposes, and illustrated his views by referring to a town of 8,000 inhabitants, which had forty charities returning about £6,000 a year, and were doing much harm, creating poverty, and causing simulated poverty. He congratulated the Society, not only upon the work it had done and was doing, but upon the fact that it was inculcating its principles of sound administration of relief upon gentlemen who would not allow those principles to be lost sight of. Already the Society had a large band of workers in all parts carrying out the most beneficial work, and animated by the great principles which the noble lord in the chair had so ably described. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. A. McArthur, M.P., seconded the resolution, and said he was connected with the Society on one of its Committees, and had also

received great benefit from its action. It would not be disputed that charity was exercised more freely in this country than in any other part of the world. (Hear.) Especially was there a great exercise of charity in London, and there was no well-authenticated case of distress which would not receive ready help. There were hospitals, homes, asylums, all liberally supported; but, to his knowledge, charity was sadly abused, and thence the greatest injury was done to the deserving poor. (Hear.) This Society, therefore, was necessary; not to damp the liberal feelings, not to interfere with any genuine society in existence, but to direct the streams of charity into the proper channels, and to frustrate the designs of professional beggars, who were not proper objects of charity, but lived by plundering the poor and deceiving the charitable. (Cheers.) As the noble lord in the chair had shown there were upwards of 1,000 charitable institutions in London, whose annual income was between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000 sterling; and he had seen it stated that even £8,000,000 was not too large a sum to fix as the annual income of charitable societies. It was hard to get at the exact amount, for there was no church or chapel but had its fund for charity; but the conclusion must be arrived at that the charity funds of London were sufficient for all the legitimate wants of the poor. Notwithstanding this, however, there was an amount of poverty and wretchedness in London sad to contemplate, so that it was easy to see there must be great waste, and no small proportion of the charity funds grossly misapplied. (Hear, hear.) He then spoke of the benefit he had received from the Society in the detection of criminal impostors. Since these persons had been convicted, he had not been troubled with begging-letter impostors.

Mr. Corbett said he had applied for information to the Society, and had received it very frankly and very fully; but it was marked 'confidential.' It related to persons who advertised for money for charitable purposes, and gave no account of the money so raised. The Society marked its information 'confidential' because it did not want to spend its energies or funds in litigation; but he thought that publicity should be given to the action of such persons as ———. This publicity could be given in the newspapers, and in order to guarantee such publications against lawsuits he would be one who would, with nine others, guarantee £1,000 each. The Glasgow papers had effectually dealt thus with impostors and sham charities, and it now remained to be done in London. (Cheers.)

The Chairman then put the resolution, and it was carried *nem. con.*, and, in reference to the remarks of Mr. Corbett, his Lordship begged to thank that gentleman for the practical offer he had made.

General Cavenagh, who rose amid loud cheers, said he was afraid that the subject upon which he had to speak, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, was one which even the eloquence of the preceding speakers would fail to make interesting. The sinews of war were as necessary in fighting the battle against pauperism and its associated evils as in moving armies, and if the Society was to prosecute a successful issue the contest in which it was engaged, it was absolutely essential that it should receive most liberal support. (Cheers.) He then proceeded to point out how greatly the work had grown, and the great labour thrown upon the Society by the very success of its principles—correspondence pouring in from all parts of the world. He also referred to the necessity for meeting the deficiency in the receipts of the Committees in the poor parts of the town, owing to which great responsibilities were thrown upon the Central Council, whose position, he said, was no longer supported by guarantors as at first. The work the Society had done and was doing, he urged, fully entitled it to the generous and hearty support of the public. He moved—

'That the financial position and requirements of the Society call for the earnest co-operation and support of all who are interested in the welfare of the poor.'

Earl Stanhope said he had the honour to second the resolution, and to say that though he had not, for the last few years, been a worker in London upon the principles of charity organisation, yet he had worked in the county of Kent, where there was a similar organisation extending throughout the whole county. He did not agree with the views of Mr. Lefevre that the Society should enter upon the question of the application of endowments, for there were plenty of other reforms more directly in the Society's work requiring attention, and the public had yet to be made fully convinced of the fact that, to give indiscriminately was not charity, but idleness. Before a person gave a sixpence in the streets, he or she should be convinced that the money would be of good service and was deserved. He ventured to suggest that sheets of tickets should be issued by the Society, as tradesmen and other persons would readily give small sums to the Society in return for tickets; by this means much support would be enlisted for the Society. In regard to charitable institutions, he should like to see the Charity Organisation Society stamp the application books for aid of such societies as had had their purposes and actions investigated, so that the public would know which charities could be with confidence supported. (Cheers.)

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet, who was received with warm cheers, said that

now only one resolution remained, and that was to propose a vote of thanks to the noble lord who had so ably presided. (Cheers.) It was a great gratification to him to see so large a meeting, to witness so much interest, and to find so many new faces: all this bore testimony to the increasing importance attached to the work of the Society, in which he had a deep personal interest. (Cheers.)

Sir Charles Trevelyan, K.C.B., who was greatly cheered on rising, seconded the motion, and said that some years ago he had the happiness of acting with the noble Chairman in public business, and since that time, having some leisure, and purely for conscience sake, he joined this Society. He had reaped a rich reward, for he had found that he was brought into association with ladies and gentlemen who were endeavouring to solve some of the most interesting problems of human life. The noble Chairman had been studying the subject for a fortnight, and Sir Charles wished him joy of what he hoped would be the commencement of a systematic study of new aspects of society, and if the noble lord pursued that study with diligence long years would pass before he completed the training. He seconded with pleasure the motion proposed by Mr. Bosanquet. (Cheers.)

The motion was carried amid loud cheers.

Lord Elcho, in response, said: I have only to express to you, in the fewest possible words—having already troubled you with a great many—my thanks for the kind manner in which this resolution was proposed, and for the way in which you have received it. It has been a great pleasure to me to be here to-day; and it is a great pleasure, because it has not been simply blowing the trumpet of a Society of the advantages of which to the public I am convinced. (Cheers.) I have ventured to make some suggestions, and other speakers have done the same, and I am convinced that whatever has been said has had but one object—and that is, to give permanence and perfectness to this institution. I have said that it has been a pleasure to me to be here; but it is a greater pleasure to have had a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Bosanquet, who sat at the cradle of this institution, and seconded by my old friend and colleague, Sir Charles Trevelyan. As he has told you, some years ago we met together for the work of another organisation. He has said that it will take years to get thoroughly acquainted with all the working of this Society. But there are certain things about it so patent that they must strike anyone who looks upon the organisation with an impartial mind, weighs its work with an unbiased mind, and compares its operations now with what they were originally meant to be. (Cheers.) It has worked well as a society; but look into it and see if it has uniformity in its branches, and if it is subordinate to any one body; for if it is not uniform in working and subordinated to one centre it stands in danger of becoming another alms-giving society instead of being an alms-getting one. It is not necessary that the Society should thus drift; it has two sources of work—in directing the six millions sterling now raised by London charities into the right channels, and in inducing individual workers to give their aid. To see these points will not take months or years; and having seen these points I respectfully submit them to the Council which so well manages its concerns. (Cheers.)

The meeting then closed.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.*

Loan Societies.—With reference to Loan Societies, under the Loan Societies Act of 1840, the Chief Registrar quotes a memorial from the Lords Justices to the Home Secretary, in which they express the opinion that, in the majority of cases, the operation of the Loan Societies works great mischief and misery among the poorer classes. 'Loans are granted in a wholesale and reckless manner by most of the societies, who depend for the ultimate recovery of the sums so advanced upon the power of the magistrate and the policeman. As some evidence of this it may be stated that, while the number of distress warrants issued for the recovery of our entire collection of all the poor rates, gas rents, and water rents, throughout the borough of Leeds amounted to 534, the number of distress warrants issued for Loan Societies in the borough in 1875 was no less than 771, each of these latter warrants generally including two or three persons as principals and sureties.' Friendly Societies are now permitted, under their Act of 1875, to create funds to be lent out; and the Chief Registrar looks forward to the 'growth of a more respectable class of societies in future.' What good work they can do will be gathered from the following figures extracted from the return of Loan Societies for 1875. During that year, out of 83,768 loans granted by 291 Societies, 6,028 summonses and 1,269 distress warrants had to be issued.

Savings Banks.—As regards Savings Banks, the Chief Registrar points out that the 'privilege of nomination for small sums . . . now granted to members of Friendly Societies, of Industrial and Provident Societies, and of Trade Unions, is one entirely adapted to Savings Banks, and which, if put in operation, would remove, probably, the great majority of the difficulties which now arise in cases of the intestacy of depositors.'

Insurance of Children.—Though the Chief Registrar 'is of opinion that the new machinery for payments on the death of children, created by

* Continued from Reporter, No. 206, p. 23.

section 28 of the Act, has been very beneficial' (no society can now pay any sum on the death of a child without the production of the certificate of death, issued on satisfactory evidence by the registrar of deaths), he states that 'the requirement of the registrar's certificate has indeed brought out the fact that the insurance of children beyond the legal limits has been practised in the manufacturing districts to an extent which the Chief Registrar feels himself justified in calling enormous. Although for the last 21 years (ever since the passing of the 18 & 19 Vic. c. 63) it has been penal for the officers of any society knowingly to pay any sum which should raise the whole amount receivable from one, or more than one, society, for the funeral expenses of a child under five years to a sum exceeding £6, or for a child between five and ten years to a sum exceeding £10, the Registrars of Friendly Societies have, since the coming into operation of the new Act, received letters from officers of societies, as well as from individual members and registrars of deaths, which show a perfectly amazing ignorance of the late law on the part of those whose business it was to carry it out.' The following is one of the instances of alleged over-insurance quoted by the Chief Registrar: 'Sub-district of Dukinfield.—Child under five insured in three societies for £6 in each; total £18: i.e. three times the legal amount.' In some cases the law has been defied. At one place the Society paid the legal amount on the required registrar's certificate, and then handed 'over a further sum to the applicants as a present.' A conviction, however, was obtained at the suit of the Chief Registrar. On the other hand, the following provision of the 'Sick Benevolent Burial Society' is quoted by the Chief Registrar as 'worthy of imitation': 'Provided always, that if, upon the report of any person, it appears to a majority of the committee of management, after due inquiry, that any deceased member under the age of 14 years had not been provided with proper and timely medical aid during sickness, or had not otherwise received proper care and attention, adequate food, clothing, or lodging (31 & 32 Vic. c. 122, s. 37), at any time within three months next before his or her death, no money shall be paid by the Society on account of the death of such member.' Finally, the Chief Registrar sums up by stating that he 'feels himself constrained to say that the frequency with which sums exceeding the legal limit are now shown to have been paid on the death of children in Lancashire and Yorkshire appears to him to give a new importance to the question discussed by the "Friendly Societies Commissioners" in Part I. of their Fourth Report (see paragraph 56 and following), of "the bearing of burial benefits on infant mortality," as it is impossible for him to doubt that the sums illegally received by insurers have been largely in excess of the cost of burial.' S. F.

REPORT AND SCHEDULE OF EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS.

PRESENTED BY THE EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS COMMITTEE TO THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR LONDON.

Early in 1875 a Committee was appointed by the School Board 'To consider and report whether, and in what degree, endowments available for the purposes of education within the area of the jurisdiction of the Board, can be properly rendered instrumental in providing for the higher education of scholars in Elementary Schools, and especially for the development of technical instruction; and what measures can be taken by the Board to bring under the consideration of the governing bodies of Endowed Schools and of the Charity Commissioners, the claims of the Metropolitan Elementary Schools in this respect.'

It might have been safely predicted that no very tangible results would follow from the action of a Committee not possessed of compulsory powers, where the persons to be approached possessed the sensitive and tenacious organizations with which the representatives of endowments may be usually credited; and it is manifest from the Report that the Committee encountered considerable difficulties in the prosecution of their inquiries. The Committee, however, may well feel that its time has not been wasted, for the facts it has elicited and the suggestions it has founded on them, will draw attention to the subject, and doubtless influence to some extent the course of events in the future.

The figures obtained relative to the endowments in question are avowedly far under the mark, but with this reservation 'the present return shows that the interests of learning and of labour within the limits of the jurisdiction of your Board have inherited from the munificence of the past an annual revenue of £222,459, of which £208,891 are appropriated to education, and £13,567 to industrial training—a sum which exceeds by £66,879 the whole amount of School-rate assigned at present in the metropolis to the current expenses of elementary education, irrespective of the cost of building, the interest on borrowed money, and the reimbursement of debt.'

The significance of these figures is to be found in the fact that 'the foundations referred to were in the main designed for the support, education, and advancement of poor children belonging to the humblest class, and they have been largely applied for the benefit of children who are not poor, or who are poor in a superior order of life.'

It is only natural that the London School Board, as the body to which the educational interests of the very poor are entrusted, should express concern at this state of things, and it is to be hoped that its influence will be successfully exerted to prevent at least further change in a direction which must be deemed at once unreasonable and unjust.

The Committee maintains that the resources of endowment may be advantageously applied to the support of Elementary Schools, to the establishment of prizes and scholarships, the assistance of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, the distribution of food and clothing, and to the promotion of technical education of a high order. Three members of the Committee dissented from the first suggestion; and most people, we think, would be ready to admit that a proposal to apply endowments 'to the institution and maintenance of public Elementary Schools,' would require at least grave consideration.

The Report asserts that there is 'a limited analogy between the operation of endowment and the operation of voluntary agency. Endowment is a voluntary agency of the past, or present, extending to the future. It is not the less acceptable because it is transmitted, or because it is durable. Surely there is some confusion of thought here. The valuable element in voluntary agency consists in the continuous exercise of the voluntary effort, by means of which a measure of vitality and efficiency is in all probability secured; but in the case of endowment there is no continuous exercise of the voluntary effort; it was exercised once, but once for all, and all that remains is a mechanical supply of funds, which goes on independently of results, and furnishes no guarantee whatsoever that those results are genuine or beneficial. The durability of the endowment—a durability in no way affected by the quality of the work done—is the feature which renders it 'less acceptable' to lovers of progress than voluntary agency, and which vitiates the analogy assumed by the Report to exist between them.

The recommendation that the representatives of food and clothing charities should co-operate with the Board, 'as the Charity Organisation Society has in a measure already done,' is satisfactory, as indicating that the Board is not dissatisfied with the endeavour so far made by the Charity Organisation Society to facilitate its operations; but those who have watched the experiment most closely will be the most ready to acknowledge that any extension of it would require to be very carefully conducted, and perhaps even to be protected, by being made to proceed along certain lines laid down in advance. For example, there can be little doubt that more harm than good would be done by making grants of food and clothing on a *largesse* to the children of able-bodied parents, whose distress was of the ordinary kind, and not due to some unlooked-for and exceptional circumstance. If, however, a proper discrimination were exercised, and sound principles applied, there is no reason to dissent from the opinion of the Committee that many opportunities would be found for bestowing temporary aid of this sort 'in an irreproachable manner.'

The moderate and conciliatory tone of the Report deserves all praise; and if each successive Board maintains the attitude of vigilant attention is regard to the matter which the Committee recommends, there will be good reason to hope that it will succeed in influencing public opinion, and in securing substantial advantages for the cause of elementary education in the metropolis. A. D. G.

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Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 211.

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 29, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge each of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, April 5	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday " 9	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday " 10	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday " 11	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M. Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Friday " 13	11.30, Sub-Committee on District Visiting.

The following business stands for Monday, the 9th of April:—

1. To elect the members of the Administrative Committee for the ensuing year.
2. To elect the Additional Members of the Council.
3. To adopt the Annual Budget Estimate.
4. To consider and adopt the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on Outrelief and Charity.
5. Rev. S. A. Barnett to move: That before a clerk be permanently employed in room of Mr. Howgrave, a Committee be appointed to report on work now done in the Organising Department.

There will be no meeting of Council on Monday, the 2nd of April, being Easter Monday. The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, the 9th of April. The Central Office will be closed on Good Friday, and re-opened on Easter Tuesday.

A special meeting of the Council will be held at the rooms of the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, on Tuesday the 17th of April, at 4 P.M. H. W. Acland, Esq., M.D., F.R.S.,

Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford, will take the Chair. Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., will read a paper on 'Metropolitan Medical Relief.'

The Rev. H. I. Cummins of St. Alban's, Wood Street, will read a paper, at Sion College, on the 19th of April, at 7.30 A.M., on 'The Clergy and Almsgiving.'

NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

REPRESENTATIVES AT COUNCIL.—The attention of District Committees is drawn to the following extract from Rule VII:

The Representatives of District Committees shall be elected annually within one month after the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

District Committees are requested to send the names of their representatives to the Secretary, *not later than Thursday, the 5th of April.*

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.—Two copies of the Annual Report of the Council will be sent to each of the District Committees. Further copies can be had on application to the Secretary.

LAMBETH.—Mr. S. C. Harry and Mr. W. M. Venning have been appointed Honorary Secretaries of this Committee (*pro tem.*) vice the Rev. Allen Edwards, jun., resigned.

WHITECHAPEL.—The Rev. S. A. Barnett has been elected one of the Hon. Secretaries of this Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-Gen. CAVENAGH (in the Chair).

FULHAM:—Sir T. D. Forsyth, Rev. H. Wilson, C. S. Stevens.
PADDINGTON:—Sir B. M. Stephenson, J. B. Holland.
CHelsea:—R. A. Aspinall, Dr. Daniel, Captain Boyce, R.N., W. S. Seton-Karr.
St. George's:—Hon. R. C. Moreton, Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast.
St. James and Soho (Westminster Union):—W. Bousfield.
St. Marylebone:—Major-Gen. Blunt.
Hampstead:—C. E. Maurice.
Islington:—F. Burdett Roberts.
St. Giles's:—H. N. Hoare.
Holborn:—G. B. Baker, T. M. Gorst.
City:—Rev. Harvey Brooks; Rev. H. I. Cummins.
Bethnal Green:—J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford, jun.

WHITECHAPEL:—Rev. S. A. Barnett.
STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
MILLS END:—Hon. H. R. Scott.
POPLAR:—Hon. R. C. Grosvenor.
St. Saviour's:—Russell Barrington, W. F. Smith.
NEWINGTON:—H. Brand.
St. Olave's:—Rev. J. Johnson.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown, W. M. Venning.
CAMDENWELL:—T. Galabin.
SYDENHAM:—C. A. Barry.
WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, C. A. Miner, W. Wightman Wood.

TOTAL:—38.

SECRETARIES:—C. S. Loch, Secretary; C. J. Ribton Turner, Organising Secretary.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, March 15. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the chair; Lord Montagu, Sir Graham Briggs, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major Fitz-Roy, Major Prendergast, Major Yard, Captain Gardner, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Rev. A. Wedgwood, Messrs.

Barrington, Bevan, Brown, Fletcher, Hill, Hoare, Lawrence, Mitchell, Miner, Peters, and Roberts.

At an adjourned meeting of the above Committee on Saturday the 24th there had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major Fitz-Roy, Captain Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Brown and Peters.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending March 17th the receipts had been £90. 19s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £970. 12s. 3d. and £67. 10s. 2d. respectively, £49. 4s. 10d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.*—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 20th inst. there had been present:—

Major Fitz-Roy, in the chair; Miss Howes, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Messrs. Barrington, Bousfield, Fletcher, and Lewis; Messrs. Carpmal and Marshman, and Miss Huntington, visitors.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 20th inst. had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Hon. R. Capel, Major Fitz-Roy, Captain Gardner, Miss Howes.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 21st instant had been present:—

Mr. C. A. Miner, in the chair; Major Prendergast, Rev. H. I. Cummins, and Mr. Burdett-Roberts.

ITALIAN CHILDREN.

The following letter from the Italian Ambassador was read:

[TRANSLATION.]

LONDON, 11 March 1877

35 QUEEN'S GATE, S. KENSINGTON.

VERY REVEREND F. PIUS MELIA.—It was with extreme satisfaction that I read the report you kindly sent me respecting the *Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity*. I am grateful to perceive that the benevolent intentions of the Directors of that good work extend also to those unfortunate Italian boys who have hitherto been victims of the most vile speculations.

In promulgating a very severe law against the traders in children, the Italian Government has done all in its power to extirpate the plague which, until quite lately, has afflicted several of our provinces. But it cannot attain its object as long as the guilty can find shelter with impunity in foreign countries, nor until the unfortunate children who have been taken from their parents find an efficient protection against the abuses to which they have been exposed through the basest cupidity.

It is for this reason that I, for my part, cannot but applaud the charitable intentions of the Directors of the above Society, and our Government will, I am sure, be grateful to those benevolent persons who lend their protecting aid in foreign countries to render efficacious the measures taken in Italy against the shameful traffic in children.

Begging you to express my feelings on this subject to the Directors of the *Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity*, I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) L. F. MENABREA.

THE INQUIRY DEPARTMENT.

The following urgent recommendation of the Administrative Committee was, after considerable discussion, adopted, on the motion of Sir Charles Trevelyan, seconded by Mr. J. R. Hollond, viz.:

That a chief clerk be appointed in the Organising Secretary's department, in the place of Mr. Howgrave.

The Council then adjourned.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of March 1877 was 39,150, and 46,792 received outdoor relief, making a total of 85,942. This was a decrease of 63 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 866, 13,018, and 21,600 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 545. This was a decrease of 76 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 2 on the corresponding day of last year.

* Miss O. Hill was not present at the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 13th inst.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending March 24, 1877:—

Donations:—			£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
Cohen, Mrs. N. L.	.	.	1	1	0	Capper, H. H., Esq.	.	.	1	1	0
Wil Edgeboren Heer	.	.				Carter, W., Esq.	.	.	1	1	0
G. H. Hintzen	.	.	5	5	0	Green, Richard, Esq.	.	.	3	3	0
Wigram, Rev. F. E.	.	.	5	5	0	Lechmere, Sir E. A.,					
Wilson, Miss Jane	.	.	10	0	0	Bart. (1875)	.	.	1	1	0
<i>Annual:—</i>						Do. (1876)	.	.	1	1	0
Abbott, Rev. Dr.	.	.	1	1	0	Do. (1877)	.	.	1	1	0
Ball, John, Esq.	.	.	1	1	0	Stirling, Sir Walter, Bart.	.	.	1	1	0
Battye, Colonel	.	.	1	1	0	Venables, Mrs. Rowland					
Beddoe, J., Esq.	.	.	1	1	0	J.	.	.	2	2	0
Caldecott, J. A., Esq.						<i>District Committee Aid Fund:—</i>					
(1877)	.	.	1	1	0	Angus, Major-Gen.	.	.	5	0	0
Do. (1878)	.	.	1	1	0						

PROVINCIAL.

CHARITY IN CANTERBURY.—The following is an extract from a letter recently forwarded to us:—

'I got your *Parish Magazine* and circulars this morning. We have a sort of Charity Society here, and it is doing some work, but kind-hearted people undo all they can by giving irrespective of it. It is calculated that between £7,000 and £8,000 a year are given away in endowed charities, and people, even comparatively well-to-do tradesmen, are not ashamed to put their friends and poor relations and themselves, if they can, in the way of getting a share. As to the poor (proper), though a man will earn his guinea a week (masons 5s. 6d. a day), not a rap is put by; but when sickness comes, then help is sought and claimed everywhere. The very schools are so gratuitous in their character that one dare not charge any more than 2d. a child, because children can go elsewhere for nothing.'

SOUTHAMPTON.—OUTDOOR RELIEF.—The Guardians of the Southampton Union have issued a notice of the conditions for obtaining outdoor relief similar to those issued by the Manchester Board, and quoted in the *Reporter* for 1876, p. 179.

FOREIGN.

INVESTIGATING CHARITIES.—We take the following from the *New York Herald*:—

'Recent developments must have satisfied every one that the management of all local charities which receive assistance from the public purse should be thoroughly investigated and subjected hereafter to periodical scrutiny. The greatest evil of any dishonest management of these charities is the injury it inflicts on the poor. It diverts from them money intended for their relief, and it discourages liberality on the part of the people. If there is any one offence meaner and more despicable than all others, it is that of putting on the mask of philanthropy for the purpose of robbing the poor. The Committee of the State Board of Charities is doing a good work in probing the affairs of the Juvenile Guardian Society to the bottom and in commencing an investigation of the management of the St. John's Guild. The Master of the Guild should court such an inquiry if its business has been honestly conducted. He will of course admit the authority of the State Board of Charities in the matter, as his counsel implies; but it is to be hoped that he will not consider it necessary to turn what should be, and no doubt will be, a friendly investigation, made with a determination to get at the whole truth, into a sort of legal contest to be fought by sharp lawyers and marred by legal quibbles.'

REPORTS AND PAMPHLETS.

The following is a list of some of the Reports and Pamphlets recently received at the Central Office:—

Annual Report of the Clapham Committee.
 " " Tenby Charity Organisation Association.
 " " Tenby Cottage Hospital.
 " " Manchester Provident Dispensary Association.
 Notes of a Visit to American Institutions for Idiots and Imbeciles. By G. E. Shuttleworth, B.A., M.D., Medical Superintendent Royal Albert Asylum, Lancaster.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—ERRATA.—In *Reporter* No. 210, p. 53, line 3, for 'Lords' read 'Leeds'; p. 54, line 24, for 'Sick Benevolent Burial Society' read 'Leek Benevolent Burial Society.'

BLIND AND DEAF AND DUMB CHILDREN UNDER THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

By the courtesy of the London School Board we are able to present the following papers respecting the blind and deaf and dumb children now being educated in their several schools:—

Victoria Embankment, 9th March 1877.

'Sir,—I must apologise to you for not being able, in consequence of press of work, to answer your letter sooner.

'(1) There are at present 31 blind children in regular attendance, distributed amongst 18 schools. For the special instruction of these children we have a blind teacher and an assistant blind teacher. I cannot tell you the names of the schools nor the ages of the children without obtaining a special report from the blind instructor. As to the cost of their education, it is, of course, a proportionate share of the cost of the schools which they attend, together with a share of the salaries of the two blind instructors, which amounts to £78 per annum. (2) The charge made to the parents is simply the ordinary fee of the school which the children attend. (3) I do not know whether the parents of any of these children are too poor to pay the school fee, but if they are the Board would, of course, remit them. (4) At present the two teachers are sufficient for the purpose. No arrangements are being made for educating a staff of teachers.

'Going over the same ground for the deaf and dumb. Question No. 1 has been answered already. (2) Same answer. (3) Same answer. (4) The staff for the instruction of the deaf and dumb consists of the Rev. W. Stainer and four assistant teachers, the salaries amounting to £540 per annum. At present this staff is sufficient, and no arrangements are being made for educating more teachers.

'Mr. Stainer, I believe, uses lip reading to a certain extent, but, in his view, this is only possible with those letters the articulation of which can be distinctly seen, such as labials and dentals. The system fails when you come to gutturals, &c.

'I do not know the average age at which either the deaf and dumb or the blind are received without getting in a special return.

'I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. CROAD,

Clerk of the Board.

C. S. Loch, Esq.,

Charity Organisation Society.

The following is a list of blind children in Board Schools:—

Names.	Ages.	Schools.
Joseph R.	11	Belvedere Place, Southwark.
Wm. M.	10	" "
Eliz. G.	8	" "
Mary N.	14	Laxon Street, "
Wm. B.	15	Hunter Street, "
Jas. B.	11	Flint Street, Lambeth.
Francis R.	10	Doughty Street, "
Ellen M.	5	Jurston Street, "
James N.	15	Battersea Park, "
Eliz. H.	14	" "
Annie H.	12	" "
Hy. B.	12	Wood Street, Spitalfields.
Geo. G.	11	" "
Geo. M.	9	Turin Street, Bethnal Green.
C. D.	7	" "
M. K.	13	Globe Terrace, "
Geo. A.	12	" "
A. B.	5	" "
E. B.	7	" "
Alice L.	6	Ann's Place, Hackney Road.
F. C. P.	6	London Fields, Hackney.
R. B.	11	Tottenham Road, "
Chas. T.	12	Aldenharn Street, St. Pancras.
H. E.	7	" "
A. S.	12	" "
E. S.	10	Mansfield Place, Kentish Town.
J. McC.	9	Warnington Road, Chelsea.
L. H.	11	" "
E. R.	11	Portobello Road, "
A. G.	11	Upper North Street, Poplar.
E. P.	6	" "

'31 Children in 18 Schools, 16th March 1877.'

We have made the following analysis of the numbers of the deaf and dumb children now being educated under the London School Board, for the quarter ending—

March 1876—East District:	Wilmot Street, Bethnal Green	27
North "	Winchester Street, King's Cross	30
South "	Temporarily at Marlborough Street	12

June 1876—North District:	Winchester Street, King's Cross	33
East "	Wilmot Street, Bethnal Green	27
South "	Victory Place, New Kent Road	17
West "	Bell Street, Edgware Road	5
		82
Sept. 1876—North District:	Winchester Street, King's Cross	33
East "	Wilmot Street, Bethnal Green	27
South "	Victory Place, New Kent Road	23
West "	Bell Street, Edgware Road	8
		91
Dec. 1876—North District:	Winchester Street, King's Cross	35
East "	Wilmot Street, Bethnal Green	28
South "	Victory Place, New Kent Road	30
West "	Bell Street, Edgware Road	10
		103

The following are the rules under which the deaf and dumb children are admitted:—

'Classes for deaf and dumb children are held at the following Board Schools:—Winchester Street, Pentonville Road, N. (near King's Cross); Wilmot Street, Bethnal Green Road, E. (near Bethnal Green Junction Station); Victory Place, New Kent Road, S.E. (near Elephant and Castle); Bell Street, Edgware Road, W. (near the Edgware Road Station). Admission at the Infants' School entrance in each case.

'The children are allowed to bring their mid-day meal with them, and are under care and supervision during the play hours. A brother or a sister may attend with the deaf-mute child, and receive instruction in the Schools. The hours of attendance are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except Saturday.

'Children between the ages of 3 and 13 years admitted on application to the Rev. Wm. Stainer, at Bell Street, at 10 o'clock on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; at Winchester Street at 11 o'clock on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; at Victory Place, at 2 o'clock on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; and at Wilmot Street, at 10 o'clock on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at 2 o'clock on Fridays.'

The Management Committee reports that the classes were at first looked upon as an experiment, doubts being entertained whether a sufficient number of deaf and dumb children could be collected together in one spot: those doubts are now removed.

Near the Winchester Street Board School a temporary Home has been provided, at 74 Pentonville Road, independently of the Board, for those children who live at too great a distance, for board and lodging from Monday to Friday; at this twelve children are accommodated.

Although much has been done within the last two years, much more remains to be done before all the deaf and dumb children, who ought to be under instruction, have the means of education placed within their reach. 'There are in London many more of these children that have not been discovered, notwithstanding the efforts that have been made by the Board's visitors and by the instructor.' The visitors are reminded of the necessity of making continued inquiries, 'especially as the evasive answers frequently given by parents and others make it extremely difficult to find them out, except by frequent visits to the localities in which they happen to reside. Some have been intentionally kept out of the way by parents, partly because they are not totally deaf and dumb, and partly under the impression that they will some day acquire the use of speech. There are, in fact, a number amongst those considered deaf and dumb who are deaf only, or dumb only.'

The instructor reports that he considers 20 should be the maximum of any class as at present constituted.

Upon these returns it is worthy of remark that, although there are twice as many blind as deaf and dumb, the blind under education by the School Board are only 31 on the 16th March 1877, whilst the number of the deaf and dumb at the end of December last was 103. If the answer should be that the greater number of blind children are being educated by charitable institutions, it is useful to compare the very high cost at the latter with the nominal sum charged by the School Board, which is, in fact, only the ordinary school ratio. The School Board, no doubt, affords not only the most proper, but also the cheapest education, and has the duty, as well as the power, to educate every blind child who requires its aid. A new era in the history of education for the afflicted classes is now in operation, and is capable of the largest extension. The very best education can be given at the cheapest rate, and none need go to charity when they can get what they require from the School Board.

No doubt as larger numbers come forward for education the School Board will see the necessity of educating teachers; this is now one of the great wants for both the blind and deaf and dumb.

Although a conference was held, under the invitation of the School Board, on the vexed question of the type to be used by the blind, we do not know what was the decision arrived at by the Board respecting the type by which the blind children are taught.

As to the deaf and dumb, the return gives the opinion of Mr. Stainer, that lip-reading is only partially used, and, indeed, is only practicable to a

small extent. This is a surprise to us, after reading how entirely it is approved in the deaf and dumb institutions, and how successful it has been declared to be both abroad and at home.

The question may, no doubt, be safely left to the wise experience and kindly consideration of the Board, whose only desire can be to utilise the large funds at their disposal, by giving the best education that science can provide.

W. M. W.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

BRITISH WORKMAN'S HOUSE AT WARRINGTON.

SIR,—It is so unlikely that our working class will give up the physical and social comforts of the ordinary public-house until a substitute has been provided for it, and so certain that nothing of this sort will endure and spread which is not founded on a solid commercial basis, that, with your permission, I will make known through our *Reporter* any information which reaches me tending to this important result. The Warrington house also has been a success, and, although I would by no means advise a servile imitation of any single model, it is instructive to see how this success has been attained. The following extract from a recent letter contains the explanation.

C. E. TREVELYAN.

March 21.

Warrington: March 12, 1877.

'We have several reasons to give for our success as a company. We do everything on a commercial system. Our capital consists of £530 in £1 shares paid up. Our house is very centrally situated. We issue monthly tickets to members at 6d. each, annual 4s. each. We charge everyone else who passes beyond the refreshment bar 1d. This brings us about £50 or £60 per annum. Our billiard table brings from £80 to £100; our beds £120 to £140. Altogether we have an income of about £280. This enables us to pay a rent of £105, and taxes &c. in proportion; and, after paying all our other expenses, we paid last year 10 per cent. to our shareholders, a debt of £7 to our capital account, put by £18 to a reserve, and brought forward a small balance. At the end of this year our rent will be increased to £140, so that we shall have to stir about a bit to make this up. We have a very nice reading-room, and shall have a club-room very shortly. Our refreshment-bar belongs to our manager, who, in return for the profits thereon, and house-room, coals, gas, &c., gives his services and those of his wife, and keeps our place in good order and clean.'

COFFEE HOUSES.

8 Lancaster Place, Strand: March 26, 1877.

SIR,—Miss Twining, in her letter of the 17th instant, writes of a want for London of a company similar to the British Workman Public House Company in Liverpool. May I refer to the Coffee Tavern Company, Limited, which was formed in London at the close of 1876, and which in time, I hope, may rival the Liverpool Company.

Sufficient funds are now in hand to start two houses, and in a few days we hope to secure a house in Marylebone and another in the City. A few weeks will then be required for repairs and alterations; but when the houses are opened they will be under the management of gentlemen intimately connected with the British Workman Company of Liverpool.

These two houses, it is very confidently hoped, are but the leaders of numbers of other houses which the Company will seek to acquire and open as funds are placed at our disposal, either by donations towards expenses or by the allotment of shares.

The nominal capital is now £10,000 in £1 shares. The President of the Company is the Right Hon. W. Cowper-Temple, M.P., and amongst the Directors are Mr. H. M. K. Pope, Mr. Hughes, Q.C., Mr. Ernest Hart, Dr. Norman Kerr, and Mr. Sargant. The Directors take no fees.

I shall be very glad to give further information to anyone who may apply to me.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. C. BARNARD.

Honorary Secretary,

Coffee Tavern Company, Limited.

C. S. Loch, Esq.

MEDICAL CHARITIES.

HOW TO FORM A PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—We take the following from the *British Medical Journal* of the 17th instant:—

'The first step towards the establishment of a provident dispensary in a new district is to procure a copy of rules, which may be obtained from the Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, 15 Buckingham Street,

Adelphi, London. Next, a committee of gentlemen interested in the subject should be formed (three or four are quite enough), who, after adopting or altering the rules and appointing the medical officers (two at least), should give such publicity to the undertaking as may be sufficient to bring it to the notice of those classes of society from which it is desired to obtain paying members. This plan is easily carried out in towns, and in them it seems to us very undesirable that any one member of the profession should start what is ostensibly a public institution for his own private benefit. In country places, however, where such an institution could not well be formed, there seems no objection to a practitioner intimating to his poorer patients that he is willing to attend them in accordance with the provident plan, i.e., on condition of their paying a small fixed sum all the year round to secure medical attendance during illness; only he must take care not to advertise himself, or seek to attract any of his neighbours' patients by the scheme. The subject of professional remuneration in connection with these institutions will be found fully discussed in a leading article in the *Journal* for January 3rd, 1874. In some, a fixed salary is paid; in others, the cost of drugs only is deducted from the members' payments, the doctors taking the remainder; while in others, two-thirds of these payments are all tied to the medical officers. In no case, however, ought their remuneration to be considered or spoken of as a gratuity.'

LABOUR AND MENDICITY.—Snub the idle one, solace them of little heart, and be peaceful to all to the heart, for glorious is the fruit of good labours: for the Psalm saith, For thou shalt eat the labour of thy hands, thou art blessed, and well shall be to thee. . . . He that will not work stealth against the Lord's law this that he eateth. For God biddeth,—Utterly a needy man and beggar be not among you; that is to say, suffer not in your default any fall into so great need, that he be needed to beg. And by the same no man should blamefully by idleness, by wretchedness, neither by waste, neither by folly, bring himself to such need. And if he did, men should not give to him that asketh, as is before said. And for Solomon sayeth, the plowman would not in winter ear* for the cold; therefore he shall beg in the summer and there shall not be given him.

Wickliffe's *Apology*, sec. xxx.

* plough.

Just ready, price 3d.

REPORT ON SOUP KITCHENS. By the Co-operation Sub-Committee of the Charity Organisation Society.

Just ready, price 2d.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN GREAT CITIES. With Suggestions for the Better Organisation of Labourers, and the more effectual Prevention of Pauperism at Industrial Centres, by ALFRED HAY HILL, Editor of the *Labour News*, &c.—*Labour News Publishing Offices*, 15 Russell Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

Just ready, price 3d.

'DISTRICT VISITING,' by MISS OCTAVIA HILL. Reprinted from *Good Words*, by the kind permission of the Publishers. Longmans, Green & Co., Paternoster Row, E.C.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

Post-office Orders payable to CHARLES S. LOCH, at the Charing Cross Post-office. Stamps will be received in payment; but Subscribers are reminded that Post-office Orders for sums under 10s. can be obtained for 1d.

Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 212.

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 12, 1877.

Price 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, April 12	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 16	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Tuesday, " 17	3 P.M., Council (for ordinary business). 4 P.M., Council. Special Meeting at the Society of Arts.
Wednesday, " 18	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M. Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday, " 19	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on **TUESDAY**, the 17th instant, at 3 p.m., and not on Monday.

The Sub-Committees on Mendicity and District Work will therefore meet on Monday instead of Tuesday (*see above*).

The following meetings will be held in the course of this month:—

A special meeting of the Council will be held at the Rooms of the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, on Tuesday, the 17th inst., at 4 P.M. H. W. Acland, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford, and President of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, will take the chair. Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., will read a paper on 'Metropolitan Medical Relief.'

The Rev. H. I. Cummins, of St. Alban's, Wood Street, will read a paper, at Sion College, on Thursday, the 19th inst., at 7.30 P.M., on 'The Clergy and Almsgiving.' Members of the Charity Organisation Society will be admitted on presentation of their visiting cards.

A public meeting will be held, by the kind permission of the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House, on Friday, the 27th inst., at 2 P.M.

A public meeting will be held by the Brixton Committee of the Society, at the School-room of St. Matthew's Church, Brixton Rise, on Tuesday, the 24th inst., at 7.30 P.M. Mr. Alexander McArthur, M.P., will take the chair.

A meeting of Metropolitan Clergy will be held on Monday, the 23rd inst., at 2.30 P.M., at Lambeth Palace, to consider the Reform

of Charitable Relief in the Metropolis. The meeting is convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and summoned with the concurrence of the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Winchester, and the Bishop of Rochester.

The following are the names, hitherto received, of the Representatives of the District Committees for the ensuing twelve months:—

FULHAM COMMITTEE: —Rev. H. Wilson, Mr. C. J. Stevens.	WHITECHAPEL: —Mr. C. L. Corkran, Mr. C. Lavers Smith.
PADDINGTON: —Sir R. M. Stephenson, Mr. G. Charles.	POPLAR: —Hon. R. O. Grosvenor, Mr. A. D. Graham.
CHELSEA: —Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel St. George's:—Lieut.-Colonel Sandford, Major Prendergast, Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Mr. R. Dundas.	LAMBETH: —Mr. Douglas Brown, Q.C., Mr. Stephen S. Taylor.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS: —Mr. G. B. Dickinson.	WANDSWORTH: —Rev. C. Carruthers, Miss Gurney.
ISLINGTON: —Mr. H. Mathews, Mr. F. Burdett Roberts.	CAMBERWELL: —Mr. C. W. Chute, Mr. E. Hyde.
STRAND: —Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. H. H. Hill.	GREENWICH: —Mr. T. B. Huntley, Mr. H. Major.
SHOREDITCH: —Mr. J. L. Foster, Rev. H. G. Henderson.	DEPTFORD: —Mr. H. F. Cornish.
BETHNAL GREEN: —Mr. J. Sapsford, Rev. C. Kirtan.	WOOLWICH: —Lieut.-Col. Oldfield, R.A., Mr. S. Toppley.
	LEWISHAM: —Mr. George Parker, Mr. J. R. J. Bramly.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-Gen. CAVENAGH (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON: —Dr. Anderson.	ST. GEORGE'S-IN-EAST: —Lord Dunsany.
FULHAM: —Rev. H. Wilson, C. J. Stevens.	STEPNEY: —E. Peters.
PADDINGTON: —G. Charles, J. B. Holland.	MILE END OLD TOWN: —Lord Montagu, Major D. Nares.
CHELSEA: —W. S. Seton-Karr, Dr. Daniel St. George's:—Major C. C. FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Hon. R. C. Moreton, Mr. Dundas.	ST. SAVIOUR'S: —Rev. W. A. Richmond, F. Montgomerie, W. F. Smith.
ST. JAMES'S AND SOHO (Westminster Union): —W. Bevan, H. Peto.	ST. OLAVE'S: —Rev. J. Johnson, Sir Graham Briggs.
ST. MARYLEBONE: —Major-Gen. Blunt.	LAMBETH: —D. Brown, W. M. Venning.
HAMPSTEAD: —E. Bond.	CAMBERWELL: —T. Galabin.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS: —G. B. Dickinson.	LEWISHAM: —G. Parker, J. R. J. Bramly, R. V. Tidman.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS: —Miss M. Collett.	SYDENHAM: —C. A. Barry.
ISLINGTON: —F. B. Roberts.	VICE-PRESIDENTS: —W. M. Wilkinson, F. D. Mocatta.
ST. GILES'S: —H. N. Hoare.	VICE-CHAIRMAN: —A. H. Hill.
STRAND: —Rev. R. J. Simpson, W. Wightman Wood.	ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: —Sir C. E. Trevelyan, C. A. Miner.
HOLBORN: —T. W. Gorst.	TOTAL: —51.
CITY: —Rev. W. H. Lyall.	SECRETARIES: —C. J. Ribton-Turner and H. Howgrave Graham.
SHOREDITCH: —Rev. H. G. Henderson, J. L. Foster.	VISITOR: —A. F. Fletcher.
BETHNAL GREEN: —J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford.	

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, April 5. There had been present:—

Mr. E. Peters, in the chair; Sir T. Graham Briggs, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Bevan, Hoare, Hill, Miner, Roberts, and Venning.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending March 31st the receipts had been £77. 14s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £833. 5s. 11d. and £72. 10s. 2d. respectively, £49. 4s. 10d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 27th ult. there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Miss Howes, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Messrs. Barrington, Fletcher, Lewes, and Venning (visitor).

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 27th ult. had been present:—

Hon. H. R. Scott, in the chair; Miss Howes, Captain Gardner, Hon. Reginald Capel, Messrs. Aspinall and Bevan.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 28th ult. had been present:—

Mr. C. A. Miner, in the chair; Rev. H. I. Cummins and Mr. Burdett-Roberts.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 28th ult. had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the chair; Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, and Mr. A. H. Hill.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Seton-Karr called attention to a letter from Mr. Brabrook, which appeared in the *Times* of April 4, commenting upon the action of the Lewisham Committee* in posting outside their office the names of persons receiving outdoor relief. He asked what was the practice of other District Committees.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins explained that the Lewisham Committee had taken the course referred to at the special request of the Board of Guardians. The notice displaying the list had, with the consent of the Committee, been erected by the Board in the garden in front of the Lewisham office.

The Organising Secretary stated that in the *Times* of April 9 a letter from the Hon. Sec. Lewisham Committee had appeared, in which he had explained the circumstances under which the weekly lists, posted by the Board of Guardians outside the Union and the relief stations, had been exposed at the office of the Committee. The letter stated that the Hon. Sec. had been informed by the Guardians that the exhibition of the lists had been attended with beneficial results.

The Organising Secretary mentioned that it was a common practice in the Faringdon and other Unions to exhibit such lists on the doors of churches throughout the district.

After some discussion it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. A. H. Hill, to refer the question to the Administrative Committee for further information.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

The list of additional members having been read, the following members were re-elected: Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., G. C. T. Bartley, Esq., J. W. Willis-Bund, Esq., George Blount, Esq., Stephen Fuller, Esq., T. Hawksley, Esq., M.D., G. Howell, Esq., C. A. Miner, Esq., Earl Stanhope, and Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B. And, on the motion of Mr. A. H. Hill, the Organising Secretary was instructed to write to Earl Stanhope and Mr. G. Howell expressing the hope of the Council that, during the present year, they would be able, from time to time, to attend the meetings of Council.

ELECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

On the motion of Mr. J. Sapsford, the following members of Council were proposed as members of the Administrative Committee for the present year:—Sir Charles Trevelyan, Lieut.-General Cavenagh, Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, Major Nares, Captain Fortescue, Sir Graham Briggs, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. R. Barrington, W. Bevan, Douglas Brown, Q.C., H. N. Hoare, J. R. Hollond, A. H. Hill, W. F. Lawrence, C. A. Miner, E. Peters, F. B. Roberts, and W. M. Venning.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson moved, and the Rev. H. I. Cummins seconded, the following amendment:—

That the Administrative Committee for the present year consist of ten members, to be hereafter named.

After some discussion, in the course of which Dr. Daniel and other members expressed themselves in favour of a Committee consisting of a limited number of members,

The Chairman pointed out that, under Bye-law 14—the subject having been already discussed during the present session of Council—no motion of this character could be brought forward till after September; and he also reminded the Council that any of the members were at liberty to take part in and to vote at the meetings of the Administrative Committee.

* See *Reporter*, vol. v. No. 185, p. 120.

The amendment was then put and lost by 26 votes against 12, and the original motion was put and carried.

Letters from Miss O. Hill and Mr. G. B. Dickinson having been reported, and Mr. Dundas having stated that he hoped to be able to attend the meetings, those members of Council were also, on the motion of Mr. Miner, elected members of the Administrative Committee.

THE REPORT OF THE QUARTERLY FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE AND ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATE.

The Report was read by the Organising Secretary. The estimated receipts for the year 1877 were £5,618, as against £5,568 estimated expenditure, the latter item including £1,500 which, it was thought, it would be necessary to transfer to the District Committee Aid Fund to meet the wants of the Committee in the poorer parts of London. The Report further stated that the total estimated expenditure for the year 1876 had been £3,565, while the total actual expenditure had been £5,162. This increase, it appeared, was to be accounted for by the transfer of about £1,150 to the District Committee Aid Fund, by the rent of additional rooms, and by an increase on printing, postage, advertising, stationery, and extra clerkage. The increase in expenditure had, however, been accompanied by a corresponding increase in receipts; the estimated amount under this head having been £3,500, while the total actual receipts were £5,540. The increased receipts had been principally due to an increase of £1,544 in the amount of donations.

The Chairman pointed out that the increased expenditure under the heads of printing and postage was partly attributable to the issue of circulars and appeals, which had, however, considerably augmented the receipts from the general public.

The Report of the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee and the budget estimate were then approved and adopted on the motion of Mr. J. R. Hollond.

REPORT OF THE CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE, ON OUTDOOR RELIEF.

The Report on Outdoor Relief by the Co-operation Sub-Committee was then submitted for consideration.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. J. R. Hollond, Major Prendergast, the Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. Miner, and other speakers dwelt upon the important matters brought forward in the Report; and

After some discussion the adjournment of the debate till Monday, April 23, was moved by Mr. Mocatta, seconded by Mr. Hollond, and carried; Mr. Hollond undertaking to move, on that day, the adoption of the Report.

The Council then adjourned till Tuesday, April 17, at 3 p.m.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the two weeks ending Saturday, April 7, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
Blake, Miss Frances	5	0	0	Aynsley, Capt. Murray	1	1	0
Blunt, Mrs.	0	10	0	Duncombe, G. F., Esq.	2	0	0
E. S.	10	0	0	Egmont, The Earl of	1	1	0
Lambert, Alan, Esq.	1	1	0	Grey, The Earl	5	0	0
Long, The Hon. Mrs.	5	0	0	Holland, Sir H. T., Bart.	2	0	0
Metcalf, Mrs.	0	1	6	Houstoun, G. L., Esq.	1	1	0
Needham, J. M., Esq., the late (legacy per Messrs. Martineau & Reid).	50	0	0	Kennard, S. P., Esq.	2	2	0
Reigate Mendicity Society	1	1	0	Leeds, The Duchess of	5	0	0
Tomline, W., Esq.	5	0	0	Lloyd, Capt. G. A.	1	1	0
Tomline, The Hon. Mrs. W.	5	0	0	Lloyd, Mrs. G. A.	1	1	0
Unwin, Major-Gen.	1	0	0	Loyd, W. Jones, Esq.	10	0	0
West, Mrs.	0	10	0	Nottidge, Miss E.	0	5	0
Wilbraham, Sir R.	1	1	0	Stephenson, Mrs.	1	1	0
				Tebb, W., Esq.	1	1	0

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of March 1877 was 38,901, and 46,831 received outdoor relief, making a total of 85,732. This was an increase of 46 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 237, 11,317, and 20,511 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 585. This was a decrease of 24 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 32 on the corresponding day of last year.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

WHY THE LEADERS OF ARTISAN ORGANISATIONS SHOULD SUPPORT THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

SIR,—The debate which took place a few months ago on Mr. Alsager Hill's motion, for better co-operation with the industrial classes, seems at present to have produced no results. It may be well, therefore, to consider in what way this co-operation could be most effectively brought about; and, as a preliminary step, I would submit the following arguments as the most likely to have weight with the artisan leaders in this matter:—

The Charity Organisation Society has been founded to promote common action between all those who desire to promote both the independence and the comfort of the poor. Ought not the leaders of the Artisan Organisations to co-operate with them? Those organisations, whether they take the form of Trade Unions, Benefit Societies, or Clubs for discussion and friendly intercourse, aim at securing in their different ways the means of self-help for artisans. This is also the object of the Charity Organisation Society; it attempts even to make use, for that object, of that desire on the part of the rich to assist the poor, which has often been used to undermine self-help. It desires to do this, partly by facilitating the finding of employment for those who are out of work, and encouraging them to seek that employment rather than alms, partly by preferring loans as a method of relief to direct gifts; partly by giving, wherever they do give, in such a way as would make it improbable that the applicant should apply again for relief; or, according to the favourite phrase of the Society, 'by giving such temporary relief as shall produce permanent benefit.'

Secondly, some of the Artisan Organisations desire to raise the wages of workmen. Nothing has more tended to keep down wages than that indiscriminate relief which it is the object of the Charity Organisation Society to check. Before the Poor Law Reform of 1834, when the magistrates gave outdoor relief as indiscriminately as many private people give it now, the state of idleness and dependence on the rich has been described by those who remember that time as most frightful; and masters did not care to give in wages that support to their men which those men could get from the rates.

The Poor Law Reform of 1834 no doubt told hardly in many places. One or two causes tended to make it very hard. The freedom of combination was then only partially settled; not only was the Corn Law unrepealed, but there was no prospect of its being repealed; and many workmen were irritated at finding that some of the chief promoters of the Poor Law were opposed to those restrictions on factory labour which have since been passed.

But, apart from these special objections, any change so considerable as that of the Poor Law of 1834 must necessarily have fallen hardly on some people; how then can we put a stop to the check which is placed on high wages and independence by the reckless giving of relief of private persons and charitable agencies, while avoiding such a sudden shock as that given by the Poor Law of 1834? Such a change can, I think, be brought about by the careful sifting and dealing with each case of persons asking for relief, by the Local Committees of the Charity Organisation Society, if only those Committees can be recruited from, or at any rate supported by, men who have personal experience of the real needs of the poor. And this brings me to the third point in which the Charity Organisation might promote the objects aimed at by the Artisan Organisations.

If the names and phrases used alike by Trades Unions and societies like the Odd Fellows mean anything, they point to a desire on the part of those bodies to promote brotherhood among the members. Now, this feeling of brotherhood might be extended still further, if the members of those organisations would co-operate with the Charity Organisation Society. Much complaint has been frequently made of the patronising airs of the charitable rich towards the poor. A complaint of a different kind, but due to something of the same feeling, has been made against the Charity Organisation Society—the charge, namely, of officialism, and submission to hard theories, in dealing with the poor. Both of these evils might be considerably diminished, if those who are nearer to the poor in circumstances, and who had in some cases, perhaps, been in earlier times in need of relief themselves, would co-operate with the often too comfortable members of the existing committees. There would be less fear of patronage from those who understood better the feelings of applicants; there would be less fear of officialism and stereotyped theory from those who could judge of the circumstances of each applicant, and could understand, in each case, those special points which ought to modify general rules.

But it is urged by some that all inquiry previous to giving relief, which is insisted on by the Charity Organisation Committees, is insulting and degrading to the applicants for relief. Now, in the first place, everyone who knows anything of the history of charitable relief, knows how often the givers are imposed upon, and how in many other cases relief is given, from ignorance, in an injurious manner. Independent workmen must know, too, how much they are dragged back in their efforts to improve their class by the thriftless poor, who are encouraged in their bad habits by this kind of relief; and whose conduct is one source, at any rate, of the ignorant prejudices entertained by the richer classes against the poorer. Independent artisans ought, therefore, to be willing to welcome this inquiry, even though it may occasionally fall hardly on deserving people. But nothing could tend more to the reduction of irrelevant and offensive inquiries than the co-operation with our committees of men who, from a knowledge of the probable circumstances of the applicants, could point out what were the questions that it would be most desirable to put.

There is another objection felt by many leading artisans towards the Charity Organisation Society, which it is necessary to touch upon. They consider that the support given by many Committees of that Society to the *Labour News* puts the Charity Organisation Society in direct antagonism to Trade Unions, because that organ, amongst other parts of its work, supplies information to employers as to where they will find workmen; and thus it is supposed that in case of a strike the *Labour News* would be practically the friend of the employer against the Trade Unions. Now, in the first place, no one can be better aware than the skilled artisan that there is a large field of labour which is not recognised by their Trade Unions, and to which, it must be owned, the Trades Unions in the Welsh strikes of 1875-76 showed themselves somewhat ungenerous. Now, it is with this kind of 'broken labour,' as it has been called, that the *Labour News* is principally concerned; and though it may be said that Mr. Kenny's 'Labourer's League' has attempted to supply the place of a Trade Union towards this kind of labour, yet, in the first place, that league is as yet in its infancy; and, in the second place, the *Labour News*, so far from taking up an attitude of hostility to the league, has more than once called attention to it, and spoken of it in terms of encouragement. And even if the information given by the *Labour News* were occasionally supplied to

employers whose men were on strike, surely it is not for trade unionists to say that their cause can only be supported by the suppression of facts. If they will turn to 'Kingsley's Memoirs,' they will see that Kingsley, who disliked the cut and dried theories of political economists, and was bitterly prejudiced against manufacturers, yet looked forward to the establishment of a *Labour News* as one of the outcomes of the Christian Socialist Movement.

The question then remains, how this co-operation is to be brought about. I would say generally, first, by readiness on the part of workmen to act on the Committees of the Charity Organisation Society; secondly, by a readiness on the part of trade unionists to use any information that they may have gained for the benefit of that poorer class who come specially under the cognisance of the Charity Organisation Society. Thus they might afford information, where the investigations of our Committees and the *Labour News* alike fail to give it, of the general condition of the labour market in various parts of England. They might make suggestions both as to the possibilities and methods of saving in certain trades, and thereby help us to judge better what we ought to require of, and what we ought to do for, the applicants. Lastly, the Council of the Trades Unions, or some such body, might do for the Charity Organisation Society what they have already done for Sir Fitzjames Stephen—that is, they might invite some one to come and expound to them still more in detail the objects and methods of the Charity Organisation Society. If there are any other ways in which these bodies could co-operate for their common objects, we might discover them by a conference between the Charity Organisation Society and some of the leading artisans.—Yours obediently,

C. E. MAURICE.

BLIND CHILDREN UNDER THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

The following paper, containing the conclusions arrived at by the School Board respecting the instruction of the Blind, has been forwarded to us:—*

'SCHOOL BOARD FOR LONDON.—SCHOOL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT.—INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND.

The following were the conclusions arrived at by the School Management Committee of the Board, after a careful consideration of the opinions expressed at the Conference held at the Board Offices on July 21, 1876, for the purpose of inquiring into the various systems employed in the instruction of the Blind in reading. The Conference was attended by representatives of the various systems, and by several Members of the Board:—

(i) That one uniform system for reading books for the Blind is much to be desired.

1. The effect of the present diversity is to divide into various conflicting channels that charity by which alone books for the Blind are produced, and thus seriously to limit the practical benefits of that charity to the Blind themselves.

2. Because the small supply of literature for the Blind by this diversity is practically rendered still smaller. To individuals, that small supply consists of two great classes—a class on a system which they can read, and a class on systems which they cannot read.

(ii.) That the system in use for the Blind should be, with possibly very slight modifications, the same as that in use for the seeing—viz., the Roman. Whilst some advantages appear to belong to each of the other systems, and some disadvantages appear to belong to the Roman, yet, on the whole, the Roman character is most desirable.

1. Because it is the accepted character of the country, and therefore is most favourable to unity.

2. Because children appear to acquire and, with well-printed books, to retain in manhood their power to read it.

3. And especially because, with books in this character, ordinary School Teachers could everywhere teach a blind child, and ordinary persons could everywhere help a blind child. The unfortunate child would be, so far, in the natural course of things.

(iii.) The Committee are further of opinion that it is not in the power of the Board to do more than record these conclusions, and then accept the present state of things. They, therefore, recommend:—

* See Reporter, No. 211, p. 57.

1. That, as books in the Roman character are at present somewhat imperfectly produced, and as books in Dr. Moon's characters have been already partially adopted, the use of Dr. Moon's books in the Board Classes for the Blind be, for the present, continued.

2. That the Committee be authorised to procure books in Roman type for experimental use."

The Resolutions adopted by the Board were—

1. That for the present the use of books for the Blind, in Moon's characters, be continued.

2. That the School Management Committee be authorised to procure books for the Blind, in the Roman type, for experimental use.

G. H. CROAN, Clerk of the Board.

RETURNS FOR MARCH.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the five weeks ending Saturday, March 31, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Enquiries for other Committees	Remarks			
	Not requiring relief	Undergoing Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment Letters for hospitals &c.					Class total		
Kensington	40	36	76	2	13	15	27	4	21	..	23	166	58	14	..	
Fulham	2	2	4	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	37	..	..	..	
Paddington	5	2	7	..	15	2	20	14	..	12	36	87	12	..	..	
Chelsea	6	1	7	1	17	4	22	23	3	5	10	41	85	15	..	
St. George's	10	4	14	..	1	2	3	18	1	..	..	19	..	..	..	
G. Committee	14	9	23	..	19	9	28	25	5	..	2	32	191	..	..	
St. James's and Soho	9	8	17	..	4	2	6	10	1	..	11	48	22	..	..	
Westminster	5	7	12	..	39	31	74	12	11	9	32	143	21	..	..	
St. Marylebone	1	1	2	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	4	12	4	..	..	
Hampstead	6	1	7	..	31	10	41	..	..	..	5	13	4	..	..	
North St. Pancras	22	10	32	..	56	12	71	..	1	..	4	122	18	..	..	
South St. Pancras	17	4	21	3	56	7	63	5	2	..	7	117	30	..	..	
Islington	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	18	39	..	..	..	
Hackney Union	4	3	7	..	24	5	29	13	3	..	17	77	..	..	..	
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	6	8	14	..	7	21	10	4	..	..	14	7	..	..	..	
Strand	7	..	7	1	52	4	57	4	3	..	7	23	..	..	..	
Holborn	1	2	3	..	5	11	16	8	4	..	12	23	..	..	..	
City	7	3	10	..	12	13	25	5	4	..	4	43	62	..	..	
Shoreditch	6	6	12	1	10	16	26	5	1	1	10	44	..	..	..	
Bethnal Green	4	2	6	..	15	21	4	6	2	7	19	30	..	..	..	
Whitechapel	16	8	24	..	17	41	21	..	1	..	22	79	..	..	..	
St. George's-in-the-East	21	6	27	..	14	9	23	3	4	..	3	30	77	..	..	
Stepney	9	4	13	..	2	15	3	2	..	..	17	32	..	..	..	
Mile End Old Town	5	3	8	..	11	8	19	1	1	..	3	26	..	..	..	
Poplar	21	6	27	..	14	9	23	3	4	..	3	30	77	..	..	
St. Saviour's	9	4	13	..	2	15	3	2	..	..	17	32	..	..	..	
Newington	5	3	8	..	2	11	3	6	1	..	3	19	21	..	..	
St. Olave's	9	2	11	..	8	15	23	14	7	..	21	40	..	..	..	
Lambeth	6	12	17	30	7	2	9	8	..	2	10	54	10	..	..	
Brixton	2	..	2	..	1	1	1	1	2	..	4	7	..	..	..	
Wandsworth and Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Battersea	1	5	6	..	1	1	19	3	..	1	23	3	11	..	..	
Clapham	..	2	2	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	5	11	8	..	..	
Canterbury	3	4	7	..	6	16	5	27	4	2	..	6	4	2	10	..
Grove Lane	..	5	5	..	3	8	3	..	..	..	11	21	..	..	..	
Peckham	1	5	6	..	2	7	11	11	15	..	4	30	51	17	..	
Greenwich	2	2	4	..	2	6	1	2	..	..	3	9	1	..	..	
Deptford	3	2	5	..	14	19	2	5	2	6	15	46	1	..	..	
Woolwich	2	1	3	..	1	4	6	4	1	8	19	24	22	7	..	
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	4	..	14	19	6	7	..	
Totals	271	170	441	28	465	513	706	315	112	50	94	571	232	112	104	..

PROPOSED MEETING IN THE CITY.

A deputation attended the Lord Mayor on the 28th ult. There were present, Lord Dunsany, Lord Monteagle, Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., Rev. Harry Jones, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. F. D. Mocatta, Mr. Dudley Smith, Mr. Hugh Smith, and the Secretary. The Lord Mayor received the deputation most courteously. The Secretary regretted the absence of Lord Lichfield, from whom he had received a telegram saying that he was unable to join the deputation, and submitted a requisition for a meeting to be held in the Mansion House. The requisition was signed by partners in the following important City firms: Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, & Co.; Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co.; Baring Brothers; Roberts, Lubbock, & Co.; Peek, Winch, & Co.; C. J. Hambro & Son; Prescott & Co. &c.; and also by the Revs. Harvey Brooks, H. I. Cummins, and others. After a few words from Mr. S. Morley, M.P., the Lord Mayor expressed his ready assent to the request of the deputation, and a meeting was then arranged for Friday, the 27th inst., at 2 P.M.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 213.

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 19, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.

By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.

By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.

By repressing mendicity.

Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loeh, 15 Buckingham Street, W., will be happy to furnish further information.

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Meeting of Council—'Metropolitan Medical Relief'

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

ay „ 23 ... 3 P.M., **Council.**
ay „ 24 ... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
esday „ 25 ... 2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
3 P.M. Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
sday „ 26 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

Following business stands for Monday, the 23rd inst.:

The Administrative Committee to submit to the Council the following for decision:—

Whether the Council consider it advisable to place outside the offices of the Committees lists of those in receipt of outdoor relief?

Mr. J. R. Hollond to move the adoption of the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on Charity and Out Relief.

Mr. H. I. Cummins informs us that he will move the following amendment to the motion for the adoption of the above:—

That the best thanks of the Council be given to the Sub-Committee in recognition of the care with which they have drawn up their able Report; and that be referred back to them with a request that they would so far modify the same as that it should not seem to commit the Council of the Society to the principle of the absolute abolition of Outdoor Relief.

Following is a further list of the names of the Representatives of the District Committees for the ensuing twelve months:—

STON COMMITTEE:—Dr. Anderson, W. Probyn.
ST. PANCRA'S:—Mr. Reiss, Miss A.
N.:—Capt. Fortescue, Mr. Sheep-
S.:—Rev. W. A. Richmond, F. P. Smith.

ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. Joseph Johnson, Sir T. Graham Briggs, Bart.
BATTERSEA:—Mr. F. Green, Mr. T. E. Hardy.
CLAPHAM:—Mr. Bowyer, Mr. Etches.
SYDENHAM:—Mr. Day, Mr. Barry.

Following notice has been forwarded to us by the Secretary of the National Health Society:—'A course of lectures on the following subjects will be delivered, under the auspices of this Society, in the Rooms of the Society of Arts, Street, Adelphi, at 4.30 P.M. May 9: Miss Octavia Hill, on "Spaces." Chair to be taken by His Grace the Duke of

Westminster. May 16: W. H. Corfield, Esq., M.D., "Knowledge the True Enemy of Disease." May 23: Arthur Ransome, Esq., M.D., of Manchester, "How to Prevent the Spread of Epidemics." June 6: Rev. Harry Jones, M.A., Rector of St. George's-in-the-East, "Homes of the London Poor." June 13: Ernest Hart, Esq., M.R.C.S., "Coffee Taverns for the People." June 20: Dr. Bridges, F.R.C.P., "The Influence of Civilisation upon Health."

Members of the National Health Society (subscribers of One Guinea) are entitled to a ticket for the course. Fee for the course, 5s.; single admission, 1s.; reserved seats, 5s. for each lecture, or £1. 1s. for the course. Special arrangements can be made for Schools, Nurses, Bible Women, and Domestic Servants. Communications to be addressed to the Secretary, 44 Berners Street, Oxford Street, W. Tickets to be obtained at the office, 44 Berners Street, W., or can be forwarded by post on application. Payments can also be made at the door.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Mr. A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—J. W. Probyn.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Major FitzRoy.
NORTH ST. PANCRA'S:—A. N. Butt.
SOUTH ST. PANCRA'S:—Miss Gibson.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford.
WHITECHAPEL:—Lavers Smith.
ST. GEORGE'S-IN-EAST:—Lord Dunsany.

ST. SAVIOUR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.
LAMBETH:—W. M. Venning.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramly.
ADDITIONAL MEMBER:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan.
TOTAL:—15.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loeh.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, April 12. There had been present:—

Mr. E. Peters—subsequently Lieut.-General Cavenagh—in the chair; Sir Graham Briggs, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Bevan, Brand, Hoare, Lawrence, Miner, Tidman, and Venning.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 10, there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Hon. R. Grosvenor, Hon. J. Lawrence, Messrs. Bousfield and Lewes, and Mr. W. M. Venning, visitor.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 10, had been present:—

Captain Gardner, in the chair; Major FitzRoy, and Mr. Bevan.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 11, had been present:—

Mr. C. A. Miner, in the chair; Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Corrie and Hill.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 11, had been present:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan and Major FitzRoy.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending April 7th the receipts had been £57. 5s. 9d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £849. 4s. 5d. and £72. 10s. 2d. respectively, £49. 4s. 10d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—That grants had been made to the following Committees:—Newington, £30; Bethnal Green, £20, and Stepney, £48. Also that £40 had been advanced as a loan to the St. Pancras (South) Committee; the amounts granted since the 1st of October last, inclusive of the above sums, being—Newington, £100; Bethnal Green, £100; Stepney, £148, and South St. Pancras, £100.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, April 14, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
Ballard, G. A., Esq.	2	2	0	Antrobus, Mrs. R. C.	1	0	0
Rhodes, Mrs. E.	0	5	0	Hertalet, C. J. B., Esq.	1	1	0
Turner, Mrs.	100	0	0	Sawyer, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Whitear, Miss	1	0	0				

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL.

MEDICAL RELIEF IN THE METROPOLIS.

The Special Meeting of Council was held at the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, at 4 P.M. on the 17th inst. Dr. Acland, Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford, and President of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, was in the chair. There were present: Earl Stanhope, Lord Dunsany, Sir Rutherford Alcock, Sir Francis Lycett, Hon. Reginald Capel, Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Rev. Harry Jones, Rev. J. F. Kitto, Messrs. G. C. T. Bartley, Courteney Boyle, Meysey Clive, Danby F. Fry, G. Gulliver, Henry Hansard, H. N. Hoare, J. W. Probyn, G. A. Spottiswoode, and several Members of Council.

The following gentlemen, amongst others connected with the Medical Profession, were also present:—Sir William Gull, Messrs. Ford Anderson, Robert Bridges, J. H. Bridges, R. Boyd, R. Brudenell Carter, Fairlie Clarke, Maurice Davies, W. Guy, H. B. Donkin, J. Langdon Down, J. G. Glover, A. Cooper Key, R. J. Lee, T. Lowas, P. H. M. Mackellar, H. W. Plant, B. W. Richardson, P. H. Pye Smith, A. P. Stewart, J. Watts, Charles West, Hugh Davies, J. Eric Erichsen, Ernest Hart, Charles Hawkins, G. Prescott Hewett, Jabez Hogg, Timothy Holmes, Edward Nettleship, and John James Powell.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said that the subject which had brought that meeting together was one which, he need not say, was one of the most intricate social questions of the day, and was of increasing importance and interest. It was to be observed that the question had obtained its present magnitude in the memory of every one present; for the system of which complaint was made was only of a few years' duration, and it had only lately become of so great importance. Those present could not fail to derive both instruction and interest from the paper and from the discussion which would follow, for they well knew the great ability of the writer, and the distinguished character and attainments of the gentlemen who proposed to take part in the proceedings. The speaker expressed his great regret that Mr. Selater-Booth, the President of the Local Government Board, Mr. Stansfeld, the late President of the Local Government Board, and other Members of Parliament, who had on former occasions given proofs of the interest they had taken in the subject, had been detained by their duties in the House, but he trusted they would be present before the end of the proceedings. He then called upon Sir Charles Trevelyan to read his Paper.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said his object was to review seven years' progress, and to propose a fresh departure on generally agreed bases with respect to this often discussed question. Many unfortunate results flowed from the central fact that more than one-fourth of the population of London receive gratuitous medical treatment. Our people never had been, and never could be, effectively treated in this way; there was a great misdirection and waste of charitable funds; to hundreds of thousands this system had been the entrance-gate to those habits of dependence for which our London population were unhappily distinguished beyond the rest of their countrymen; and the medical profession was deprived of its just and necessary remuneration, which reacted to the detriment of the public in many ways. The first attempt to remedy this state of things was made by the late Sir William Fergusson and the Committee and Sub-committees which acted under him in 1870, whose work was taken up by the Charity Organisation Society, commencing with a conference at which Mr. W. H. Smith presided, and Mr. Stansfeld, Dr. Acland, and others assisted; and in 1875 a remarkable memorial was presented to the British Medical Association by 303 members of the profession, including Fergusson, Jenner, Gull, Prescott-Hewett, Erichsen, and other leading men, pointing out that hospitals and dispensaries should be brought into harmony with the improved social and political condition of the industrial classes and the increased length and expense of medical education. The real question was, how to provide for the ordinary

medical treatment of the lower-middle and working class. The hospitals would always be open to serious and difficult cases, but these bore but a small proportion to the every-day class of trivial ailments (including those of women and children) which must be properly attended to, if our population was to be maintained at a high average of health. The slender resources of a working man were soon broken down by 'doctors' bills,' but there were few who could not afford a small payment made from month to month on the principle of mutual assurance. For this each family obtains, not as an act of charity, but as a right, medical attendance and medicines at their district dispensary, or, if need be, at their own homes; and they also have the privilege of selecting their own medical attendant from among the officers of the dispensary. The advantage to medical men was that there were no bad debts, and no small bills to collect, all the payments being made in advance, not to the doctor directly, but to the secretary. Provident dispensaries were impossible in the interior of London in the face of unlimited gratuitous relief, but the out-patient department of St. George's Hospital had been so regulated that three provident dispensaries were carried on in its neighbourhood, and others had been established in the suburbs. The special hospitals had to a great extent acted upon the recommendation of Sir William Fergusson's Committee, that patients should contribute according to their means; and the reform of the entire system of medical relief had been facilitated by the recent action of the poor-law authorities; for, as the upper and middle classes took care of themselves, while the lowest class was now satisfactorily cared for by the poor-law, the question had been narrowed to the working class, who could all contribute something towards a common purse for their medical treatment. By encouraging the practice of issuing 'subscribers' letters' and favouring the elementary as compared with the self-supporting principle, the influence of the Hospital Sunday Council had been adverse to reform, while the provident dispensaries suffered from the discontinuance of the annual sermons which used to bring their wants before the inhabitants of the district. The principle of the Hospital Saturday Fund—that those for whose benefit hospitals and dispensaries were established should contribute towards their maintenance, and have a share in their management—was unquestionably sound, but it would be more effectually promoted, if, instead of making a general collection and a general distribution, the working men took the matter into their own hands and established any requisite number of provident dispensaries. The practical proposals recommended as the basis of future action were:—

1. Out-patient letters should be abolished, and admission to the out-patient departments of hospitals should be confined to those cases which, on account of their urgency, difficulty, or other peculiarity, require hospital treatment, while ordinary trivial cases should be referred to provident or, if the applicants are paupers, to poor-law dispensaries. When patients suitable for hospital treatment appear to be unsuitable as objects of charity, they should be required to pay at prescribed rates or to have their circumstances inquired into.

2. The existing free dispensaries should be converted into provident dispensaries, and new provident dispensaries should be established in proportion to the wants of the population. For this purpose the upper and middle classes should come to the aid of the working class until the dispensaries become entirely self-supporting, and some portion of the abundant resources derivable from obsolete metropolitan charitable endowments might with advantage be applied to providing the requisite buildings; but, from the first, not less than half the managing committee of each dispensary should be elected by the members, the remainder being appointed by the honorary subscribers.

3. For the double purpose of securing the prompt admission of cases requiring the special resources of a hospital, and of increasing the supply of instructive cases for medical education, the medical officers of provident and poor-law dispensaries should be authorised to recommend for treatment in the neighbouring hospitals such cases as, from their peculiar or difficult character, or from their requiring prolonged clinical treatment, can best be dealt with in a hospital.

By drawing closer the connection between hospitals and dispensaries two desiderata of the present state of the medical profession would be supplied. Regular means of instruction would be provided in the domiciliary treatment of disease, including the everyday class of domestic complaints which form so large a part of the business of the medical practitioner; and the difficulty of surmounting with safety and credit the critical interval between the completion of professional education and the establishment of a satisfactory practice would be diminished. When students had finished their course at the hospitals, they could not have a more suitable field for acquiring varied experience and laying the foundation of a professional reputation, earning meanwhile an income, which, although moderate, would suffice for their support, than by obtaining an appointment at a provident dispensary, and engaging actively in visiting patients at their own homes, as well as attending them at the dispensary.

Sir Charles concluded by stating: 'In all this we ought to remember that

we are an imperial people, and that the prevailing arrangements here are reproduced, by the mere force of habit, in our colonies and dependencies. The transplantation of our hospital system to Victoria is described as follows in a recent letter from Melbourne:—"The old colonist, always a tremendous boaster and immensely proud of anything *colonial*, will be sure to point with pride to the large hospitals, the benevolent asylums (in plain English, *workhouses*), refuges, and dispensaries; and with much self-glorying will point to them as evidences of the immense charity of his fellow-colonists. Were he less ignorant, he would be not proud but *ashamed of them*. In Melbourne, a young city of 230,000 people, surrounded by a large, fertile, and almost uninhabited district, where labour commands high wages, may be seen vice, poverty, misery, and squalor equal to that in any town of similar size at home. If the people would but leave the town for the country much misery would be obliterated. But the Victorians, ignorant of the true causes of poverty, and unmindful of what has occurred in other countries, foster and encourage the growth of all these evils by spending fabulous sums in ill-directed charity. In London the doctor is often disgusted by seeing well-dressed and well-to-do patients seeking gratuitous medical aid, but in Melbourne he would be still more shocked by seeing patients driving to the hospitals in broughams; female patients and their friends rustling in silks and gaudy costly jewellery; and shopkeepers, wealthier than the doctor, occupying his time and exhausting his energies—without paying a farthing."

The Chairman then spoke upon the several points dealt with by Sir Charles Trevelyan, and, as a first duty, thanked Sir Charles on behalf of the meeting. He then informed the meeting that Sir William Gull would move the following resolution: "That the improvement of the people of London in health and habits of thrift and independence demands that, while, on the one hand, out-patient departments should be regulated so as to secure the prompt treatment of cases requiring the special resources of a hospital, on the other, free dispensaries should be converted into provident dispensaries, and new provident dispensaries should be established in proportion to the wants of the population."

Sir William Gull, speaking as consulting physician to Guy's Hospital, said that they were all agreed that the conditions attendant upon gratuitous medical relief in this country were unsatisfactory. It had not always been unsatisfactory, but they were agreed that each year it was now becoming more and more so, in consequence of the conditions of the advance of society, as the chairman had stated. Going back 40 or 50 years, they would find that at that time the poor law department took little care of the sick poor, but they were now drafted into the Poor Law Infirmarys, where they met with the same skilful attendance as they would receive in the large hospitals. Above the very poor, were a class of persons who were not able to pay largely, but who considered that they ought to pay something for medical relief—a spirit which betokened independence, and which recognised the indisputable rights of medical men. The animus of the profession was, he was proud to say, to bestow relief at any moment upon any who were in need, but the excess of this virtue sometimes made it almost a fault. That generous spirit should be respected by the public, but, as a matter of fact, it was not yet sufficiently respected. There was a great idea that medical relief cost nothing to those who gave it, and it was therefore thought by many that it should be given for nothing. That was a mistaken notion. It was a mistake as regards the profession, and a mistake as regards society at large. It put the labour of the medical man in a false position, and it placed the profession at a disadvantage. Therefore it was that those who were present would feel that the medical need of the class above the pauper class would be met by the establishment of provident dispensaries. It was not that these were required by the members of the medical profession, who could bear the burden and the loss, as they had hitherto done; but because, as matters now stood, the poor thought little of medical advice, except in the sense of taking drugs and swallowing physic. If provident dispensaries were established, and the medical men attached thereto were in the habit of visiting patients at their own homes, the best influences would be brought to bear upon the domestic life of the poor. At present the poor had an idea that disease came from Providence, and that it must be cured by drugs. Now if there was a mischievous idea which ought to be got rid of, it was that. Children were often brought to a medical man to be drugged, when they really wanted and ought to be washed. The poor had an idea, when ill, that if they could only swallow so much medicine they must get well again. He believed that one of the effects resulting from that meeting would be to spread the knowledge that disease could be prevented by hygiene, by good food, by careful cooking of the food, and by wisely regulating its amount and insuring its quality. That we should find standing at one corner of a street a gin palace and at the other a medical dispensary was, in his opinion, a monstrosity. He was certain that many people were intemperate more from habit than design. They had an idea that it was necessary 'to take something' in order to 'fortify' themselves. When a medical man went to make a post-mortem, the brandy-bottle was invariably brought out, and he was

asked, 'Won't you take something to fortify yourself, sir?' He felt sure that the establishment of provident dispensaries would create a feeling of independence among the people who received medical advice. Then with regard to the use, or the abuse, of the great hospital charities. It was well known that many people came to them who ought to pay. In one sense it was a sort of compliment to the hospitals. There was a feeling prevalent that the great hospitals were so well managed that in some cases people would put off their best clothes and don poor apparel in order to consult medical men at the hospitals. That was, however, a feeling to be discouraged; but people would, in some instances, be dishonest if they thought that by such means they would be able to obtain a better kind of advice. Sir Charles had suggested that there should be no out-patient letters issued, but he (Sir William Gull) considered that they were needful in those cases in which it was necessary to obtain treatment for special diseases, such as diseases of the skin, eyes, &c. He considered that by encouraging the lower classes to help themselves, it would in reality have the effect of increasing their intelligence, and at the same time it would be striking a blow at bad habits. They would all agree in general terms that the present organisation or want of organisation of medical charities required altering. The out-patient departments of most of the large hospitals were a comparatively novel innovation, and were often in many ways, by their operations, detrimental both to the hospital and to the patients, and they might, he felt sure, be curtailed to the advantage of both. They were told that in charity they ought not to let their right hand know what their left hand did; but with regard to hospitals, at any rate, the precept must be most carefully interpreted. Many people came to him claiming charity, and when he did not know them, he referred their cases to the Charity Organisation Society for inquiry. He was personally much indebted to the Society for the pains they took in such cases, and he felt bound to say that their inquiries were conducted so as not to hurt the feelings of anyone. He claimed that those present had met for an entirely unselfish purpose. They had come forward for the purpose of advancing the good of the community, and not with the idea of advancing the gains of their profession. Every class of society should rely upon itself as much as possible to obtain the means of life, and, when overtaken by sickness, to secure the best way of recovering health. The resolution which he had to propose to them was worded in general terms. It would not commit them to any specific action, and he had no doubt that it would meet with the unanimous acceptance of the meeting. In conclusion, he moved the resolution as follows, viz.:—"That the improvement of the people of London in health and habits of thrift and independence demands that, while, on the one hand, out-patient departments should be regulated so as to secure the prompt treatment of cases requiring the special resources of a hospital, on the other, free dispensaries, and new provident dispensaries should be established in proportion to the wants of the population."

Mr. Prescott Hewett, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, said that after the very able and exhaustive speech which they had heard from Sir William Gull, it would not be necessary for him to detain them with any remarks. He most cordially concurred in all that Sir William Gull had said.

Sir Rutherford Alcock said that he would not long delay the meeting. They had listened with great pleasure to the exhaustive and excellent paper which had been read to them by Sir Charles Trevelyan, and they were all agreed as to the extent and the nature of the evils which he had there dealt with, and which were attendant upon the gratuitous and indiscriminate bestowal of medical relief. Whether the individuals relieved at the out-patient departments really formed 1,000,000 out of the 4,000,000 of the population of London was a point which might be doubted—it might be asked whether some of the patients did not appear many times on the same lists. Everyone connected with these charities was aware that people earning good wages, and able to contribute something towards the expenses incurred in giving them relief, did not do so. The destitute poor had the poor-law infirmaries to go to, and between those people and the well-to-do working classes there was really only a very small area which ought to furnish the patients at hospitals and dispensaries. The working classes who were relieved at the latter institutions ought to contribute something in return; the lower middle classes ought not to have gratuitous medical advice: so that there was really only a very small margin between those who could not pay at all and those who could pay something; and he therefore considered that if they had a million, or even anything like half a million, of people receiving gratuitous advice, they had far too many, and among them many who ought not to be so relieved. Such charity neither blessed those who gave nor those who received it; in fact, such a state of affairs fostered a great evil among the classes who were the recipients of this relief. He believed that the working poor of our large towns were less provident, less thrifty, and were becoming more intemperate than persons of the same class in any other country with which he was acquainted. Such a result was a great evil to the whole nation; it limited the power of industrial production, led to distress in the homes of the

poor, and largely recruited the ranks of pauperism. A great deal of that might be traced to the system now prevalent at hospitals and dispensaries, which led the poor to make no provision when they were in health and work for the relief of their families and themselves in sickness. But this condition of things did not lie with the poor alone. It was necessary that the governors of, and the subscribers to, these charities should be educated. He had personally made efforts in the case of some hospitals to ascertain whether those who obtained relief were deserving and proper cases, and he had met with difficulty in prosecuting his researches. Subscribers had said to him, 'Oh, there may be some abuse, but it would be a greater evil to subject the poor to inquisitorial inquiries.' They said, 'Your left hand should not know what your right hand does in such cases.' Assuming that all cases were really deserving, that would be a right motto to act upon, but inasmuch as they were well aware that that was not the case, it seemed to him that it was the bounden duty of governors and subscribers to make inquiries, either personally or through the Charity Organisation Society, or any other available channel. Some people liked to delude themselves with the idea that hospital letters were well bestowed, but in many cases they were handed over to the first applicant by the butler, or by anybody else who was deputed to give them away. In very few instances were inquiries made as to whether the applicants were not working people, who might be able to pay something to provident dispensaries. The first evil they had to correct was that of letters, which did not answer the purpose intended, and which encouraged people to beg. The whole tendency of the remarks which he had to offer was, that there was a great education to be effected on the whole subject of hospital and medical relief, beginning with the governors and subscribers. Sir Charles Trevelyan had suggested that they should begin by converting free dispensaries into provident dispensaries, but he (Sir Rutherford) thought that there would be great difficulties in the way of carrying out that idea, and in fact believed that they had better found provident dispensaries *de novo*. There was one matter which they ought to bear in mind. It was a principle of human nature to value a thing in proportion to what was paid for it. That which was got for nothing was generally considered to be of no value. If they could only instil into the minds of the poor that medical advice was the most valuable advice which they could obtain, he felt quite certain that that fact would more than balance all the other benefits which would exist and be fostered collaterally with it.

Mr. T. Holmes thought that, in the cases of persons who applied for medical relief at the hospitals, inquiry should be made as to the nature of the diseases which brought the patients there. Inquiry into the domestic circumstances of the people was, he thought, objectionable in most cases. Then, too, all cases were not alike, for a man who earned 60s. a week might have a disease which rendered more expensive appliances necessary, and he would be worse off than a man having 30s. a week whose case was an ordinary one. He thought that the cases in the out-patient departments of hospitals might be much cut down if there was a systematic intercommunication between the hospitals, the dispensaries, poor-law authorities, and the practitioners, and he considered, too, that the hospital out-patient departments should be merely consultative. As it was, the overcrowding of hospitals deprived them of much of their usefulness, for it was impossible that the teaching of medicine and surgery could be carried out in places where the medical men had to see 100 patients an hour.

Mr. R. Brudenell Carter, Surgeon to the Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital, thought that the working classes had a right to be heard upon this subject, and that while the governing powers allowed the people to remain in an unsanitary condition, as regards the rivers, the water supply, drainage, dwellings, and the like, it was hardly fair to expect the working classes to take means to pay for restoring the health thus lost. The speaker expressed his dissent from the view, too often adopted, that the working classes were improvident and drunken, as he had seen in his own great experience that they had to struggle against many difficulties, not the least of which was the neglect of sanitary reform by Government, a neglect which engendered disease, to a great extent, among the people. He felt no difficulty, however, in supporting the motion.

Dr. West, late physician to the Hospital for Children, Great Ormond Street, explained the method adopted at that institution, and stated that good results had followed from it. The plan pursued by the Managing Committee, until March 1876, had been, that applicants should, on the first visit, be questioned as to their earnings, and as to whether they are in receipt of poor-law relief. They were then referred to the proper District Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, and their statements on these heads were verified. If it appeared, upon inquiry, that the earnings of the head of the family exceeded 30s. a week, or that poor-law relief was being received, the Committee refused to affix to the hospital letter the official stamp, without which the applicant could not visit the hospital a second time and receive medical relief. Provision was also made for exceptional cases.

The Hon. Reginald Capel, of the Society for the Relief of Distress, described the steps taken by the Great Northern Hospital to test the

statements made by patients as to their earnings, and stated that in very few instances only were these statements proved to be false. He proceeded to give his own views as to the classes which ought to receive gratuitous relief at hospitals, saying that no married man who had 26s. a week, whatever number of children he had, should receive this relief, and no single man with 18s. a week should receive it. He suggested that, to be thoroughly successful, the provident dispensaries should be under the hospital roof, saying that many of the people came to hospitals because they thought they got the best advice; and, to show how much patients could give, he instanced the fact that in the Harrow Road Hospital the voluntary contributions of the patients were at the rate of £600 a year.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson, Rector of St. Clement Danes, supported the motion, saying that his experience showed him that the people valued what they paid for; thus, when they had free schools they neglected to send the children, but when they had to pay, the children were sent regularly.

Mr. C. J. Stevens, a member of the Fulham District Committee, explained the working of a medical club established in Hammersmith and Fulham, which, he said, was thoroughly successful.

Mr. Flewer, one of the secretaries of the Saturday Hospital Fund, spoke of the desire of the working classes to help the hospitals. He did not think that the provident dispensaries gave the doctors all the advantages which they ought to reap.

Dr. Watkins and other gentlemen having spoken, the motion was carried unanimously.

Sir Charles Trevelyan then expressed his gratification at the discussion which had been elicited. He pointed out that the provident dispensaries were becoming more and more self-supporting, to the advantage alike of the people and of the medical men, and warmly thanked his audience for the attention they had given to this important subject.

Hearty votes of thanks were given to Sir Charles and to the Chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

The meeting was well attended, and lasted upwards of three hours.

'SANITARY HINTS.'—A small pamphlet has lately been issued by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, entitled 'A few simple sanitary hints for working men.' The subjects treated of are ventilation, cleanliness of the room, cleanliness and dryness about the house, water, closets, food and cooking, drinks. The 'hints' are valuable not only for working men, but for all who have to deal with the homes of the poor; and the name of the author (the late Dr. Parkes, of Netley) will be a sufficient guarantee for their thoroughness and practicalness. The price of the pamphlet is one penny.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of April 1877 was 38,667, and 46,364 received outdoor relief, making a total of 85,031. This was a decrease of 711 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 1,008, but a decrease of 7,477 and 9,866 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 676. This was an increase of 87 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 137 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 214.

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 26, 1877.

EXTRA HALF-SHEET. PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, April 26	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 30	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, May 1	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
	3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday, " 2	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
	3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday, " 3	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

The following business stands for Monday, the 30th inst.:

(1) That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the Mile End* and St. Olave's Committees to the amount of £95. 13s. and 69. 18s. respectively, the remainder of the estimated deficits of these committees for the current year.

(2) Mr. J. R. Holland to move the adoption of the Report of Co-operation Sub-Committee on Charity and Out-relief.

Rev. H. I. Cummins gives notice of the following amendment to the above motion:—

* That the best thanks of the Council be given to the Sub-Committee for a care with which they have drawn up their able Report; and that it be referred back to them with a request that they would so far modify its wording as that it should not seem to commit the Council of the Society to a principle of the absolute abolition of Outdoor Relief.

(3) Mr. A. H. Hill to move: 'That in future any matter submitted by the Administrative Committee for decision of Council, except under a ruling of urgency, shall not be considered until the second meeting of Council after the date of such submission by the Administrative Committee.'

At their meeting on Thursday, the 3rd of May, the Administrative Committee will elect the four standing Sub-Committees for the ensuing year.

The following is a further list of the names of the Representatives of the District Committees for the ensuing twelve months:—

E. JAMES AND SOHO (Westminster Union):—Mr. H. Peto and Mr. W. Bevan.
AMPTHEAD:—Mr. B. Bond and Mr. C. E. Maurice.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST:—The Lord Dunsany and Mr. A. G. Crowder.
STEPNEY:—Mr. Mitchell and Mr. W. N. Donovan.
MILE END:—Hon. H. R. Scott and Major R. Denne Nares.

* The grant of £25 set down as granted to this Committee, in *Reporter*, No. 210, could have been put down to the Stepney Committee.

The following meetings are about to be held:—

On Friday, the 27th inst., at 2 P.M., a public meeting of the Society will be held at the Mansion House; the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor in the chair. The Earl of Lichfield, Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., Sir John Lubbock, M.P., the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., the Right Hon. J. G. Hubbard, M.P., Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., Canon Milman, and others, will take part in the proceedings.

On May 2 a meeting of the Charity Agents and Inquiry Officers of the Society will be held at the offices of the Council, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C., at 8 P.M.; Mr. A. H. Hill in the chair. Mr. Rignall, Agent of the Stepney Committee, will read a paper on 'Loans.' Hon. Secretaries of District Committees are invited to attend.

On May 10, at 6.30 P.M., a meeting will be held at the St. James and Soho Club, Gerrard Street, at which Mr. H. N. Hoare will read a paper on 'Poor Law Relief and Charity.'

The President of the Local Government Board has appointed Thursday, May 17, at 2 P.M., for receiving a deputation on the education and care of idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics. The Earl of Shaftesbury, Chairman of the Lunacy Commission, has kindly consented to be present.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—J. W. Probyn, Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe.
FULHAM:—Rev. H. Wilson.
PADDINGTON:—J. R. Holland.
CHelsea:—Dr. Daniel, B. A. Aspinall.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Hon. J. H. Lawrence, M. Clive, R. Dundas, Hon. R. C. Moreton, Major FitzRoy.
ST. JAMES'S, SOHO:—W. Bevan.
NORTH ST. PANCRA'S:—J. B. Dickinson.
SOUTH ST. PANCRA'S:—C. A. Reiss.
ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare.
STRAND:—H. H. Hill, Rev. R. J. Simpson.
HOLBORN:—W. Sheepphanks, G. B. Baker.
CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins.
SHOREDITCH:—J. L. Foster, Rev. H. G. Henderson.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford.
WHITECHAPEL:—C. L. Corkran.

STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
MILE END:—Major Nares.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. Montgomerie, W. F. Smith, Rev. W. A. Richmond, H. Hoper.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown, S. S. Tayler, W. M. Venning.
BATTERSEA:—T. E. Hardy.
CLAPHAM:—S. Etches.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramly, R. V. Tidman.
VICE-PRESIDENTS:—F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson.
VICE-CHAIRMAN:—Alsager Hay Hill.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley, C. A. Miner, G. C. T. Bartley. **TOTAL**:—50.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.
VISITOR:—Rev. W. H. Hechler.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, April 19. There had been present:—

Mr. E. Peters, in the chair; Lord Montagu, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Captain Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Dundas, Bevan, Hoare, Mitchell, Miner, Lawrence, Tidman, Venning, and Mr. Wing, visitor.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending April 14, the receipts had been £150. 3s. 3d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £709. 7s. 3d. and £134. 10s. 2d. respectively, £49. 4s. 10d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—That grants had been made to the following Committees: Lambeth, £25; St. George's East, £30; the total amounts granted

since the 1st of October last, inclusive of the above sums, being £45 and £100 respectively.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 16 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Hon. R. Grosvenor, Messrs. Bousfield and Lewes; Mr. E. Bayley, visitor.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 16 had been present:—

Captain Gardner, in the chair; Major FitzRoy and Mr. Bevan.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 18 had been present:—

Mr. C. A. Miner, in the chair; and Mr. E. Corrie.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 18 had been present:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Rev. H. F. Mallet. Rev. P. Melia, Signor Luciano, and C. E. Maurice, visitors.

OUT-RELIEF LISTS.

The Chairman then submitted the following question to Council:—

Whether the Council consider it advisable to place outside the offices of District Committees lists of those in receipt of outdoor relief?

Sir Charles Trevelyan moved:—

That it is advisable to co-operate with the Poor Law authorities by placing outside the offices of District Committees lists of those in receipt of outdoor relief, when asked to do so by Boards of Guardians.

In evidence of the long continuance of the custom of making known and circulating the lists of those in receipt of parish relief, he quoted the following words from an Act of William and Mary:—

That yearly, in Easter week, or as often as it shall be thought convenient, the parishioners of every parish shall meet in their vestry or other usual place of meeting in the same parish, before whom the said book shall be produced, and all persons receiving collection to be called over and the reasons of their taking relief examined, and a new list made and entered of such persons as they shall think fit and allow to receive collection.

The custom subsequently grew up of placing such lists on church doors; but this was, in 1843, objected to by the clergy, and the subject was considered by Sir G. C., then Mr. Lewis, and Sir Edmund, then Mr. Head, who issued an order, which was virtually a return to the practice prescribed by the above-quoted statute—that is, that lists of those in receipt of parish relief were to be submitted to the vestries.

But the reasons for giving a wider circulation to the lists than that required by the statute were too strong for the legislation, and in some way or other the Guardians continued to make the lists public. In 1870 the question came up in another form. The Poor Law auditors continually found charges in the accounts of the Guardians for publishing and advertising these lists, which, on grounds of expediency, were not disallowed. Mr. Goschen, however, determined to put an end to the irregularity, and the following Order was issued:—

Whereas . . . it is, among other things, provided that the Clerk to the Board of Guardians shall, at the close of each half-year, prepare in duplicate form the accounts of the Union: 1. A statistical statement showing the number of paupers of all classes actually relieved in the course of the last half-year, and other particulars according to directions in the schedule to the said orders attached. . . . And whereas it is also made in the said orders for the preparation of a statement which is termed 'The Parochial List and Statement of Account,' and contains the several matters set forth in the said orders, a copy of which list and statement is thereby required to be made out and delivered to the overseers of the parish in the Union to which it relates, to be laid before the Vestry, and to be preserved with the parish papers. And whereas it is expedient that the Guardians should give greater publicity to these statements and lists: Now, therefore, we, the Poor Law Board . . . hereby order that the Guardians of any Union named in the schedules hereunto annexed may, as and when they see fit, cause such statements and lists, or any part thereof, to be printed and to be circulated among the ratepayers of the several parishes of the Union, or to be advertised in some newspaper or newspapers circulating within the Union, and charge reasonable costs incurred in the preparation, printing, and circulating, or advertising the same upon the Common Fund of the Union.

The schedule attached to this Order contains the names of all the Unions except those under special Acts of Parliament. But Birmingham

and other Unions under special Acts complained that the same privilege was not granted to them; and consequently an order was made in 1871 extending the Order of 1870 to 29 other Unions.

It thus appeared that the question had been settled after long experience of different modes of action, and after full and deliberate consideration by the responsible authority representing the Government of the country. The Local Government Board was not only responsible, but had the best means of judging the merits of the case; and they had passed this order, which had the force of law, and was as much an essential part of the Poor Law system as the relief given under that system. The responsibility of the Society would be great if, in this matter, they ignored the obvious spirit and intention of the law, and acted disloyally to the Poor Law authorities, whose support they had received by its promises of co-operation.

The poor-rate was not charity; it was the proceeds of a compulsory tax, administered by persons not spending their own money, and under a strong temptation to be liberal at other people's expense. The majority of ratepayers were poor, and in justice to them, if on no other ground, every possible security against needless or profuse expenditure should be taken. Still more did public policy require that such security should be taken. The temptation to live at other people's expense, rather than by one's own labour, was so great, that every check was necessary to prevent a return to the deplorable state of things that existed before the new Poor Law. The Society had acquired public confidence by their readiness to give an honest opinion on such subjects as this, and they would incur a great responsibility if, on this occasion, they misled the public, from too great respect for the feelings of kind-hearted and imperfectly informed persons. Out-door relief was the pivot on which the progress of society, in all that concerned the improvement of the character and condition of our people, turned, and it was useless to talk about encouraging habits of thrift and providence while this system, which led to self-indulgence and waste, and mulcted and punished those who strove to be provident and self-denying, was not subjected to every possible check.

Mr. R. V. Tidman seconded Sir Charles Trevelyan's motion. He alluded to correspondence between the Lewisham Board of Guardians and the Committee, dating from May last, and bearing testimony to the good which the Guardians believed to have resulted from the practice condemned in Mr. Brabrook's letter to the *Times*. He referred also to the correspondence between Mr. Brabrook and the Lewisham Committee, and to the action taken by the Administrative Committee in August last in deputing one of their members to confer with the Lewisham Committee on the subject. The practice had, he thought, received a kind of tacit approval, and he urged that the Council should not hastily decide on the statements contained in letters, which were in part written in an inimical tone, in part entitled to consideration, but evidently written without a knowledge of the object for which such a practice was adopted. The Lewisham Committee had striven to co-operate with the Guardians, and they had succeeded in so doing. There were no less than eight Guardians on the Committee, and two of them were among the most regular attendants at its meetings. The advantage of this co-operation must be apparent. Referring to the remarks made by Mr. Balguy, the police magistrate, on the case of Charles Adams, tried at Greenwich in August, he said that, out of a Board of 28 Guardians, 17 were barristers or justices of the peace, and otherwise presumably well acquainted with the requirements of the Poor Law.

Of the objections made to this system of 'checking outdoor relief' he considered that the readiest one was the argument that the continuance of the practice would run counter to popular feeling, and thus affect the banker's balance. He hoped that the Council would not urge such an objection. Men, not money, was what the Society most wanted; and it was its duty to do what was to the best interests of the poor. It might be objected that this was cruel to the poor. He believed—and he had the word of the Lewisham Guardians for it—that it was quite the reverse; they had stated that it was productive of beneficial results. And 'every increase in the poor-rate bore more keenly on the poorest class than on any other; for the small tradesmen, from whom the poor purchase necessities, were, as a rule, men of small capital; and every shilling they had to pay in rates not only contracted their capital, but obliged them to increase the prices of their goods.' Doubtless hard cases did occur; such cases were cases for the Charity Organisation Committee to deal with; in making all reforms hard cases were sometimes unavoidable.

The Lewisham Committee sympathised with such cases, but they considered that they had a primary duty to the large mass of the poor, who were thrifty and deserving.

Mr. Edgcombe moved the following amendment:—

That the practice of exhibiting outside the office of a District Committee lists of those in receipt of outdoor relief is undesirable in itself, and likely to be injurious to the Society at large.

He thought that the Society should co-operate with the Guardians in every way that the Society considered right, not in one which it believed to be injurious. With a view to checking outdoor relief, it was certainly most useful to circulate lists of recipients among private persons in a small circle, but to display them in public was, he thought, to make use of an unfair weapon. Mr. Tidman had said that they should not act hastily on the appearance of a few letters in the papers; he considered those letters had, by their arguments, damaged rather than otherwise the amendment which he moved. He hoped the Committee would change their practice.

Dr. Daniel seconded the amendment. The practice would be justifiable if adopted by the Guardians, the dispensers of legal relief. The agents of charity should adopt a more lenient course, and the same care should be taken not to hurt the feelings of a pauper, as of any distressed lady who might be an applicant.

Mr. C. L. Corkran said he spent all his life among the poor. It appeared to him that by this practice the Committee was assisting the Poor Law to give effect to an almost penal law. The whole purport of the arguments in favour of it was that outdoor relief should be abolished, because it tended to induce improvidence, drunkenness, &c. In Whitechapel, a large part of the 'square mile' investigated by Mr. Bartley, there was about £15 spent in out-relief, but the income of the public-houses in that district was estimated at not less than £45,000. The connection between out-relief and drunkenness, &c., could hardly, he thought, be established. The practice appeared to him to be a system of slander. If the poor sought out-relief they did so with shame, and tried to conceal it.

Mr. G. C. T. Bartley hoped the Council would get rid of the idea whether it was popular or not. The question was—Is it good for the poor? If it was good for the poor, public opinion on the question would come round. He strongly approved of the publication of the lists in the manner adopted at Lewisham. In the Whitechapel Union out-relief, was practically abolished, and it would be manifestly useless there. It might be said the list was not read, and therefore useless. Blue-books and many other official documents were not read, but they, like these lists, were at hand for reference, and for the use of ratepayers and others.

Mr. A. H. Hill moved the following amendment:—

That in matters of co-operation with local Boards of Guardians the Council is of opinion that its District Committees should exercise their own discretion as to the precise form which, under the local circumstances, such co-operation should assume.

Rev. H. G. Henderson thought these lists most useful. When the Committees of the Society were established such lists were much wanted. In Bethnal Green, and, he believed, elsewhere, lists were drawn up every six months, and new names were added to them weekly. But so large a class of people came up for relief, and the publicity was so desirable, even as a check on the Guardians themselves, that he believed the public would ere now have almost put an end to outdoor relief, had this been done everywhere.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta thought that the Society should not act thus at the request of the Guardians. He would prefer at the District Committees that a registry of those in receipt of outdoor relief be kept available for all interested. The persons who prowled about the streets and were likely to read the names on the posted list were not the persons who should see it. The Guardians had places on which they might place their lists, and would, he thought, be able to adopt some plan less open to objection than that adopted at Lewisham.

Rev. H. I. Cummins, who resided at Lewisham, and had, in August last, visited the Lewisham Committee on the subject under discussion, described the good position in which the list was posted; but wishing neither to pass a vote of censure on the Committee, nor yet to approve of the action of the Committee, he moved the following resolution:—

That the Lewisham Committee were justified under the circumstances in assisting the Board of Guardians in that Union in the manner they did, but that it is desirable for the future that no notice not connected with the

work of the Society itself should be posted outside the offices of the District Committees.

Dr. Hawksley said he feared the exposure of the lists at the offices of District Committees would lead the poor to believe that our system was harsh, and conducted on workhouse principles. The Guardians should publish their lists on their own premises.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson hoped that the question would be settled by the Council as friends of the poor; and after a few words from Mr. C. A. Miner and Mr. H. H. Hill, Mr. Edgcombe's amendment was put to the vote and lost.

Mr. Alsager H. Hill, in moving his amendment, hoped that the Council would steer, as far as possible, a statesmanlike course. He believed that this was a matter for the discretion of the District Committees—how they should make use of certain documents which were placed in their hands by the local Board of Guardians. Mr. Mocatta had suggested that the lists should be kept in the district offices; he would go a little further, and say that there should be a notice outside the offices that the lists could be seen within; that would be a course, he believed, which would meet the views of all concerned. He only quoted these as illustrations of how co-operation must be modified according to local circumstances.

The Secretary pointed out that the arguments in the letters that had appeared in the *Times* were based on the presumption that the lists of recipients of outdoor relief were posted up with a view to deterring applications. The object of it was, it appeared from the arguments of those who approved the system, to remove the burthen of the rates from the poorer ratepayers by inducing relations to undertake the care of certain cases. It was for this purpose necessary that the list should be within the reach of the poor themselves. It was unnecessary to post the lists at the door of a District Committee, but no registry or private circulation would be an adequate substitute for the posting of the lists in places where the people could, without difficulty, see them. The hardship of the plan arose partly from the fact that cases suitable for charity had now to be relieved from the compulsorily levied trust fund of the Poor Law.

Mr. A. H. Hill's amendment was put and lost; but the Rev. H. I. Cummins' amendment having been, on the ruling of the Chairman, modified, was carried, and put as a substantive motion as follows, viz.:—

That, in the light of recent experience, it is desirable, for the future that no notice not connected with the work of the Society itself should be posted outside the offices of the District Committees.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, April 21, 1877:—

Donations:—			Annual:—		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Archer, Miss G. M.	0	2 6	Brighton C. O. Soc.	2	2 0
Dunsany, Lord	20	0 0	Beale, Mrs.	1	0 0
Hall, C., Esq.	5	0 0	Child & Co., Messrs.	7	7 0
Twining, Messrs. R. and Co.	21	0 0	Cox & Co., Messrs.	10	10 0
			Price, F. W., Esq.	2	2 0

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

ANNUAL REPORTS: *Marylebone*.—The following is an extract from a letter written to one of the Hon. Secretaries by the Vicar of St. Luke's, Nutford Place:—'It would indeed be impossible to overrate the value of the work done by the Society, as seen from a clergyman's point of view. Everyone knows that we are by our position, with or without will, obliged to act to a very large extent as the almoners of London. But few probably reflect upon the deep responsibility that is involved in that. I am afraid that till lately we ourselves were very little alive to its true nature. But it is a result, I think, that we owe as much to the C. O. S. as to anything else, that our clerical consciences are awakening on this point more and more. We are beginning to see that the power put into our hands by the funds entrusted to us for the relief of our poor parishioners will work ruinous harm if not used in the best way. It is *pauperism* now, and not merely *poverty*—the demoralised spirit in men, and not the mere hardships of their lot—with which we feel we have to grapple; and directly we look thus below the surface of things we feel what an immense advantage it is to have the help of a Society like this. The careful investigations made by its agents enable us to trace in almost every case the disorder to its source, and direct us by the shortest way to the remedy to be applied.

'I need scarcely say that the more thorough knowledge we get by these

means of the various cases that come before us for help has caused a great change in the form of relief we give. For me the old system of doles is dead. We aim first at teaching independence of charity to everyone who applies for it. Whatever we give, we give with the view of removing the cause and not the effect. We try to put poor people in the way of getting a living for themselves. We study to draw out their power and energies before we attempt to relieve the burdens. In this way I feel that the relief of the poor becomes eminently part of a clergyman's work, and that with a C. O. S. "case" in my hand I am possessed of a most invaluable instrument for doing moral and spiritual good.

'Believe me, dear Mr. Wright, yours truly, 'A. S. W. Young.'

PROVINCIAL.

GLASGOW.*—*A Case of Imposture.*—We have received the following letter from the Secretary of the Association for Organising Charitable Relief at Glasgow:—'In the report of your annual meeting I noticed that one of the speakers alluded to the practice that has been adopted here of calling the attention of the public to the cases of impostors through the newspapers, and, as it may interest some, will you allow me to refer to a case of this kind which resulted lately in the apprehension and conviction of the offender? A respectable-looking female was sent with a ticket on Saturday forenoon to this office; she seemed most anxious to be forwarded to Aberdeen to see her son, a sailor-boy, who had got himself injured on board his vessel. She was directed to call on the Monday morning, but the inquiries made in the interval revealed the fact that she had committed a theft in the lodging-house where she had been staying, and that she had been in possession of an order for her passage to Aberdeen for more than a week. A description of her appearance, the names she had given, and her story were at once put in the papers in order to caution the public. This having been observed by the superintendent of the lodging-house to which she had gone, led him to apply here, and resulted, as I have stated, in her apprehension. It turned out that she was an old offender, and had only been released from one of the Northern jails in October last, after undergoing several months' imprisonment.'

THE CLERGY AND CHARITABLE RELIEF.

At the invitation of His Grace the Primate of All England, a large meeting of the Metropolitan Clergy was held in the Library of Lambeth Palace on Monday last, His Grace presiding. The only members of the laity present were the Archbishop's wife and family, Miss Octavia Hill, and Mrs. Selfe and daughters. Those present included the Right Rev. Bishop Cloughton, Canon Duckworth, Canon Farrar, Canon Cromwell, Canon Nisbet, the Rev. D. Wilson (Islington), the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Fremantle, the Rev. Dr. Hessey, the Rev. Styleman Herring, the Rev. Brook Lambert, the Rev. Harry Jones, the Rev. J. D. McGachen, the Rev. Dr. Williams, the Rev. Dr. Roberts, the Rev. Harvey Brooks, the Rev. R. J. Simpson, the Rev. Prebendary Kempe, the Rev. Dr. Townsend, the Rev. H. Geary, the Rev. Temple West, &c.

His Grace the Primate said he regarded the assemblage as a conference in order to elicit the opinion of the clergy upon a question of growing importance—that of the need of system in distribution of charitable relief. There was an increasing feeling in the country, of which the clergy could not but be aware, that some more definite arrangements for the distribution of charity than those which at present existed were desirable, and this not the least in the interests of the poor themselves. The natural impulse of everyone was to relieve, without any great amount of consideration, those objects of charity under his or her immediate cognisance, and to dismiss the uneasy feelings thus brought to mind by the presence of suffering. But it was most desirable that the relief given should be so administered that, with God's blessing, the evils which exist in the great mass of pauperism and misery should be in some measure, at all events, removed and not increased. It was certain that in a great place like this metropolis, where most of the inhabitants were engaged in pressing avocations, they had little time to attend to individual cases of distress; and yet his own experience at the time when he was Bishop of London convinced him that there was great desire on the part of the laity to have this matter more definitely arranged than it had been, and this need of a more definite arrangement perhaps existed at the present time. Those who had had a long connection with the metropolis knew of the organisation of the Society for the Relief of Distress by Bishop Blomfield, and this did an immense deal of good in its day, at a time when funds for the relief of distress were poured upon those who did not most need help—upon those, in fact, who were most clamorous. The society organised by Bishop Blomfield discouraged isolated appeals for public help, and was most useful in its time; but it was certain that the society, which he trusted would long

flourish, was able only to take a limited range. Another society was then organised, principally by laymen, many of these being officers in the army and persons living for the most part in the West-end of London, all of whom undertook a laborious task in order to have this matter of charitable relief placed upon a satisfactory footing. This society, too, he hoped, was flourishing; but still the efforts which were made by the parochial clergy in co-operation with the laity in this second society were by no means sufficient to grapple with the evils found still to exist. At the time of the outbreak of the cholera the necessity of constant communication of the clergy with the Boards of Guardians and with the committee which had the distribution of relief in the mayoralty of Alderman Phillips, pointed, he thought, to the need of some more systematic arrangements for relief than had been made by the two societies he had alluded to, and then there came forward and extended its operations the society known as the Charity Organisation Society. No one could doubt that a great deal of good had resulted from the investigations which this society for organising charitable relief had made, and from the impostures it had exposed. Still more remained to be done. In a growing population like London, where the increase was some 400,000 persons a year, new efforts were constantly needed to meet the demands caused by a distress which must be chronic until circumstances were changed. To meet these demands no one could doubt that upon the clergy of the Church of England the responsibility rested. Those who were thus placed in the centres of districts in this great metropolis, should be surrounded by organisations of persons ready to visit the poor, and should therefore know the true condition of the people better than anyone else. The clergy should know, too, the process by which some families emerged from poverty and reached a position of independence, and that by which others sunk lower and lower until they became permanently dependent upon alms. What, therefore, he had to urge upon the meeting was to give their very serious attention to the way in which charities at the disposal of the clergy could be better organised than they were at present. There were in this metropolis immense funds left in ancient times for charitable purposes. Over many of these charities the clergy had no distinct control. As the time of that meeting was very limited, it would be unwise to enter into the consideration of this other subject—that affecting charities over which the clergy had no distinct control—but to point out, that as the clergy were in their own parishes the almoners of large amounts of alms voluntarily contributed and placed in the hands of the clergy to meet the wants of the poor, their attention should be directed as to the best means of distributing that money. He hoped that in the course of that discussion some plain practical hints would be thrown out by which the attention of the clergy would be directed to the best means of economising the funds placed at their disposal; of showing, indeed, that the clergy could wisely administer these funds and in such a form as not only to relieve temporary distress, but to ameliorate the whole social condition of those who were the recipients of the charity. His Grace again urged the clergy to consider well the necessity of carrying out some practical suggestions, and to give effect to the purpose of the meeting by carrying out, in their own distribution of charities, the objects in which the clergy were so deeply concerned, and not to allow the meeting to evaporate in an expression of liberal and enlightened sentiments. What was needed, he added, was a practical result, and this for the benefit of the poor and the well-being of the country.

The Rev. Temple West then moved the following resolution:—

'That in the opinion of this meeting it is for the best interests of the poor that, except in those cases of old age and infirmity where a pension is the most appropriate form of help, no relief should be given but such as is likely to produce permanent benefit, by restoring the recipient to a position in which relief will no longer be required.'

The speaker said he had no special claim to address his brethren upon this subject beyond that of having had the care of a large parish for many years. The parish was one which might not be considered a very poor one, but still the houses were 'let out;' and while seventeen persons lived in some cases in a house, many must, of course, live in a room. The difficulty in relieving the poor was between making a 'hard-and-fast line' and giving indiscriminately, and he felt that there was a great danger in giving small 'doles.' The rule in his parish was not to give except in a case of sickness, or when a man was out of work, and the gifts were generally in kind—stimulants being seldom given; and the fullest help was afforded in cases in which it appeared possible to do permanent good. He mentioned that in a clothing club among 8,000 persons the sum of £350 was given.

The Hon. and Rev. W. H. Fremantle said that the experience of his brother clergy would go with him when he said that whatever good was done with charity properly applied, great evil resulted from misapplied charity—evils both to the bodies and souls of the people. Charity, he urged, should be so applied by the clergy as to show the beneficence of Christ our Master; and though some people thought the administration of

* See Reporter, No. 202, p. 15.

was an easy thing, it was, in reality, a very hard thing. The mistakes had arisen from the distribution of charity being considered an easy thing, and those who had studied the question best knew one of the most difficult of the social problems of the age. He thought it was absolutely necessary that the ministrations of religion be separated from the ministration of charity by the parochial clergy, and those connected with them—that the district visitors and ministers should deal with religion and with charity separately on different occasions, and that the relief should only be given after inquiry, and in co-operation with the laity.

Rev. S. Hansard, amid some laughter, here called out 'Tell us what it is all about.'

Rev. Harvey Brooks said that if Mr. Hansard would study his carditation he would see what it was 'all about'—namely, that it was not the best means of distributing those alms placed at the disposal of the clergy, and he trusted that if Mr. Hansard addressed the clergy he would throw some light upon this difficult subject. The rev. speaker then stated the difficulty of dealing with the subject, in the impossibility of getting out the true condition of people, by relating that a man in the street, respecting the sources of whose income District Visitors could get no information, confided to a friend that he lived by 'gout'—in being to write to all the noblemen and gentlemen he could find with this complaint, and asking for relief as a fellow-sufferer. (A laugh.) The speaker also urged that district visiting could be well and easily carried out without dole-giving.

Octavia Hill said she did not expect to be asked to speak, but she was very glad of the opportunity of speaking upon this subject, which was so deeply at heart. (Hear, hear.) She proceeded to point out that a body of the laity had already entered upon this subject in depth, as a subject interesting not only to the temporal welfare of the poor but to their moral and spiritual interests, and she expressed herself that the clergy had not come forward to help those who had started the work. She urged that the district visitors were ready to learn the principles of administering relief, and only wanted teachers—a position she urged, which it was the duty of the clergy to occupy, and which did not doubt from their enormous experience they were able to occupy.

Rev. Harry Jones stated that he was in the position of one who had nothing to give, and he got on very well without giving at all. He said the goodness of the work done by the Rev. Mr. West in giving relief to people who at the least earned £52,000, reckoning eight in the family, and £1 a week for each family.

Rev. Mr. Hansard then expressed his objection to seeing any new system started for the relief of the poor, and urged that this would only have the effect of encouraging guardians to lessen, as they cruelly had the system of out-relief. There was no need of any change now, as the system existed.

Rev. Canon Nisbet placed before the meeting the plan he had drawn in connection with the Charity Organisation Society, of having men to visit the district cases, and this, he said, had answered very well. The resolution was then put and carried.

Rev. Canon Duckworth then moved the following resolution:—That it is desirable that district visitors should not distribute alms at their own discretion, but should refer all cases requiring relief to a committee of experienced persons, who should decide whether and how relief is given; that the circumstances of the applicants for relief should be fully investigated, though in exceptional cases relief may be given pending investigation.

In reply to the remarks of the Rev. Mr. Hansard, he said that this was not a matter to make a reform, to be ready for a crisis if it should come; the arrangement was when things were quiet. The resolution would be carried by one who had earned good right to speak to it from long and successful service on the Marylebone Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. But, in accordance with invitation, the speaker said he had undertaken to move it, desiring to offer his testimony—whatever it be worth—in support of a reform with which no name was more honourably identified than Miss Hill's. (Hear, hear.) The resolution embodied a principle which he had practically adopted in the working of his own parish—a principle for which it was desirable to bespeak the widest possible recognition.

There was no feeling which grew more steadily in the mind of a man, brought daily face to face with all forms of embarrassment and confusion, than distrust of the old and hitherto approved method of dealing with them. He soon found out, if he had any powers of observation and any knowledge of human nature, that the rough-and-ready relief which the sight of distress moved the inexperienced was no true charity, but a blessed neither him that gave nor him that took, but, on the contrary, had a direct tendency to blind those who dispensed it, and to demoralise those who received it. The aim of all Christian charity, it seemed to him, was not simply to do good, but to do good in the best possible way; to take at those to whom we hold out the helping hand were lifted, if possible,

to a higher moral level, not left, when the helping hand was let go, to sink to lower depths of dependence, or confirmed by our carelessness in habits of deception, intemperance, and idleness. There were two good reasons why the clergy in the direction of their district visitors should play into the hands of those who were urging upon them more systematic and enlightened forms of charity. In the first place, it was a difficult and rare thing to find district visitors who might safely be trusted to distribute alms at their own discretion. He did not suppose that he was less fortunate than his neighbours and brethren in the quality of lay-helpers. In his parish, as in the majority of parishes, they were ladies, working from high motives, and exercising in most cases an unmistakable influence for good. But those who came forward and offered themselves in this capacity, earnest and excellent as they often were, had seldom indeed the penetration, the knowledge of human nature, the knowledge of the world, or the practical experience which would qualify them for dealing on their own responsibility with the difficulties of those whom they visited. It required, indeed, no ordinary powers of discernment to do good without doing greater harm. The enthusiastic young worker was apt to think all the world as guileless as herself, and the more experienced worker who was getting rid of her illusions, and learning for herself how complicated the problem of charity was, would more and more distrust her own judgment. One of the acutest and most indefatigable of workers among the poor (Mr. Geo. Bartley) bore witness to the extreme difficulty which he had found in getting at the real circumstances of those who seek charitable relief. 'It is difficult,' he said, 'to get at any exact idea of the real earnings of persons who make their living by alms, parish money, and so forth. The recipients are close, as indeed they need be, for they know that a continuance of their earnings may depend on their keeping their affairs to themselves. I have often tried to ferret out information in complete detail in individual cases, but I have rarely been satisfied with my success.' The ordinary district visitor is not likely to be more successful than such an investigator in arriving at the true circumstances of those who lay their distress before her. In the fluctuating population of a London parish they are often new comers, of whose previous history and personal deserts she can know little or nothing. Moreover, the disastrous overlapping of charities caused by the activity of various Christian bodies in the same neighbourhood adds only to the chances of deception and mistake. The Presbyterian chapel, e.g., insists on finding an outlet for its benevolence within the same area in which the Church workers are distributing relief. The Chapel lady, with her tract and its concomitant dole, enters the house as the district visitor leaves, and the consequence of this superfluity of charity is, as we too well know, an equally plastic religion and morality.

On the ground, then, that district visitors, as a class, are not qualified to investigate fully the circumstances of those who demand pecuniary relief, I would withdraw from their hands, except in cases of the greatest emergency, the bestowal of such relief altogether. And the other ground to which I have referred is this: that it is most desirable to discourage as far as possible the association of mercenary hopes with the call of the district visitor. A wiser conception of pastoral duty has sprung up of late years among the parochial clergy, and many of us are daily protesting and fighting against the rooted notion in the minds of the poorer classes that though the church is not a place to go to, it is, at any rate, a very good outdoor relief office. I know that my brethren in charge of town parishes will make the same complaint as myself, that the view of us as mere almoners or relieving officers overbears every other in the minds of the poorer classes, and that long traditions of unwise benevolence have taught them to care comparatively little for what we have to say, but very much for what we have to give. One of the first things which a parish priest must set about, if he desires to do spiritual work among his people, is to dissociate his visit from the thought of coin. Silver and gold, in his hand at least, he must have none; he must train the poor man to look but for such as he has, the comfort in sickness and in sorrow, the counsel in perplexity, the rebuke of vice, the open ear to every tale of the burdened conscience or the aching heart.

And I maintain that the same rule applies, though with less force, to those who work under his auspices as the representatives of the Church. It should, indeed, be felt that they are most ready to hear every story of distress, and carry it before those who will patiently investigate it, and, if need be, relieve it. It should be felt that they will spare no pains to go to the very root of 'the trouble that is pressing.' But if this influence for higher ends is to be saved, if they are to be guarded, as they should be, from the peril of pauperising those committed to them, it ought to be clearly understood that they visit with empty pockets, and that money grants can never be looked for from their hands. These grants should only come from a central committee formed of experienced persons, who will periodically meet to look into the cases of distress; who will trace out the antecedents of all applicants, and bring their collective judgment to bear upon each separate application.

The Rev. M. Geary seconded the motion, which, after some words by the Rev. R. J. Simpson and Dr. Robins, was carried.

The Rev. Canon Farrar, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Archbishop, spoke earnestly in support of the work undertaken by the Charity Organisation Society.

The Rev. Brooke Lambert seconded the motion, which was carried and acknowledged, and the proceedings terminated.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the Metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of March, compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of February 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week February	4th week March	4th week Feby.	4th week March
Kensington	1,059	1,033	393	353
Fulham	464	428	696	659
Paddington	794	814	963	977
Chelsea	945	964	439	481
St. George's	1,944	1,921	1,761	1,746
Westminster	738	762	326	302
St. Marylebone	2,538	2,526	2,208	2,204
Hampstead	184	180	86	90
St. Pancras	2,931	2,912	5,230	5,206
Islington	1,450	1,432	2,653	2,651
Hackney	895	878	2,084	2,190
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury	1,284	1,277	588	625
Strand	783	768	363	386
Holborn	2,633	2,639	3,862	3,956
City of London	2,138	2,134	3,167	3,192
Shoreditch	1,162	1,171	798	823
Bethnal Green	1,542	1,539	710	690
Whitechapel	1,212	1,221	132	167
St. George's East	1,192	1,160	154	139
Stepney	907	921	194	206
Mile End Old Town	854	843	591	578
Poplar	1,177	1,154	1,756	1,840
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,518	2,474	2,984	3,006
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,474	1,483	2,434	2,501
Lambeth	1,689	1,679	3,259	3,232
Wandsworth and Clapham	943	938	1,642	1,630
Camberwell	1,165	1,145	1,524	1,514
Greenwich	1,409	1,420	2,318	2,309
Woolwich	843	783	2,508	2,577
Lewisham	307	302	606	601
Total	30,174	38,901	46,429	46,831

INTEMPERANCE.—The North St. Pancras Committee report that: 'In reflecting upon the producing causes of distress, it is painful to find that the chief is drink. To this may be attributed, directly and indirectly, more than one-half of the cases we have considered during the past year. . . . The St. Olave's Committee add like testimony:—'Intemperance, as usual, shows itself as the cause of a large proportion of the suffering met with. The 32 and 106 applicants, dismissed respectively, as Undeserving, and as Cases for Poor Law or otherwise Ineligible, were for the most part drunkards. This failing has, since the institution of social clubs, become so infrequent among the richer classes, as to be held a vice. The same remedy would equally apply to the case of the poor. Such clubs for the poorer classes have been started, and have prospered in parishes both in London and in the country. An active inhabitant of the district could hardly make a better use of his time than by starting a social club for poor men—and women. There would be a small preliminary expense in securing an appropriate house, and a little trouble in securing the first members of the club. The management and expense must, as soon as practicable, be left to the members, as the proof of the success of the club would be, that it could support itself.'

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, March 31, 1877:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Elon	Glasgow	Horsham	* Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbledon	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	4	12	..	..	30	2	..	2	4	10	3	..
2. Undeserving	26	41	8	1	175	2	..	4	13	16	2	..
3. Cases for Poor Law, or otherwise ineligible	24	39	8	2	3	..	..	10	4	6	..	?
	54	92	16	3	208	4	..	16	21	32	5	?
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	14	..	2	1	22	1	..	3	3	..	..	..
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	9	28	1	3	26	..	..	10	1	1	..	..
3. Private Persons	22	12	2	1	99	1	..	3	5	..	1	..
	45	40	5	5	147	2	..	16	9	1	1	..
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	58	60	17	..	13	16	..	9	6	35	3	15
2. Loans	..	..	..	6	3	2	..	35	1	12	..	4
3. Employment	16	..	5	6	4	..	..	2	..	1	..	..
4. Letters for Hospitals &c.	..	3	..	..	8	1	..	4	1	..	..	..
	74	63	22	12	28	19	..	50	8	48	3	19
TOTALS	173	195	43	20	383	25	..	82	38	81	9	38
Reports sent out	27	132	34	..	279	6	..	40	4	..	..	..
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	18	16	..	1	2	1	..	2	4	..	..	..
Vagrants dealt with	5	1316	34	719	..	423	..	204	24	32	703	..

* No return received from this Association at the time of going to press.

BRIGHTON.—*A Mendicant's Story.*—A tall, barefooted old man, with a white beard, applied for assistance to a lady in Brighton, who at once recommended him to go to the local Organisation Society. But 'No,' he replied, 'I have been there already, and no one knows how poor people are treated. They are offered a piece of dry bread, and a pint of water; and if they do not drink the water, they are taken to the police station as impostors.' This absurd statement, evidently got up for the purpose of exciting the sympathy of the credulous, was forwarded by the lady to the Central Office, and the Central Office wrote to the Local Office in explanation. This was easily given. The Brighton Society gives a pound of bread to every wayfarer, but he must eat it on the premises, or as much of it as he likes; he is not allowed to carry any of it away with him. As to water, it is certainly provided, and anyone may drink it or not as he pleases. No one is compelled to eat or to drink against his inclination; and as to the police station the idea is ridiculous.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of April 1877 was 38,382, and 44,969 received outdoor relief, making a total of 83,351. This was a decrease of 1,670 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 310, but a decrease of 9,020 and 9,506 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 701. This was an increase of 31 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 45 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d.

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Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL.

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 215.

THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 3, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, May 3	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 7	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, " 8	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday, " 9	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M., Finance and Collection Sub-Committee.
Thursday, " 10	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

The following business stands for Monday, May 7:—

I. To consider the following recommendations of the Administrative Committee:—

- (1) That a grant of £25 be made to the Bethnal Green Committee.
- (2) That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the Poplar Committee to the amount of £62. 11s., the remainder of the estimated deficit of that Committee for the current year.
- (3) That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the St. Saviour's Committee to the amount of £132. 11s., the remainder of the estimated deficit of that Committee for the current year.

II. Mr. F. D. Mocatta to continue the adjourned discussion on the motion Mr. J. R. Hollond, for the adoption of the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on 'Charity and Out-Relief'.

(1) Rev. H. I. Cummins has moved the following amendment to the motion, viz.:—

'That the best thanks of the Council be given to the Sub-Committee for the care with which they have drawn up their able Report; and that be referred back to them with a request that they would so far modify the wording as that it should not seem to commit the Council of the Society to the principle of the absolute abolition of Outdoor Relief.'

(2) Dr. Daniel gives notice of the following amendment:—

'That the co-operation of the Metropolitan Charities (p. 8 of the Report) not such as to warrant the Council in taking the responsibility of encouraging the total abolition of outdoor relief; that such encouragement would tend to increase the number of cases of hardship mentioned in the report (p. 8), while the Charity Organisation Society is not in a position to deal adequately with such cases; and that therefore it is expedient to adjourn the consideration of the Report to this day six months.'

(3) Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe gives notice of the following amendment:—
'That on page 7 the words "best place for" be omitted, and that the words "the most appropriate and most effective form in which Poor-Law relief can be given to," be substituted for them.'

* Members of Council can obtain copies of this Report on application to the Secretary.

III. Mr. W. F. Lawrence to move:—

'That, inasmuch as it is desirable that the public should be made aware of the claims of the deserving poor, as well as of the demerits of the undeserving, this Society should publish in the *Times* a monthly list of deserving cases, and the sums required for their need, or set on foot some other system for getting money to deserving cases of destitution.'

STEPNEY AND MILE END COMMITTEES.—Mr. H. N. Dowson has been elected one of the representatives of the Stepney Committee, and hon. secretary of the Mile End Committee.

ST. GILES'.—Mr. H. M. Keary and Mr. R. L. Kenyon have been elected representatives of this Committee.

HACKNEY.—Rev. T. H. Woodroffe and Mr. T. Copeman have been elected representatives of this Committee.

CITY.—Rev. Harvey Brooks and Rev. W. H. Lyall have been elected representatives of this Committee.

DEPTFORD.—Capt. Cassan has been elected a representative of this Committee.

LAMBETH.—*Boundary Line*.—The Committee have, after conference with the Brixton Committee, passed the following resolution:—

'That the Committee shall confine its operations to that part of the parish of Lambeth which is situated to the north of the section of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway connecting the Clapham and Denmark Hill Stations; with the exception of so much of the ecclesiastical district of St. Matthew's, Brixton, as lies on the north side of the said railway.'

On May 16, at 6.30 P.M., a Meeting will be held at the St. James' and Soho Club, Gerrard Street, at which Mr. H. N. Hoare will read a paper on 'Poor-Law Relief and Charity.'

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, April 30, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, and subsequently Mr. A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—J. W. Probyn, F. J. S. Edgcombe.	WHITECHAPEL:—Hon. C. W. Fremantle, C. L. Corkran.
FULHAM:—C. S. Stevens.	ST. GEORGE'S-IN-EAST:—Lord Dunsany.
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson, G. Charles, J. R. Hollond.	STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
CHELSEA:—R. A. Aspinall, Dr. Daniel, W. S. Seton-Karr.	MILE END:—Major Nares.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Meysey Clive, Major Fitz-Roy.	POPLAR:—A. D. Graham, R. Ellis.
WESTMINSTER:—W. Bousfield, W. Bevan.	ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. Montgomerie, Rev. W. A. Richmond, H. Hoper, B. Barrington, W. F. Smith.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill.	ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.
HAMPSTEAD:—C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F. Mallet.	LAMBETH:—D. Brown, W. M. Venning.
NORTH ST. PANCRA'S:—G. B. Dickinson.	BRIXTON:—S. S. Taylor.
ST. GILES':—H. N. Hoare, R. L. Kenyon.	CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, W. Wightman Wood.	DEPTFORD:—H. F. Cornish.
HOLBORN:—G. B. Baker.	LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramly.
CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins.	SYDENHAM:—W. Day.
SHOREDITCH:—Rev. H. G. Henderson, J. L. Foster.	VICE-PRESIDENTS:—F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford, junr., Rev. C. Kirtan.	VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.
	ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, G. C. T. Bartley, R. Fuller, C. A. Miner.
	TOTAL:—86.
	SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, April 26. There had been present:—

Mr. E. Peters, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major Fitz-Roy, Major Nares, Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, Brown, Hill, Hoare, Lawrence, Miner, Probyn.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending April 21, the receipts had been £69. 3s. 6d. for the General Fund, that

there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £678. 16s. 11d. and £79. 10s. 2d. respectively, £49. 4s. 10d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 24 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Miss O. Hill, Miss Howes, Messrs. Edgcombe, Allen, Graham, Lewes, and Mr. W. M. Venning, visitor.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 24 had been present:—

Mr. Aspinall, in the chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major FitzRoy, and Mr. Bevan.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 25 had been present:—

Rev. H. I. Cummins, in the chair, and Mr. C. A. Miner.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on April 25 had been present:—

Mr. A. H. Hill, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan and Rev. H. F. Mallet.

GRANTS TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

On the motion of Mr. Bousfield, seconded by Major FitzRoy, the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee was adopted, viz.:—

That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the Mile End and St. Olave's Committees to the amount of £95. 13s. and £59. 18s. respectively, the remainder of the estimated deficits of these Committees for the current year.

CHARITY AND OUT-RELIEF.

Mr. J. R. Hollond moved the adoption of the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on Charity and Out-relief. He said that before the Sub-Committee drafted the Report it was necessary to enter upon something like an inquiry as to the extent to which outdoor relief had been reduced in London, and also to ascertain what class of cases would, owing to the action of the Boards of Guardians, fall upon private charity in greater proportion than they had done hitherto.

The Report was a statement of facts that had been ascertained in inquiring into this subject. Page 2 of the Report contained a statement of the actual amount of outdoor relief. It would be seen that relief in London had been reduced £200,000 since Michaelmas 1870, while from a paper published by the Local Government Board, it appeared that in Whitechapel in 1870 (which was an exceptional year) the weekly out-relief amounted to £168; while in 1871 it was reduced to £120; and was now £12.

He next referred to an appeal by the London Cottage Mission, which he thought deserved the epithet used in the Report, of 'sensational.' The author of the appeal was induced to allow some cases for which he had appealed to be inquired into. Out of thirty or forty cases which were investigated, very few were found to be badly off, while several persons who had been referred to in the appeal were indignant at being described as starving and destitute.

As to starvation cases, eight cases in which it had been alleged that the reduction of out-relief had been the cause of death by starvation, had been investigated, but in no one case did it appear that the withdrawal of out-relief had been the cause of death. It had also been suggested that the increase of vagrancy was due to reduction of out-relief. Relieving officers were, however, it was well known, not allowed to admit resident cases into the casual ward; the increase of vagrants had therefore to be accounted for by the slackness of trade throughout the country, and not by the increase of destitution consequent on the withdrawal of out-relief from residents in such districts as Whitechapel, in which the reform of out-relief was in progress.

It had always been an object of the Society to keep people off the rates by suitable help in time of need. Three classes were especially affected by any changes in the out-relief system—able-bodied widows with dependent children, the sick, and the aged and infirm. The Guardians often treated the first class of cases by sending to a workhouse school as many of the dependent children as the mother could not, by her own efforts, support. The destitute sick were dealt with most charitably by being attended in the infirmary. And

while the poor-law inspectors had repeatedly called attention to the abuse of medical out-relief, the reduction of such relief by the Guardians had, in some districts of the East End, enlarged the scope of private charity in dealing with suitable cases of this nature.

In providing for the aged and infirm, charity found a proper field of work, and cases which were unsuitable for 'the House' were now rightly left for the assistance of the charitable. A circular letter had been sent to numerous charities asking their co-operation in this work, but only a few replies had been received. Many charities were, of course, hampered by restrictions; but, considering the enormous charitable fund that there was in the metropolis, the onus of responsibility in obtaining charitable aid for those no longer eligible for out-relief, must rest with existing charitable institutions.

The Report did not express any opinion on out-relief, but was simply a record of facts—of the information which the Co-operation Sub-Committee had collected on the subject.

The Council would, he hoped, adopt the Report, and, as a duty, make public the information which it contained, and which had been collected with considerable labour and expense. Regarding the amendment of which the Rev. H. I. Cummins had given notice, he was sure the Sub-Committee would be glad to alter the *wording* of any part of the Report; but the facts which it contained should be left intact.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in seconding the motion, said that the resolution of Council of the 30th October was explicit. It was as follows:—

That as it appears that many cases of individual hardship are occurring, especially amongst the respectable aged poor, in consequence of the *laudable* efforts of Boards of Guardians to do away with the much-abused system of outdoor relief, it is the duty of this Society, while cordially co-operating with the Guardians, to ascertain how private charity may best be directed to meet these isolated cases; and that with this view the Co-operation Sub-Committee be directed at once to ascertain, from metropolitan and other agencies for the relief of distress, whether some concerted plan of action cannot be devised.

The Sub-Committee had accordingly taken steps to 'bring about a concerted arrangement among the Metropolitan Charities with a view of meeting any special distress which might have been caused by the great reduction in outdoor relief.' The Report now submitted by them was in the strictest sense a Report, for in it only *facts* were stated, in order that from the facts Council might draw its own conclusions. Council should not be scared at the conclusions to which it was inevitably led by the investigations of the Sub-Committee. The Society would not secure the confidence of the public if it stopped just short of what it knew to be truth. This would please neither those who wished to go the whole length of reform, nor those who opposed all reform whatever.

He then, with the permission of Council, read the following statement, drawn up by Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, the chairman of the Sub-Committee:—

The Council passed a resolution on 30th October last, directing the Co-operation Sub-Committee to ascertain whether some concerted plan among Charities could not be devised 'to meet the many cases of hardship occurring through the *laudable* efforts of Guardians to do away with the much-abused system of outdoor relief.'

It was not in the province of the Committee to question the terms of the resolution, nor to express approval or disapproval of the decision of the Council, and there is not a word in their Report from which their opinion can be inferred. As a fact, they were nearly unanimously of the same opinion as the Council, although they did not say so.

The amendment to refer the Report back to the Sub-Committee is only on the ground that their opinion against outdoor relief is to be 'inferred' from the tenor of their Report. That from which the mover of the proposed amendment has been induced to infer the opinion of the Sub-Committee, is really not a matter of opinion at all, but a plain statement of the facts, which the Sub-Committee carefully ascertained and set out in the Report. These facts do seem to lead to an irresistible conclusion against outdoor relief, and the mover of the amendment mistakes these facts, and the conclusion which he cannot himself help drawing from them, for an expression of opinion by the Sub-Committee.

It would be curious if the Council, which itself expressed so positive an opinion, whilst the Sub-Committee expressed no opinion at all, should refer the Report back to the Sub-Committee with an order to review an opinion which they have never stated.

Nevertheless, it is quite open to the Council to pass a resolution in favour of out-relief. It would, in that case, however, have to explain how it came to such opposite conclusions in so short a time. And even then, there is no part

Report which it could strike out. The facts would remain, from the mover of the amendment has very properly drawn his conclusion, outdoor relief is condemned.

Mr. H. I. Cummins moved the following amendment:—

That the best thanks of the Council be given to the Sub-Committee for the report with which they have drawn up their able Report; and that it be referred back to them, with a request that they would so far modify its conclusions as that it should not seem to commit the Council of the Society to the principle of the absolute abolition of outdoor relief.

Mr. Cummins said that the Report, without appearing to pledge the Council to the absolute abolition of outdoor relief, had a certain tone, which advocated, by implication, the absolute abolition of outdoor relief. He had reluctantly brought forward his amendment, but as the Report had been discussed in the presence at an adjourned meeting of the Administrative Committee, he had no alternative but to move that the Council, while pledging the care and time that had been spent in the preparation of it, should refer it back to the Sub-Committee.

Charles Trevelyan had laid stress on the words of the resolution of the Council, 'to do away with the much-abused system of outdoor relief.' These words did not, he thought, mean that the Council intended that out-relief should be done away with, but that the much-abused system under which it was administered should be abolished.

The founders of the present Poor Law were well aware of the necessity of outdoor relief, but while wishing to make it the exception rather than the rule, they shrank from the total withdrawal of it. It had subsequently become a much-abused system, and had been distributed to an extent never contemplated by them. For the abuse of outdoor relief, and the selfishness, which assumed the name and garb of philanthropy, were responsible.

The Guardians in Stepney, Whitechapel, and St. George's East were trying an experiment respecting the abolition of out-relief: it was to be a trial, the experiment should be tried, and that the Society should support the Guardians so far as might be possible, by enabling them to carry on the experiment under the most advantageous circumstances. Information respecting this experiment had rightly been sent to the Sub-Committee, and so far, no fault could be found in their report. The experiment, however, being still an experiment, it was not right for the Council to pronounce a verdict upon it; they should wait till the results could be estimated, and then they should calmly and dispassionately decide upon it. The Sub-Committee, like those who made a table 'turn' by their own wishes, while they gave no distinct opinion one way or the other, made all the arguments turn to one conclusion.

The Report drew the attention of Council to three districts, in which no new out-relief cases were put on the list, and in which no statements contained in 'sensational' appeals and newspaper reports of deaths by starvation, they put forward, as evidence, facts had been ascertained by the agents of the District Committees of the Society only, and by Poor Law officers, who were bound to state the policy adopted by the Guardians.

The evidence of the success of the experiment was said to be—out-relief did not produce starvation—a term difficult to define. When it was said that in so many cases of semi-starvation—of disease accelerated by want of proper food—of starvation proving fatal on an attack of cholera, were continually in the papers, the test, whether the poor could go longer, without accepting indoor relief, than they would have done had outdoor relief been offered them, was no test. It was admitted, however, that cases of hardship did occur. How were these dealt with? The Report stated that the cases of 'able-bodied paupers with dependent children,' were 'satisfactorily' dealt with, some of the children were removed from the mother to a workhouse school. The removal of the child from the mother was bad for the mother; the workhouse school, notwithstanding its perfect management, and numerous conveniences, was the means of giving the child a taint of pauperism, which was never got rid of. He agreed equally with what was said in the Report respecting the removal of cases of old age and sickness. The proposal of a penitentiary, terminating after a certain period, proved that the Committee were in search of some means of making the change, to the complete withdrawal of out-relief, as easy as possible. The workhouses, while they had to be taught the lesson of provident habits, should be taught kindly, and not harshly. And the clergy would not, he thought, adopt, at present, any further modification of the existing system than that 'out-relief should be made the exception, and not

the rule.' The tone of the Report would be alike displeasing to these two classes; and by it the Council would be committed to an opinion it had never expressed.

Mr. Sapsford seconded the amendment. He said he would confine himself to disputing the facts contained in the Report. He could not conceive that out-relief could ever be done away with, though, indiscriminately distributed, it was as injurious as indiscriminate charity. A Report of the Charities in the Whitechapel District—compiled by the Whitechapel Committee—was referred to in the Report of the Sub-Committee; but the only charities to which their words respecting the application of charitable funds with a view to mitigating the hardship of the reform of out-relief could apply, were the Spitalfields charities, and these had been established but a few years ago, and no member of Council would, he believed, disapprove of their objects or method of application. At the same time, however, many charities in the East End were now being distributed in the spirit of charity organisation—as temporary aid given with a view to doing permanent good. As to starvation, the Sub-Committee appeared to have accepted the evidence of the charity agents and relieving officers, and to have ignored the parliamentary return of starvation cases. He quoted a letter from Mr. Lavers Smith entirely disputing the facts of the cases of alleged starvation as they were stated by the Sub-Committee. He disapproved of the Guardians offering the infirmary in cases in which the head of the family, being sick and destitute, would thus have to leave his home; and alluded to a case of small pox, in which a clerk to the Guardians in one of the districts in which out-relief was being abolished, confessed that out-relief should have been given.

Mr. A. H. Hill said that the members who opposed the adoption of the Report did not confine themselves to the charge that the Report implied an opinion that was not the opinion of Council respecting outdoor relief, but they challenged the facts themselves. And in support of this a parliamentary return of cases of starvation was quoted, which was in the hands of the Sub-Committee, but which had no bearing whatever on the policy of the Report, as among all the cases mentioned in it, there was hardly one in which 'the House' was offered and refused. The starvation cases enumerated in the return were those which no parish relief would ever prevent, and which could only be prevented by thoroughly organised charity. The letter of Mr. Lavers Smith was the other argument against the facts adduced by the Sub-Committee. That gentleman had been communicated with, and the Report had been printed in slip and somewhat prematurely circulated, with a view to obtaining evidence respecting the facts in question; but no evidence disproving the facts had been forthcoming. It appeared to him that to refer back to the Sub-Committee a Report, which was merely a statement of facts, would stultify the whole principles of the Society. Allusion had been made to the weight which the opinion of the working classes and the clergy had in this question. He believed that clear, straightforward principles should be submitted to the working classes, and they would be found as competent as any class to take the question on its merits, and deal wisely with it in the future. With regard to the clergy, he feared that until they understood more distinctly the principles in accordance with which these and other similar reforms were advocated, and no longer shifted with the circumstances of the time, their co-operation in carrying out such a really important change could not be expected.

Mr. G. C. T. Bartley said that nothing was more to be deprecated than timidity of action on the part of the Society in dealing with this most elementary question. The Report pointed to a duty which the Society appeared to exist only for the purpose of fulfilling. The only reason for out-relief was, that some poor persons were considered more deserving than others; it was only justifiable so long as charity was unable to deal with these deserving cases; and with the growth of charity organisation, charity would be able to do its proper work. He regretted that the Report, while rightly pledging the Council to no date for the abolition of out-relief, had not distinctly approved of its abolition. He had never known an instance in which out-relief had assisted anyone to get his own livelihood, and it was a disgrace that in so rich a city, charity hesitated to come forward and do what out-relief was supposed to do, but never did. About 40,000 persons in the metropolis received out-relief, at the cost of about £230,000—that is, each person in receipt of out-relief got, on an average, about 2s. a week, or what is equivalent to about a farthing a week, or a pot of beer every two months, from each one of

our population—on the ground that they were more deserving than other recipients of State charity!

Rev. H. G. Henderson said that there was no connection between the question of the abolition of out-relief and the occurrence of cases of starvation. Out-relief made things worse rather than better. With regard to what had been said about children being sent to workhouse schools, he considered that there they were dissociated from pauperism, while the children of parents in receipt of outdoor relief very often grew up to be paupers themselves.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta then moved the adjournment of the debate on the motion. The adjournment was carried.

QUESTIONS FOR DECISION OF COUNCIL.

Mr. A. H. Hill moved from the chair the following resolution, which was seconded and carried, viz.:

That in future any matter submitted by the Administrative Committee for decision of Council, except under a ruling of urgency, shall not be considered until the second meeting of Council after the date of such submission by the Administrative Committee.

The Council then adjourned.

OUT-RELIEF LISTS.—Mr. C. L. Corkran writes, that at the meeting of Council on the 23rd instant, he said, 'In a square mile of East London, according to Mr. Bartley, £450,000 were estimated to be spent in the 320 public and beer-houses in that space. He (Mr. Corkran) believed that that estimate was below the mark, and that the amount reached half a million.'—See *Reporter*, No. 214, p. 69.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, April 28, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
Christie, Capt.	1	0	0	George, A. W., Esq.	1	1	0
Jaffray, J. R. & Co.	1	1	0	Hooton & Yates, Messrs.	1	1	0
Rooper, T. J., Esq.	5	0	0	James, W. B., Esq.	1	1	0
Scott, Mrs.	0	1	0	Mayer, S. R. Townshend, Esq. (1876)	1	1	0
Wiglesworth, Mrs. M.	0	5	0	Do. (1877)	1	1	0

District Committee Aid Fund:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Christie, Capt.	1	0	0	Holford, R. S., Esq. (a.)	5	5	0

A CRITICISM ON DISTRICT VISITING.

The following is an extract from a letter on Visiting Societies and Lay Readers, written by the late Rev. William Harness, under the name of 'Presbyter Catholicus,' and published in 1844:—

Now, who are these visitors to be? The noblemen and gentlemen of the General Committee do not seem to have contemplated any difficulty on this score. Every obstacle is evaporated before the glowing heat of their enthusiasm, like clouds before the sun. Speak to them of visitors; and—it matters not where the parish or what the population—their active fancy instantly conjures up a group of perfect Christian ladies and self-denying Christian gentlemen, with knowledge equal to their zeal, and zeal proportioned to their knowledge; with plenty of time at their disposal and willingness, at a hint from their pastor, to spend it all in the service of the poor; with humility, which can meet every man on terms of equality as a brother; with gentleness, which never can offend; with temper, which can endure without impatience any amount of frowardness or contrariety; with charity, which can sympathise in every description of distress; with a quick insight into character, which intuitively distinguishes the true from the false, the sufferer from the impostor, and with a nice tact and judgment, which, apprehending at a glance the nature of the ill to be relieved, never allow them to be mistaken as to the best mode of administering the relief required. Such are the qualities necessary to form a good visitor of the poor, who is to go, a *stranger among strangers*, to deal with affliction in all its variety of forms, and with imposture in all its Protean transformations.

Can the General Committee really suppose that the characters fitted for such an office are readily to be met with? or that when met with they will require no discipline and education to prepare them for its duties? Talk of the imaginative powers 'of the lover, the lunatic, or the poet!' Why, such persons are not half so 'compact of imagination' as the staid members of this new Joint Stock Charity Association! A very few days since one of its zealous supporters told your Lordship's correspondent that

'nothing was easier to be met with than men and women calculated to act as district visitors, for the only qualities required were, "*sincere religious principles, and sound common sense*!'" Nothing more!—The two rarest qualities in the world to be found apart; and, of course, still more rare to be met with in union!

But supposing the parish of B. should be most highly blest, and be peculiarly rich in individuals of this happy religious and mental constitution; they are precisely the individuals whom the Rev. Mr. A. will, on establishing his Visiting Society, endeavour in vain to press into his service. The man of sincere religious principles and sound common sense is, of all others, the least ready to take such charges upon himself: he has his own business to attend to; he has his duty to fulfil in that state of life to which it has pleased God to call him; he is alive to all its weighty responsibilities, both immediate and remote; he feels that, with all his care to do his day well, he does not do all he ought, and heartily desires to do more; he knows that in taking upon himself the charge of families, with which he has no connexion but the very loose ties of the same parochial tenancy, he thrusts himself into the responsibilities of those relations or friends, neighbours or employers, who are morally and religiously bound to render them what assistance may be required; he is sure that such offices lie beyond the line of his clearly-ascertained obligations; and he conscientiously objects to undertake them, and thus to violate the Apostle's precept by 'stretching himself beyond his measure.' Besides, persons of this well-judging description are fully aware of the moral evil attending such avocations. They know that if there be any one thing which, next to presumptuous sin, is more demoralising than another, it is that official kind of intercourse with the distresses of our fellow-creatures which is drudgily kept up by the visitors of a Relief Society. '*It is better,*' says Solomon, '*to go up to the house of mourning than the house of feasting, for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.*' But, I believe, that however true this maxim may be, when the 'house of mourning' is entered in the ordinary course of our affairs, on account of any of the various claims of social duty, the influences which dwell beneath its roof very soon fail of producing their beneficial effect on the hearts of the active agents of a public charity. With such persons, to go in and out among the haunts of misery gradually becomes an habitual occupation; and it soon proves to them no more than a mere mechanical service, in which the finer sympathies of the heart become rather exhausted by over-use than invigorated by exercise. Their minds are more sharpened by the practice of dealing with and detecting the many artifices of imposition, than their hearts are softened by the presence of such cases of real affliction as they may happen to encounter. *Suspicion* is cultivated in their breasts to, at least, an equal degree with *charity*. Neither, indeed, is the habit of dispensing alms from funds, which is supplied by others, but of which we receive all the little consequences, visitation and thanks attending the distribution, at all calculated to *enoble* or refine our nature. It cultivates a hard dictatorial, bustling kind of character, which is as opposite as possible to the kind, meek, and gentle spirit of the Gospel. The visitor very soon degrades, in fact, both in his own disposition towards the poor, and in their estimation of him, into a sort of deputy overseer, or supplemental relieving officer. These are consequences which persons of sincere religious principles and sound common sense foresee; and they conduce, with many other reasons, to prevent their enlisting themselves among the active agents of any such *semi-distant* benevolent institutions.

ERRATUM.—'Reporter,' No. 214, p. 70, second column, line 19, for '400,000' read '40,000.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of April 1877 was 38,200, and 45,189 received outdoor relief, making a total of 83,389. This was a decrease of 1,632 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 792, but a decrease of 8,408 and 17,441 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 711. This was an increase of 41 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 17 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 14d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, May 7, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—J. W. Probyn, F. J. S.

Edgcombe, Mrs. Lathbury.

FULHAM:—Rev. H. Wilson, C. J. Stevens.

CHelsea:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel,

W. S. Seton-Karr.

St. GEORGE'S:—Hon. J. H. Lawrence,

Major FitzRoy.

WESTMINSTER:—H. Peto, W. Bevan, W.

Bousfield.

St. MARTLEBORNE:—P. H. Wicksteed, Miss

Octavia Hill.

HAMPSTEAD:—C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F.

Mallet.

SOUTH ST. PANCRAZ:—Miss Gibson, C. A.

Reiss.

St. GILES:—H. N. Hoare, R. L. Kenyon,

H. M. Keary, W. F. Lawrence.

STRAND:—Rev. B. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill,

W. Wightman Wood.

HOLBORN:—W. Sheepshanks, B. Baker.

CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brookes, Rev. H. I.

Cummins.

SHOREDITCH:—J. L. Foster, Rev. H. G.

Henderson.

BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. C. Kirton, J.

Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford, junr.

WHITECHAPEL:—C. L. Corkran, Rev. A.

Wedgwood, C. L. Smith.

St. GEORGE'S-IN-EAST:—A. G. Crowder.

MILE END:—Hon. H. R. Scott, Major

Nares.

POPLAR:—Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, R. Ellis.

St. SAVIOUR'S:—F. B. Montgomerie, Rev.

W. A. Richmond, H. Hoper, Russell

Barrington, W. F. Smith.

St. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.

LAMBETH:—D. Brown.

WANDSWORTH:—Miss H. Gurney, A.

Lambert.

BATTERSEA:—T. E. Hardy, F. Green.

DEPTFORD:—Capt. Cassan, H. F. Cornish.

WOOLWICH:—Hon. and Rev. A. Anson.

LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramly, G. Parker.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:—W. M. Wilkinson, F.

D. Mocatta.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—G. Blount, S.

Fuller, Sir O. B. Trevelyan, C. A. Miner,

Dr. Hawksley. TOTAL:—68.

SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

VICTORS:—Oscar Tottle, Rev. J. P. O.

Tompkins, Mr. Barrett, W. G. Howgrave,

G. Hintzen.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, May 3. There had been present:—

Mr. E. Peters, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Messrs. Barrington, Brown, Bevan, Hill, Lawrence, Probyn, and Venning.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending April 28 the receipts had been £12. 12s. for the General Fund, and £6. 5s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £604. 6s. 8d. and £44. 10s. 8d. respectively, £8. 0s. 4d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—That they had made grants of £47 and £30 to the Mile End and St. Olave's Committees; the total amount granted to these Committees since the 1st of October last had been £147 and £125 respectively.

ELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES.—The following members were elected to be members of the Sub-Committees:—

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—Sir R. M. Stephenson, Lieut.-General Cavenagh, Major Prendergast, Major Nares, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. A. H. Hill, Mr. C. A. Miner, Mr. F. B. Roberts, Mr. E. Corrie, Mr. E. Peters, Mr. J. R. Holland, and Mr. H. N. Hoare.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Major Prendergast, Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Mr. J. R. Holland, Mr. A. H. Hill, and Mr. W. M. Wilkinson.

DISTRICTS SUB-COMMITTEE.—Major FitzRoy, Hon. R. Grosvenor, Rev. S. A. Barnett, Mr. S. Fuller, Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, Miss Octavia Hill, Mr. R. Barrington, Miss E. Howes, Mr. Lewes, Mr. J. R. Holland, Mr. Meysey Clive, Mrs. Lathbury, Mr. A. Graham, Mr. A. P. Fletcher, Mr. Bousfield.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—Major FitzRoy, Capt. Gardiner, Mr. R. A. Aspinall, Hon. H. R. Scott, Hon. R. Capel, Miss E. Howes, and Mr. Bevan.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 1 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Hon. R. Grosvenor, Miss Howes, Messrs. Barrington, Edgcombe, Fuller, and Graham.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 1 had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Major FitzRoy, Capt. Gardiner, Miss E. Howes, Messrs. Barrington and Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 2 had been present:—

Mr. Alsager Hay Hill, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Rev. H. F. Mallet, and Mr. W. M. Wilkinson.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—There had been no meeting of this Sub-Committee on the 2nd of May.

GRANTS TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The following recommendations of the Administrative Committee, having been duly moved and seconded, were adopted, viz.:—

(1) That a grant of £25 be made to the Bethnal Green Committee.

(2) That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the Poplar Committee to the amount of £62. 11s., the remainder of the estimated deficit of that Committee for the current year.

(3) That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the St. Saviour's Committee to the amount of £132. 11s., the remainder of the estimated deficit of that Committee for the current year.

ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE SAMARITAN SOCIETY IN CONNECTION WITH THE HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE THROAT, 32 GOLDEN SQUARE, W., AND THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

The following letter, received from the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square, W., on the 15th January, 1877, was reported:—

'DEAR SIR,—I am desired by the Almoners of the Samaritan Society in connection with this hospital to ask whether your Society would undertake to make inquiries into cases which come before them for relief, and if so, whether you have or can suggest any simple form on which to set forth the various points upon which information is desired.

'The Samaritan Society was established to give relief to the poor out-patients of the hospital, by granting orders for food and coals, and assisting those who live at a distance to avail themselves of its benefits free of travelling expenses.

'The clergy have rendered valuable assistance in obtaining information, but in some cases it is difficult to ascertain in what parish or district a patient resides.

'I shall be happy to wait upon you, if it will save trouble.

'Yours faithfully,

'H. K. EVANS.

'To C. S. Loch, Esq.,

'Charity Organisation Society.'

The Administrative Committee, on the 25th January, had resolved that the particulars regarding which the hospital desires verification be investigated by the District Committees as requested; that the whole question be specially reported to Council; and that the form to be used and the special arrangements to be made be referred to the Districts Sub-Committee.

The following arrangements were subsequently agreed upon, and approved by the Administrative Committee on the 22nd March:—

1. That in every case a Lady Almoner of the Samaritan Society fill up the subjoined form, after interrogating the applicant.*

2. That the Samaritan Society then send the forms as soon as possible to the St. James's and Soho (Westminster Union) Committee, 37 Great Pulteney Street, W.

3. That the St. James's and Soho (Westminster Union) Committee forward the forms without delay to the proper District Committee.

4. That the District Committees to whom a form is forwarded send the statements entered upon it, and return it direct to the Lady Almoners of the Samaritan Society, Golden Square, W.

5. That, in token of the statements having been verified and found correct, the District Committee stamp the form in the place marked for that purpose. If the statements are incorrect, it will be necessary to report the particulars of the case to the Samaritan Society.

6. That the Lady Almoners of the Samaritan Society enclose a blank duplicate form with each application for inquiry. This may be filled in by the District Committee, and kept for the purpose of reference.

SAMARITAN SOCIETY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE THROAT, 32 GOLDEN SQUARE, W.

APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.		No.
Name	Address	
[Employment]		
Employer's Name	Ditto Address	
Weekly Income, viz.:—		
Wages of Applicant		
Earnings of Wife and Family resident at home.		
Parish		
Relief from { Charitable Persons		
{ Club or Benefit Society		
{ Relations		

Number dependent upon weekly income and relief Adults Children.

Please to verify the above statement,

..... Lady Almoner.

To the Honorary Secretary of the
Charity Organisation Society Committee.

Stamp of
Charity
Organisation
Society.

CHARITY AND OUT-RELIEF.

With the permission of the Council letters were read from Lord Lichfield, Sir Rutherford Alcock, Major Prendergast, and Mr. W. Day. Major Prendergast, referring to the words read at the last meeting of Council from a memorandum of Mr. W. M. Wilkinson's,* wrote that he had seconded the motion passed on the 30th of October last,† and was present throughout such discussion as took place, and could positively state that he would not have been found seconding the motion and pressing it to a division had it been the object of the motion to express an opinion—a 'positive opinion'—on the highly controverted point of the advisability of sweeping away outdoor relief, or had the motion been so taken by Council.

With the permission of Council, and at the suggestion of the Chairman, Rev. H. I. Cummins modified his amendment, so that, instead of being worded thus—

That the best thanks of the Council be given to the Sub-Committee for the care with which they have drawn up their able Report; and that it be referred back to them, with a request that they would so far modify its wording as that it should not seem to commit the Council of the Society to the principle of the absolute abolition of outdoor relief—

it should read as follows:—

That, without committing the Council of the Society to the principle of the absolute abolition of outdoor relief, the best thanks of the Council be given to the Sub-Committee for the care with which they have drawn up their able Report.

The Secretary read the resolutions moved by Mr. J. R. Hollond and passed, on the casting vote of the Chairman, by the Council on the 1st May, 1876, viz.:—

That this Council, considering that it is imperatively required, in the interests of the poor, that the Poor-law should be administered with a view to the ultimate abolition of outdoor relief, recommends its District Committees to co-operate with Boards of Guardians in the following way:—

(1) By recommending to them for relief only such cases as they consider suitable for indoor relief in its various forms.

(2) By taking off their hands, as far as possible, all such cases of temporary distress as are not suitable for indoor relief, e.g. cases of sickness where it is not advisable to compel the patient to enter the infirmary.

(3) By referring to them only those School Board cases in which, from the character and circumstances of the parents, it is advisable that the children should be taken into the District Schools; all other cases being considered within the jurisdiction of charity, to be dealt with on the ordinary principles of the Society.‡

He also read the following resolution of Council of the 15th May, 1876, viz.:—

That no action be taken in carrying out Mr. Hollond's resolutions, passed on May 1, 1876, on Outdoor Relief, until after the first meeting of Council in October.¶

It was reported that Mr. J. R. Hollond was unable to attend through illness.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta then continued the adjourned debate. He supported the modified amendment moved by the Rev. H. I. Cummins. He said that the whole question of outdoor relief was of too recent a growth, and the circumstances connected with it too complicated and too little understood, to justify the Council in pronouncing any opinion as to its abolition. While some Boards of Guardians had taken strong measures with a view to its discontinuance, others were by no means convinced of the evil consequences of the system. While believing that outdoor relief was most useful in certain cases, he disapproved of a large and wholesale distribution of it. At present there were not, he considered, charitable institutions such as would meet the requirements of the poor, were out-relief very largely reduced. He hoped the Society might be the means of creating such institutions. Meanwhile, he thought the Council should receive the report as a useful record of facts, but should not adopt it.

Mr. Russell Barrington argued that the Council had never committed itself to the principle of the abolition of outdoor relief, nor had it expressed any opinion in favour of its continuance. The Council, by the

* See Reporter No. 215, p. 74.

† That as it appears that many cases of individual hardship are occurring, especially amongst the respectable aged poor, in consequence of the laudable efforts of Boards of Guardians to do away with the much-abused system of outdoor relief, it is the duty of this Society, while cordially co-operating with the Guardians, to ascertain how private charity may best be directed to meet these isolated cases; and that with this view the Co-operation Sub-Committee be directed at once to ascertain, from metropolitan and other agencies for the relief of distress, whether some concerted plan of action cannot be devised.

‡ See Reporter No. 176, p. 82. ¶ See Reporter No. 178, p. 90.

resolution on which the report was based, requested the Sub-Committee to make inquiries; evidence was wanted: the Council knew it was not their affair whether the Guardians were right or wrong in abolishing out-relief. But the report did not contain enough simple evidence, and Mr. Cummins ignored the evidence that the report did contain. It was shown that cases of starvation, said to have occurred in consequence of the withdrawal of out-relief, had not been caused by any such withdrawal; and it was stated that in three districts in the East End no poverty or suffering had ensued which charity was unable to meet. Those who did not wish to adopt the report should disprove these facts. The report did not give sufficient evidence; but such evidence as it did give was not taken into consideration by the supporters of the amendment.

Mr. Seton-Karr said that, while the Guardians were in some districts doing what was in their power to remove many of the abuses of the out-relief system, it was the opinion of those most competent to decide, that out-relief could not be abolished; in any case, it was not in the province of the Society to consider the question of its abolition or reduction. That rested entirely with the Guardians.

Mr. Bousfield regretted that the report did not contain more complete evidence and 'stronger' facts. He referred especially to those parts of the report which dealt with the admission of the sick to the infirmary, and the treatment of convalescent cases. He read an extract from a pamphlet on 'Depauperisation' by Sir Baldwin Leighton, and quoted from Mr. Longley's report on outdoor relief, to show that while it was most desirable to keep in sight the reduction of outdoor relief, in the hope of its ultimate abolition, there could be no prospect of its being immediately done away with.

Mr. C. L. Corkran feared that, in adopting the report, the Council would pass one abstract resolution more. It was quite evident that at present the charitable institutions of London would not co-operate with a view to the reduction of outdoor relief. He considered that none had a better right to speak than those who passed their lives among the poor, and he quoted instances to show that the reduction of out-relief in one of the East End Districts had placed on charity a burthen which it was almost impossible for it to bear. The price of bread had risen, and for many reasons this was an extremely inopportune time for advocating such a reform as that intimated in the report of the Sub-Committee.

Mr. A. G. Crowder supported the motion for the adoption of the report. In the three districts to which the report referred, charity had been forthcoming to meet all suitable cases in which out-relief was refused. While it might be said that the relieving officers were not unbiassed, the charity agents, on whose reports the evidence respecting starvation cases was based, held, so far as he knew, rather lenient views on the subject of outdoor relief. He had himself visited nearly all the cases—especially those of widows and children—in which out-relief had been refused, and he admitted that the applicants must, in some cases, lead harder lives. But this a change of fashion, throwing many hands out of work, or being written down 'ineligible' by one of the District Committees, might also cause; it was no proof that the system adopted by the East End Guardians was wrong. He showed that the method disapproved by Mr. Cummins, of sending to a district school so many of the children of a widow as she was not able to support, was a lesser evil than that of giving out-relief to her and her children. As to the sick, charity had always been forthcoming to meet cases in which it was undesirable to send the patient into the house, such as cases in which the applicant was unable to 'pass the doctor,' and thus become a member of a sick-club, &c. In other cases, it was undoubted that the out-relief, which was insufficient for the support of the whole family, often went, not to the sick man only, but to both him and his family, whereas indoor relief in cases of sickness was adequate. With the aged, charity had the greatest difficulties to overcome. But it was quite possible to establish pension societies to provide for suitable cases, and the difficulties would disappear as charity became better organised.

The reduction of out-relief had developed family affection in the most extraordinary way. He could give numerous instances of this; but this and other good results were not to be wondered at, for in their work the East End Guardians were only carrying out what numerous well-known writers who had seriously considered the question, had advocated. It was only necessary to adhere to just principles. He had not known one case in which, out-relief being

withdrawn, the family could not get on. As to the starvation cases, he quoted that of Greenslade to show that they had nothing whatever to do with the reduction of out-relief. It was said that charity must first be organised; he believed on the contrary that, to a certain extent, the want of better organised charity would not be felt unless the Guardians first reduced out-relief.

Dr. Hawksley, whilst approving the report, which, rightly, did not pledge the Society to the immediate abolition of out-relief, could not support it, because it did not suggest any mode of co-operating with the Metropolitan Charities. Cases of distress now occurred, and neither Poor Law nor the Charities held themselves responsible. He would wish everything done to make the offices of their Society as attractive to the poor as possible, while the Council took steps to negotiate with all suitable charities, with a view to obtaining their co-operation; if they still held aloof, and would not make common cause with the Society, he thought the Council should make this known to the public, and let the responsibility of inaction rest with the Charities. Having done this, the Guardians might be asked to make more stringent regulations.

With the permission of Council, Sir Charles Trevelyan, who stated that the Co-operation Sub-Committee accepted the amendment of which Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe had given notice, read, on behalf of Mr. J. R. Hollond, the following paper:—

As far as I have heard the debate, the central position taken in the report has not been successfully impugned. That position is that this great reduction in outdoor relief has been carried out in Whitechapel, St. George's-in-the-East and Stepney, without causing great suffering or distress, and that the demands made upon charity in consequence have not been largely increased, indeed, have scarcely increased at all, except in one class of cases. Those who oppose the publication of the facts contained in the report are bound to show that they are incorrect—that the reduction of outdoor relief has caused a large amount of distress, and that charity is unable to meet it. Of this, however, no evidence at all was given last Monday.

The remark that the cases investigated for the London Cottage Mission were investigated by the Committees of our Society, and therefore by bodies who were inclined to assume that they were bad cases, seems to me not to be borne out by the case-papers furnished in each case, besides being an imputation on the impartiality of our Committees. If this is really the opinion in which our Committees are held by members of our own body, we cannot expect the public to have confidence in us.

My only answer to Dr. Daniels' amendment must be, that until a fixed policy is adopted with regard to out-relief, and recognised fully by the public, charity cannot and will not be organised. The very failure alluded to in the report is an additional reason for disseminating the information which has been collected together in it.

The amendment moved by the Rev. H. I. Cummins having been put to the vote was carried, 19 voting for it, 15 against it; Mr. Hollond's motion for the adoption of the Report being thus lost.

Dr. Daniels then moved the following amendment:—

That the co-operation of the Metropolitan Charities (p. 8 of the Report) is not such as to warrant the Council in taking the responsibility of encouraging the total abolition of outdoor relief; that such encouragement would tend to increase the number of cases of hardship mentioned in the Report (p. 8), while the Charity Organisation Society is not in a position to deal adequately with such cases; and that therefore it is expedient to adjourn the consideration of the Report to this day six months.

He said that the Sub-Committee had gone out of their way to take up the general question of out-relief, which had not been referred to them by the Council. He did not think that the evidence given respecting starvation cases was sufficient, nor, considering the unwillingness of charitable institutions to combine for the performance of a common duty, did he believe that the Council would be right to do anything at present that might lead to the abolition of out-relief.

Mr. Lavers Smith seconded the amendment. He did not think out-relief, as opposed to indoor or other relief, could be considered a means of assisting the more deserving poor. As in the diagnosis of disease, the nature of the illness, not the character of patient, had to be considered; so in the investigation of cases of distress the appropriate remedy—out-relief or indoor relief—should, irrespective of the character of the applicant, be available. No hard and fast line was possible. The report was most inconclusive. The District Committees had not been applied to. The Sub-Committee should have received facts from all sides. They should have inserted in their report the Parliamentary return for 1875, of which the following

were the figures:—Deaths by starvation. Eastern Division. Bethnal Green, 13; Whitechapel, 5; St. George's, 4; Shoreditch, 1; Unknown, 9. Total, 32. Western Division, 1; Central Division, 7; City and Southwark, 5; Westminster, 1. Grand total, 46. It was no reply to the argument from the facts contained in this return that hardly a single case there mentioned had applied to the Guardians for out-relief and been refused it. The poor in the districts in which out-relief had been reduced did not apply for out-relief, because they knew it would be refused to them.

Sir Charles Trevelyan then moved the adjournment of the debate, which was carried.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, May 5, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Greenwood, Mrs. Sarah	0	10	0	Graham, G. J., Esq.	2	2	0
Lansdowne, Marquis of	25	0	0	Malcolm, Hon. Mrs. W.	1	0	0
St. Alban's, Wood Street, ...				Miller & Sons	1	1	0
the Churchwardens of	5	5	0	Munt, Brown, & Co.	1	1	0
Ward, John, Esq.	2	2	0	Nicholson, A. M., Esq.	0	10	0
Annual:—				Pedler, G. S., Esq.	0	10	0
Bell, Mrs.	2	2	0	Richardson, Miss	3	0	0
Clive, Meysey, Esq.	1	1	0	Samuels, C., Esq.	1	1	0
Courtauld, Mrs.	1	1	0	Tapling & Co., Thos.	2	2	0
Douglas, Miss Scott	2	0	0	District Committee Aid Fund:—			
Ellwood, Henry, Esq.	1	1	0	Douglas, Miss Scott	5	0	0
				Long, Heathcote, Esq. (a)	1	1	0

DISTRICT COMMITTEES: ANNUAL REPORTS.

ST. OLAVE'S.—*Public Day Nurseries.*—These have lately become even more needful than formerly. The School Board very properly obliges the attendance at school of the little nurses with whom mothers were wont to leave their infants while themselves absent at work.

'A woman in the poorer classes cannot, at the same time, look after her children at home and earn enough to keep them alive; the calling which can be followed by her in her own home are the worst paid. It is very desirable that a public nursery should be attached to each school of the London Board, under whose control such nurseries should be. Mothers could then bring their infants and elder children to the nursery and school respectively, or could entrust the infants to the care of the other children to leave at the nursery. A small payment would be made in advance, for which food and attendance would be given. Women might then go where the best wages could be earned, and feel under no anxiety as to the safety of their children during their absence.

There can, however, be no doubt that the establishment of public nurseries would be as great a benefit to the infants as to their mothers. At present, less than 500 children are received daily in the 23 nurseries of London; the yearly increase in the population of the metropolis is nearly 45,000. No nursery has yet been quite self-supporting, but this end has been so nearly reached, that it would seem that, with a sufficient number of children, it might be achieved after the preliminary cost of establishment had been provided.

The Committee feel so strongly the need of a public nursery in their district, that they have authorised their Secretaries to apply for and receive subscriptions and donations for the purpose of establishing one. Money received for this purpose will be paid to a separate account, and when the nursery has been established, its management and funds will be handed over to such members of this Committee and such other persons as will undertake its control, and this Committee will cease to have further charge of it.

Inquiries for Private Persons.—Paddington and Kensington call attention to this branch of their work. At the former 'benevolent persons are, in an increasing number of cases, consulting the Society, and obtaining information from it, before they give their charity; a conclusion which is also confirmed by the numerous visits (numbering nearly 700) which have been made at the office in the course of the year by persons for the purpose of inquiring about cases or of getting information about charities.'

At Kensington, 'out of 353 cases in this class' ('reported in answer to inquiries') we were able to report favourably upon as many as 163. In most of these we know—in all we believe—that suitable relief was administered; a considerable sum of money being thus spent, we are glad to believe, in really beneficial charity at our instigation. . . . In looking back on the work of the past year, we think we may say we are steadily gaining ground. We say this not merely because we have been asked in so large a number of

ses for advice or information only upon which others were prepared but because those who have come to us for money or active help very much more disposed to accept our statements of facts, and to our opinions and suggestions, than was formerly the case. Comparatively few charitable persons now ask us for money only; an increasing tendency to seek rather advice or personal assistance: there being several members of our body who give a large amount of time, thought, labour, the latter at times of a very uninviting description, in their attempt to devise the best means of helping a difficult case. Of course we venture to say that the view we have taken has been invariably confirmed by the applicant's friends to be correct; but there is an increasing tendency to acquiesce in our decisions.

THE ST. PANCRAZ: Ladies' Work.—A society of ladies has been formed in this parish for the purpose of finding situations for friendless girls, and of giving them some training and outfit, visiting and generally befriending them, and the Committee have found this Society very helpful in that most arduous work.

THE CITY COMMITTEE.—Whilst the City Committee report—'They are glad to be able to state that since the commencement of their operations they have only had to refuse loans as bad debts in three cases, while in the great majority of cases loans have been paid off with the most praiseworthy punctuality, many instances are now alone sought for, where, formerly, grants have been expected, and in all probability given; and the Greenwich Committee are able to state that they 'continue to aid the poor chiefly by loans, the total of only £35 having proved sufficient to enable them to lend £560 they commenced operations, and the loss has only averaged 1 per cent.' the Wandsworth Committee have to regret that they 'have had considerable difficulty in obtaining repayment of some of the loans granted, and are compelled to enforce their claims either against the debtors or their relatives. This is an imperative, though very unpleasant, duty, as if loans would be merely gifts in disguise, and the moral results would be bad. The Committee have learnt by experience that the greatest difficulty is necessary in making loans, and they regret to say that the difficulty is generally in inverse proportion to the amount lent, and that, while the very poor repay with fair punctuality, those in a superior class (a class which it might have been thought the Society could most easily assist) are much less mindful of their obligations.' The opinion of the Wandsworth Committee is, we believe, very much in accordance with the last clause, and they accordingly seldom issue loans for more than £10, but we should be glad to learn the experience of other District Committees.

PROVINCIAL.

THE TENBY COTTAGE HOSPITAL.—At the Annual Meeting of this Institution, on January last, a discussion was raised as to the eligibility, as out-patients, of 'indoor servants in place,' and it was resolved that the words 'in special cases to be decided by the House Committee' should be added to the clause which declared them ineligible. We should like to call attention to the Committee of the Hospital to the action taken at the meeting with regard to domestic servants. The provident dispensary there is now open to them, 'when considered eligible by the Committee of management,' on payment of 5s. per annum, in not less than half-yearly instalments. The Tenby report states that the receipts amounted to £14s. 11d., and the expenditure to £191. 10s. 6d. 25 patients were treated into the Cottage Hospital in 1876, being an excess of 11 over the number treated in 1875, and 64 outdoor patients were dealt with at the Dispensary.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—The Annual Report for 1876 attracts attention to the Crèche which was opened in July last, and to which, for the months ending December 31, 1876, there were 163 admissions. The Crèche, which is under the direct supervision of the Ladies' Committee, including furniture, £20. 13s. 8d., and received £18. 2s. 8d., including 8s. 2d. as children's pence. The report, an able and comprehensive one, shows that 255 cases were dealt with during the year, as compared with 258 in the previous year. The receipts amounted to £147. 6s. 8d., and the disbursements to £159. 14s. 9d. for loans repaid, whilst the sum of £153. 17s. 6d., being £77. 5s. for loans, was expended. From the report of the annual meeting it would seem that the Society has one of the most important means for success in a 'genial, assiduous, and self-sacrificing Hon. Sec.'

THE LONDON CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—The Committee, in their report for 1876, state that, 'at the request of the Committee of the Winter Charity, they revised the list of all applicants, numbering 520, for the benefits of that charity, and recommended those they found to be necessitous and deserving.' The number of cases dealt with, including vagrants, was 132, as compared with 234 in 1875 and 152 in 1874.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of April, compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of March 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week March	4th week April	4th week March	4th week April
Kensington	1,033	1,014	353	378
Fulham	428	401	659	665
Paddington	814	813	977	982
Chelsea	964	921	481	438
St. George's	1,921	1,849	1,746	1,665
Westminster	762	764	302	294
St. Marylebone	2,526	2,494	2,204	2,111
Hampstead	180	190	90	83
St. Pancras	2,912	2,862	5,206	5,011
Islington	1,432	1,420	2,651	2,504
Hackney	878	858	2,190	2,056
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury .	1,277	1,249	625	644
Strand	768	746	386	373
Holborn	2,639	2,631	3,956	3,854
City of London	2,134	2,097	3,192	2,969
Shoreditch	1,171	1,154	823	876
Bethnal Green	1,539	1,517	690	681
Whitechapel	1,221	1,158	167	153
St. George's, East	1,160	1,155	139	143
Stepney	921	901	206	212
Mile End Old Town	843	839	578	626
Poplar	1,154	1,147	1,840	1,785
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,474	2,418	3,006	2,744
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,483	1,469	2,501	2,353
Lambeth	1,679	1,672	3,232	3,127
Wandsworth and Clapham	938	931	1,630	1,545
Camberwell	1,145	1,141	1,514	1,425
Greenwich	1,420	1,400	2,309	2,125
Woolwich	783	778	2,577	2,323
Lewisham	302	289	601	583
Total	38,901	38,278	46,831	44,728

MEETING IN THE CITY.

A meeting in support of the Charity Organisation Society was held in the Egyptian Hall, Mansion House, on Friday, April 27, when there were present—the Right Hon. Lord Lichfield, Lord Dunsany, Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., the Right Hon. G. Goschen, M.P., Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., Sir John Lubbock, M.P., Sir Richard Wilbraham, the Right Hon. J. G. Hubbard, M.P., Canon Milman, Rev. R. J. Simpson, General Stanhope, Mr. Hamilton Hoare, Mr. F. D. Mocatta, the Rev. Harry Jones, Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary, and others.

At the opening of the proceedings the chair was taken by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, who said that he desired to express the great pleasure which it afforded him as Lord Mayor to offer the hall for the use of the Society's meeting. It was always a satisfaction to the chief magistrate to be enabled to fall in with the views of his fellow-citizens and others, and by so doing to assist them in carrying out their objects. He excessively regretted that his various and numberless duties prevented his presiding throughout the meeting, but he had much pleasure in saying that Sir John Lubbock would take his place. (His Lordship then resigned his position as Chairman to Sir John Lubbock.)

Sir John Lubbock, in opening the proceedings, after thanking the Lord Mayor for the use of the hall and his countenance of the objects of the Society, called on the Rev. H. I. Cummins, the Hon. Secretary of the City Committee, to read a list of the gentlemen who had sent letters of apology for their absence.

Mr. Cummins read letters from the Duke of Bedford, the Duke of Westminster, the Bishop of London, Sir E. H. Currie, Mr. Pease, M.P., Mr. F. A. Bevan, and Mr. Lionel Cohen, expressing regret that they were unable to attend.

Mr. W. E. Gladstone wrote as follows:—‘Sir, I much regret that, excellent as I believe the design of your Society to be, I must ask to be excused from complying with your request. Except in cases of special connection, I am obliged to decline all such engagements.—Your faithful servant, W. E. GLADSTONE.’

Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., rose to move the first resolution. He said he was very glad to have the opportunity of offering his testimony in support of this interesting movement. The resolution he had been asked to move was—‘That this meeting approves the useful work undertaken by the Charity Organisation Society, and considers that, in view of the present extension of its operations, the Society is deserving of increased pecuniary and general support.’ He believed what was most wanted in the City of London was the understanding thoroughly what this Society was aiming to accomplish. He had no idea that its object was merely to devise charity, and therefore he might not unfairly take exception to its name. He believed as thoroughly in charity in the strict sense of that word as anyone in the City of London; but he believed we needed a great deal of care in the dispensing of our help to the poor (hear, hear), and pre-eminently in endeavouring to use the means which we were anxious to place at their disposal in such way as substantially to help them—in other words, to appeal to their spirit of independence, or to help them to help themselves. He felt there was nothing more wanted in the City of London than to expose imposture. There was an immense amount of charity the result of absolute fraud on the part of those who applied for it. (Hear, hear.) He had been a victim himself; but still he would rather make a mistake in that direction than draw the line at a certain point and do nothing. Say what they might, there was an enormous amount of suffering in London that needed to be sought out, with a view to its being helped. He attached exceeding value to this Society, because it was making itself acquainted with the condition of the poor in every district. He believed we had never known in our time so much of the homes of the poor of London as we had since the visits of the School Board visitors. We were obtaining systematic information of the greatest possible value; and the class of persons to whom he had referred, who went into their work with a feeling of hearty sympathy with the condition of the poor, were ready and willing to render help on good cause being shown by those competent to give information. It was of great importance that those who were accustomed to give a reply to applications should secure a searching investigation of the cases that were brought before them; and the Charity Organisation Society placed itself at the disposal of anyone, without charge, to make inquiry and to substantiate, if it could be substantiated, the claim that was being put before those who were willing to be contributors before they parted with their money. He attached great importance to that feature of the work—that they found out the rogues and vagabonds who were preying on benevolence, and so impeding benevolent action by the fraud they committed. The Society did this; but they did what was more important, they found out the suffering that was going on out of sight. There were thousands of people in London living in garrets, to whom it would be an absolute crucifixion to beg, and who were in the greatest possible difficulty as to how they were to get on from day to day—persons in reduced circumstances, people who had seen better days. He was officially acquainted with a Society the object of which was to help gentlemen, absolute ladies, who were seeking to extricate themselves from difficulties—which was putting in their way the means of obtaining work by which they would be able to live (and he was able to justify what he was saying), and enabling them to earn the number of shillings necessary for that purpose, without the degradation of having to apply for charity. He held it to be the duty of a Christian people to try to find out the extent of suffering which existed, and to place at the disposal of a Society like this the means at our command of rendering them help. It was not always money that was required; very frequently it was co-operation, which might be the means of making people earn an independent living, and so keeping up the spirit of self-respect and independence, which was our true interest, viewing the case nationally. The Society was also exercising a wholesome influence among working men by lending money where the utmost moral guarantee could be given for repayment to persons who were under temporary difficulties, by sickness in their families, or some other like cause. The cases were extremely rare (amounting to the smallest amount of money so lent) where the money was lost. So again, on the point of migration of working men from a district where there was a surplus of labour to districts where workmen were wanted—the Society had done great service in that direction by helping people to help themselves. He had been struck with the testimony of Lord Shaftesbury on this subject; and it appeared to him that if this Society was thoroughly supported, and enabled to establish and maintain in efficiency district committees all over London to the number of thirty-six, they would be realising a scheme which he had had before his mind for many years, which was in operation at the town of Elberfeld, in Germany, a town of large extent, but which was mapped out into districts, in each of which there was a committee of all classes, the working classes taking their full

share of the obligation to find out and make known where work was to be had, and to transfer and to pay for the transference of men as work might be found for them. He heard a great deal all round about the evils of our Poor-law system, and often thought he saw great need of changes which would be beneficial to the ratepayers as well as to the poor themselves; but he could conceive of nothing more perfect than to induce people who were called upon to part with their money to co-operate with persons to bridge over the gulf which undoubtedly existed between the rich and the poor, by getting in contact with them, by letting them feel that we were not anxious to crowd our gifts of money upon them, but to make them regain their position in the world by industry. It was because he believed in the practical work that was being done by this institution that he had taken part in its work that day, and had assented to move the first resolution.

Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., in seconding the resolution, said he had not been connected with the Society very long, but during that time he had been very glad to do all he could to assist it in its practical work. There were leaders of the movement on the platform who would tell the meeting what it was in the beginning. He hoped that it would be shown by their work that they had not gone out of the groove which had been laid down so ably at the commencement. At the meeting lately held he attempted to prove (and, he thought, satisfactorily) that there would always be in this great city a large number of people who required assistance of one kind or another. It was a necessity that in every large city there should be for some people only casual employment; and when there was casual employment, it must have its attendant evils, and the evils of drunkenness, unthrift, and utter helplessness. It was those evils which this Society did the best in its power to meet and counteract. He had always thought that there were three objects which this Society had in view, and had ever kept in view. First of all, it had to deal with classes which required suppression, and suppression was a very mild word. He firmly believed that from its commencement the Charity Organisation Society had done a great deal towards the suppression of mendicancy, and of those who only lived by preying on the charitable instincts of their fellow-creatures—that it had put a great stop to that system—and, speaking in the middle of the City of London, he thought there were many present who could say how often they had been annoyed by mendicants of every sort and description. It must be allowed that at the present moment this evil had greatly diminished, and the Society had had something to do with that. That was a great work which was ever going on to the Society, and which they ever had done, by the aid of Mr. Turner and his associates. Now, they had to look for the present to those who required relief, to those who were to be shown the best way of doing without that relief from charitable agencies in the future. Mr. Morley had very ably put to the meeting that there were many who required to be sought out, many who shrank, for many reasons—their bringing up their habits of life—from soliciting aid in any shape. It was too true that in this great city hardly a week passed without some case occurring of death from starvation. There were those who were unwilling to go to the workhouse, and to have that veil torn down which had hitherto hung over them in the lowest depths of poverty, and they preferred to starve in their miserable lodgings rather than face (he would not say the degradation, because it was not in all cases a degradation) the publicity more or less which attached to their seeking for help. The Elberfeld system, which Mr. Morley had brought before their notice, was one which was very applicable to a town like Elberfeld, and the nearer we approached to that system the better; but when they saw that under that system every volunteer relieving officer—if he might term them so—had not more than four or five families under his notice, the meeting would see that it would be a very long time before, in this great City of London, they would be able to give each volunteer only four or five families to look to. He wished we could. That was one reason why the Society asked further aid in the shape of people coming forward with their personal assistance, as much as they could, to help in a street, in a district, in a parish, in any way, to get acquainted with those poorer brothers who were dwellers in neighbourhoods who so often needed as much a friendly word as timely help, who wanted to be shown the path in which they should go, but did not want money to a great extent, but a kindly word in season. In that way a great deal might be done, and a great deal had been done; he himself had very often had cases brought before a committee on which he had the pleasure to sit, to which they had been able to give not only advice but temporary assistance. He had seen the case in which if he could only have said to some one, ‘Will you go and call upon these persons, help them, give them a hand, show them how to get help?’—if he had had a man or a lady at his elbow who would do that at the time, he would have been doing more good than by giving £5 in money. Till they could get that thoroughly well carried out they would not be able to get to that point of perfection which hitherto the Elberfeld system had brought about. Then, again, with regard to the class who wanted present relief, money was undoubtedly necessary, both for the operations of this Society and as a

doing good; and he would point out that this Society in no way with any other charitable institution of the same kind in London. It did not clash with them, but it attempted to work with them, to help them to work. It pointed out, so far as it was able, the means by which such charitable institutions could best do good, and if they could get more charitable institutions to work with them, to come to the help of the poor, for advice—they did not offer to give advice—all they offered to do was to give a simple report on the case, and leave the charitable institutions to deal with it—in that way he was quite sure that a great deal of work which was now done by charitable institutions for individuals who had got no earthly right to claim that it would be done away with. They had all seen the complaints of the out-system of patients at hospitals. This Society had inquired, and endeavoured to put a stop to that. The present system of out-patients at hospitals was not fair on the medical man, on the hospitals, or on the charitable individuals who endowed and kept up hospitals. Mr. Morley had said a great deal about the benefit of out-patients in that he (Lord Richard Grosvenor) entirely agreed with him. In a small society to which he belonged and took great interest in, the 'labdrivers'—who helped those who endeavoured to help themselves, had done more good by lending a man £1 or £2, to enable him to get that rainy day which was almost sure, sooner or later, to come to him, than by getting casual employment. In that institution they had never lost a penny that they had parted with in the way of loan; and the same was the case with the Charity Organisation Society. They often made loans; they made after careful inquiry both into the character of the individual applied for the loan, and also, what was fully as important, the character of his sureties. In this way they had seldom found a man who really deserved help that could not get two men to be sureties for him—that was one reason why sureties were so valuable. If a man for a loan, and it was found that his character and antecedents were what was wished, they asked him to produce two sureties, and if he was able to do so, it was pretty clear that his neighbours had another opinion of him to what he had of himself; and that was a very great help to the Society in granting loans. While on this point he would bear a word of testimony to what Mr. Morley had said about out-patients. In the committee to which he belonged they had a number of School Board cases, and they went into those cases as far as they could, and dealt with them as if they were dealing with individual moneys; and he did not believe that in the history of the metropolis there had ever been anything more nobly done for the people who were wishing to help themselves than Mr. Peek's gift. He was public to state that that was one of the most noble and handsome gifts that had ever been made; and it had done an immensity of good. If the Charity Organisation Society only did its duty—and it was doing its best duty—and if it thoroughly sifted the cases and gave to the deserving, that gift would do more good than could be contemplated or achieved. With regard to the future, this Society did not only deal with giving help at present; but it was always, to the utmost extent of its power, the disposal of its members, doing what it could to find out what were the institutions to encourage, and in what way the working classes might be helped. Committees were constantly sitting. He himself for the months had gone into the question of national penny banks, coffee into all those questions of provident societies in every way; and he viewed them as they had—he would not say taken evidence—but they had gentlemen who represented those societies to come forward and tell them what they could; and very willing they had all been to a single exception; and in that way he hoped they would be able to spread the knowledge of these facts amongst the working classes, means of subscriptions and assistance be enabled to do good to the poor, and ameliorate, as much as lay in their power, the misery and distress and always would exist in London. For these reasons, the ways done and always should be ready to do all he could to help the poor, and he would ask the meeting to do the same. His Lordship then seconded the resolution.

Mr. Harry Jones, who supported it, said he believed he had been so on account of his experience of the working of the Society at the end of London. He certainly had seen something of it there, but had not in other parts of London. He would bear his testimony, going to what the East of London was not always credited with. It sometimes looked down upon as a place in which humanity showed the least favourable aspect; but from what he had seen (and it was his own experience he had had) he was convinced that if sturdy independence of character were to be found anywhere, there was where it was to be found more strikingly developed than in the East of London. There must always be, especially in a large population, work, and with casual work there must be casual wages; and at all wages there must be a great amount of distress. The Charity Organisation Society had turned its eyes and its telescopes towards the East, and had been engaged for some years in investigating cases

of poverty and distress in those parts. Of course, they found a certain amount of distress, and sometimes very grievous cases of distress; but there was one thing he did not think they had found very much of—they had not found much gross imposture. The distress which very often came before those investigating it in the East of London was very often of a truly genuine kind. The professed poachers on generosity betook themselves to the well stocked preserves of the West; they did not find much game to shoot in the East. Thus, when the Charity Organisation Society began to learn the condition of the poor in the East of London they found—and he believed he should be supported by those who had more intimate experience of its workings than he had—that although there was no such gross mendicancy as there was in some parts, yet there was a certain amount of distress caused by the parent of distress, improvidence; and the attention not only of the Charity Organisation Society, but of those who had in their hands the strings of the purse from which public relief came, had been drawn most forcibly to this; and probably it was in a great degree due to the Charity Organisation Society that so much attention had been paid to this fact. They heard a great deal in these days of compulsory education, and there had resulted another sort of compulsory education—education in the art of providence, and this was being applied by the Guardians of the Poor, who had, in very many instances, and in some places comprising wide districts, withdrawn outdoor relief almost entirely. It was believed—and he thought there was a great deal of truth in the belief—that much of the improvidence which was found to exist in the East of London arose from a lax system of outdoor relief. That was pointed out in a great measure by the Charity Organisation Society, for it desired always to work along with the legal Guardians of the Poor, and the Guardians had acted upon it with extreme (well, he must even use the word) severity, and in many districts withdrawn outdoor relief to a great extent. It was the case in his own parish, the total population of which was 50,000. It had been passing lately through a period of great depression, inasmuch as one great source of the employment of labour—the sugar manufactory—had been shut up. In spite of this, the poor-rates had fallen (he spoke of the parishes at large, not of his division only) from 11d. to 7d. in the last three years; and that was the case in several other parishes. This was a result of the compulsory education—the result of this taking away of outdoor relief, which to a great extent was a cause of the improvidence among the working classes. During the process there had been much occasional distress—there was no doubt about it. (Hear, hear.) He was not at all a believer in careless living, and he felt the greatest gratitude to the Charity Organisation Society for the aid it had given in investigating cases, and in encouraging the belief that not only should cases be investigated, but when relief was given it should be given, not by doles, but in a more generous measure. The result, therefore, came to this, that as far as regarded the East of London, the process it had been going through by the method of outdoor relief, which had been found to act prejudicially, was not likely to be put on again—at least not for a twelvemonth. The Charity Organisation Society was engaged in carefully watching this economic reformation, and in taking pains that none should be allowed to suffer bitterly and to the end, because of this severe drastic economy. Not only were the original causes, which had impelled this Society, still in existence, but there was this special mission of the Society—eminently in the East of London—not to check or disturb the operation of those forces by which the careless giving of outdoor relief was done away with; and whatever money was committed to their hands for relief was carefully and judiciously applied. That was the chief point which presented itself with reference to the work of the Charity Organisation Society in the East of London. They recognised the necessity for the compulsory education in providence to which he had alluded, and yet they were happy to apply judiciously any money that might be placed at their disposal.

The Chairman said he would venture upon one or two slight criticisms on the excellent remarks of Mr. Morley. He read differently the title of the Society. It was not a Charity Society, but a Charity Organisation Society; and while, of course, there were other important objects of the Society to which the meeting's attention had been very well drawn, they must not lose sight at all of the Organisation part of the title, because there were, before this Society was formed, very large sums given away in this city in the cause of charity; and in dealing with cases of distress they must always have felt that it was the opinion of those who started this Society—and it had been amply justified by the experience of the last few years—that while there were some cases not deserving of assistance, and yet which succeeded in obtaining it, there were others which did not apply for it, and did not obtain it. One of the first objects of the Society was to bring all the different machineries into harmonious operation, and thus make them more effective for their good objects. He supposed the ladies and gentlemen present had all had various applications for assistance based on good reasons, and also on others not so conclusive. He knew of one which was made to himself. There was a man who obtained an enormous number of goods in his (the Chairman's) name, and afterwards pawned them. He was arrested, tried, and sent to

prison; and the first thing he did when he came out of prison was to come to him and ask him to give him a clerkship, for fear he should be driven back again to his evil ways. (Laughter.) There were some cases which justified, if true, the assistance which was requested. If they could, they were always anxious to relieve those cases. But it was a great comfort to feel that there was an organisation to which they could refer. He saw in an old book upon this subject that vagrants and mendicants were divided into classes, and there were some very curious names among them. There were a great many different classes; but there was one which had come into existence of late years not named in the list—the begging-letter writer—who had become a professor in one of the branches of modern science. In these cases the distress was put before the benevolent in the most heartrending manner, and naturally those who had the most practice in the art of writing begging-letters were the most likely to put their case in the best form to appeal to the sympathies of those who received these letters. There was another point on which the Society had been most useful. The gentlemen who had moved, seconded, and supported this resolution had brought very clearly before the meeting the main objects and aims of the Society. He took them to be (putting them shortly) as follows: To bring into harmonious co-operation with all the Poor-law authorities the various charitable institutions in the different districts, then to investigate the cases of application for assistance; to place at their disposal the charitable associations which this Society had organised; in the next place to obtain from proper charities or individuals suitable help in deserving cases. Where there were no funds from which those cases could be relieved, then the Society was anxious to relieve them from its own fund. Then, by means of these operations, to, as far as possible, repress mendicity, and to do so by the application of means which had been found very effective; and last, but not least, by all these means to promote the inculcation of habitual providence. These objects were stated as those of the Society; and he thought they would commend themselves to this important meeting. He ventured to hope, as far as the experience of this Society had gone, it had not unsuccessfully endeavoured to accomplish the objects for which it was established.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., moved the next resolution:—

'That this Meeting considers that the principle adopted by the Charity Organisation Society, of endeavouring to obtain for every suitable case adequate and appropriate assistance from charities and charitable individuals, entitles the Society to the cordial co-operation of the public.' He said he was sorry that he was (although quite unavoidably) prevented from being present to move the first resolution, as he had undertaken to do; but he was not sorry when he found it had been placed in such able hands as had taken it up. He was also relieved, to a certain extent, because the Chairman had just placed before the meeting precisely the same considerations which he had intended to offer, and this would shorten his own task. He took a particular interest in this movement, for two reasons. In the first place, he was the President of the City Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, and, in the next place, he happened to be occupying the post of President of the Poor Law Board in 1869, when this organisation was first called into life, and he then recognised in it a very useful and advantageous adjunct to our Poor Law agencies throughout the country. He at that time thought that this Society would be of the greatest possible use in filling up some of the gaps left by our Poor Law system, and also in bridging over the cases that belonged really scarcely to the Poor Law, but yet which would not be adequately dealt with by any existing charities. He thought also that the Charity Organisation Society would be the means of providing a free interchange of views and of local knowledge between the official and the unofficial distributors of relief; and a minute was issued by the Poor Law Board in that year, stating the official views upon the subject, and inviting, if he remembered rightly, the co-operation of the Boards of Guardians in the movement. To that invitation, he believed, the Boards of Guardians had responded to a very considerable extent. He was of opinion at that time that it might even be possible to go to the length of a constant system of interchange and registries between the Guardians of the Poor and the charities, in order that they might see that they were not giving double relief, and that there was not that great waste of the resources of the metropolis in charity which was alleged to exist at that time. There had been a great change since 1869. Mr. Harry Jones had pointed out that the decrease—he would not say of poverty, because he was not so sure upon that subject—but the decrease in actual pauperism had been very great since 1869 in the metropolis. There were about 100,000 outdoor poor in 1869, and that number had now been reduced to about 40,000 or 50,000. No doubt that had in a great measure been attributable to better agencies, both official and unofficial, for preventing the imposture of pauperism, while at the same time promoting the relief of true cases. And he thought one of the main objects of this Society was to be able to remove the impression that had got abroad at that time, that there was an immense amount of imposture, and an immense amount of double relief. All

who knew anything about this subject were aware that the charities were endless in number; that their funds were enormous; but the public of the City of London were repeatedly startled by accounts of cases of starvation. It was scarcely intelligible how all those multitudinous organisations of charity, or rather disorganisations of charity, should exist, and at the same time it should happen that persons were most inadequately relieved. He thought it was stated by Lord Elcho at a late meeting of this Society, in a most able speech, that he had seen that the number of the charities which existed at present in the metropolis, and in 1869, was upwards of 1,000—that there were more than 1,000 different charities; or, excluding religious ones, 930. The total amount of money they received was £4,114,000; or, excluding the religious charities, £2,400,000. These sums, he believed, were exclusive of that immense sum which was so great a burden upon the ratepayers of London. Those sums were distributed, and still it did not appear as if a sufficient result came from them. The Society then originated with the desire of seeing whether through some agency these charities could be brought to work together, so as to economise both their means and their staff—the immense personnel which they dealt with—and while they administered relief, administer it in a more efficient and certain manner. He was informed that the difficulties in bringing the different charities to work together had certainly been overwhelming; and though the association had achieved a good deal, they themselves had been disappointed in one of their chief aims, viz., in inducing the charities to communicate with each other and work together. Though it was disappointing, he might say that one of his main objects and views in supporting the association was to induce this kind of result—to organise the charities of the metropolis; but the task was not too great; and though it had so far been too great—for he was sure the association would not be discouraged—it had been too great partly owing to a cause which they must take into account—that those energetic men who dealt with those charities had the power of dealing with their funds, and they liked the feeling of activity in their administration, because persons were not only satisfied to give money, but there were many who wished to work; and there was a fear among the charities that their work might be administered through a general organisation. Though they might regret this feeling, it had a motive they must have and respect. Now, when they said this both with regard to this organisation and many others, there was one point they had achieved to which he attached very great importance. He thought that not so many years ago the main work of actual relief distributing was confined to ladies and to the clergy; but during the last few years there had sprung up a great auxiliary force in the shape of a strong body of most hard-working and enthusiastic lay assistants who were of the opposite sex, and men had had taken up the actual work of relief than used to be engaged in it before. That excellent society, the Society for the Relief of Distress, was one of those that led the van in this way, and the Charity Organisation Society was endeavouring as far as it could to enlist as much as possible also actual workers—men who would take the trouble to go about amongst the poor to discover the deserving cases, and to see that the charities were administered judiciously—to assist the clergy in that work which was almost too heavy in a great metropolis like this for the clergy alone. The clergy themselves had welcomed the agency of this charity, and especially at the East-end. Where there were so few residents who had leisure or money, there had been a great advantage in securing the assistance of a number of energetic men who must be the agents and almoners of charity. That would commend itself to the approbation of the meeting. The objects of the Society having been explained, they would receive support in the City. The City Committee stood on rather a different footing to other local Committees in this respect—the other local Committees raised their own funds and spent their own funds; but the City of London Committee had made an arrangement with the Central Body by which they paid over all the funds which they received to the Central Body, which in its turn undertook to meet the estimated expenses of this City Committee. And the reason was, that the City being a rich community, and the cases of pauperism few, when compared with the rest of the metropolis, it thought that the funds collected in the City ought rather to be put to—as it were—a common fund of the metropolis than that it should be exclusively spent upon the City. Therefore when they called upon the City to contribute, they asked them to contribute to the general work of the Society throughout the metropolis which required the aid of a rich community like the City of London, in order that the efforts of the Society might be carried to the East and other parts of London, where they were working under the auspices of Mr. Harry Jones and other warm-hearted disciples of the cause. He would conclude by moving—

'That this meeting considers that the principle adopted by the Charity Organisation Society, of endeavouring to obtain for every suitable case adequate and appropriate assistance from charities and charitable individuals, entitles the Society to the cordial co-operation of the public.' He would call particular attention to the words 'adequate and appropriate

private assistance.' Inadequate assistance was often most deplorable. It led to every kind of deplorable result; while adequate, and at the same time appropriate assistance, such as loans, to which attention had been drawn by previous speakers—that assistance was invaluable and helped to keep the deserving poor from positions of distress into which they would otherwise fall.

Mr. Mocatta seconded the resolution, and regretted that the gentleman who was to have done so (Mr. L. Cohen) should have been prevented through illness having broken out in his family. Mr. Cohen was the chairman of the Jewish Board of Guardians, which ranked very highly in the metropolis as the administrator of large funds entrusted to it. Mr. Morley had called attention to the system at Elberfeld. That had been copied by the Jewish Board of Guardians, which took 40,000 or 50,000 people under its control. If London were divided into thirty agencies, into rich, poor, and middle-class districts, they would obtain a full knowledge of almost every unit of the population, and be able to find out information for the migratory population. Of all the large work there was to do in this world there was not one which required a larger amount of intelligence than to help those persons who were less fortunate than ourselves. It was difficult, but he did not think it belonged to them as men and women to shrink from a thing because it was difficult to do. If they were to sit in their chairs and not to do things because they were difficult or required great study, they would be unworthy of those blessings with which Providence had endowed us. He was sorry there were persons—who might hear the remark in all classes of society, perhaps more in the rich than the poor and the middle classes—who said, 'What do I know about the poor?' Among the middle class it was said, 'It is all very well for those who have influence and time, and plenty of money, but we work for our daily bread; and beyond that we can do nothing; we have no means at our disposal.' He would say to all of them: Every man and woman who had been brought into the world had duties to perform towards their fellow-creatures; and those persons who had wealth had certainly the advantage of being in a position to assist large movements. But people belonging to the middle-class—the great bulk—had some education; and though they might not have hundreds or thousands of pounds to put down on subscription lists, they might, with the intelligence they had, and the leisure hours they had at their command, do an enormous amount of good, and a far greater than the more wealthy people. He maintained also that the lower class themselves might do it. Though they had neither money nor so cultivated an intelligence as the classes above them, still their intelligence was most lively, and he had often been struck with the untutored wisdom of working-men, who, with the education of the schools, had made remarks worthy of philosophers. If these people would wait on those requiring relief and assist this Society, and call on those below them, give them their comfort and advice, and also by their halfpence (for millions of halfpence made a great number of pounds), they would invest the whole of society with the strong and sacred desire to wipe away poverty—he would not say entirely, but all the vice and manifold unhappiness which were attendant upon poverty, for which there was really no reason whatever on the face of the earth. This resolution pointed to a very important feature—it invited persons, who might not have the time or the means personally in giving direct assistance to the poor, to come to the Society for reference and to come to it as the almoners of their bounty. He very often had had occasion to reproach the Committees of the Charity Organisation Society in a very strong manner; though it ultimately appeared that they had failed from no fault of their own. He had said to them, 'You have taken pains to investigate a case, and given yourselves an enormous amount of trouble—given the individual an enormous amount of trouble—given him reason to think, "If I have been sifted to the bottom like that, these people will do something to indemnify me after they have taken the trouble to prove me for themselves"—and then you have dismissed him without aiding him, because there are no means at your disposal.' He did not blame the Committees for this, because he had been told that they had tried their best to put these persons in a little business, to relieve them, or enable them to emigrate, or put them into some kind of industry from which they would become independent ever after; but they could not, because they did not know whom to apply to for means. Many ladies and gentlemen and many persons in the lower middle class, would be only too pleased to distribute money and other reliefs, which might very much help these people, through the medium of an accredited agent who was found to be worthy of their support; and he did believe and hope that the Charity Organisation Society would be empowered by a great number of gentlemen and ladies to apply to them whenever they found, after giving great investigation to cases, that they were such as might reasonably be deemed likely to succeed, and be free from want ever after, if they could receive such relief as would set them on their legs. He knew there were some gentlemen and ladies who had given such *carte blanche* in some districts; but their number was far too few for the want that arose. There was, unfortunately, a vast amount of money given without consideration, and this did an infinity of harm. Many per-

sons received numerous appeals, and some, when touched by a begging-letter, would generally give. Many, like himself, were very great sufferers from begging-letter writing. The letters were couched in most sympathetic terms. A lady, the widow of a clergyman, was left destitute with six young children, in some remote place. It was almost an impossible thing for the major part of society to conduct an investigation unaided. If they had a body like this or another society with the same aims to investigate the case and bring out all the facts, they might find out whether the case was true. In the case mentioned all the statements of the lady might be true, but she might have an unfortunate passion for drink, or be fond of playing at cards, or a whole host of vices, and she might have written to all the members who are on the charity lists for funds. Only a thorough investigation, which required an official staff and agents throughout the length and breadth of the land, and in a number of countries with which to correspond, could effect this. It would be an enormous advantage to society at large to help it to do one of its most important duties in life, through an agency which, he might say, was undoubted. But if this agency carried on all its investigations, and had not got the means to relieve the cases, the whole affair was nugatory, and they had spent their trouble in vain. He therefore called upon the meeting to support this movement, and to join in the resolution. Whatever they were disposed to give would be given in a right cause. Let him warn them against this cardinal sin, that money was the soul of charity. They might as well say they would do nothing, because without money they would not distribute material help. There were persons in every grade of society who could help; there was hardly an individual who could not help. The poor themselves required instruction, for when they received large wages they were often quickly spent, and this prejudiced their habits, and did harm to their class. They thought they ought not to look beyond the pale of their families; and the rich ones, if they gave large sums to the clergyman of their parish and the minister who had the incumbency on their estates, often thought that they had done all their duty to their fellow-man when they had done this. He hoped they would all feel how high and holy a work this distribution of charity meant. He was not ashamed of this word charity. The Society would afford an education to men how to be charitable; and such an education, at first defective though it was, he hoped to see before many years greatly improved; and he trusted that the Charity Organisation Society would be the means of putting it on a sound, sensible, and useful basis.

The Right Hon. J. G. Hubbard, M.P., in speaking to the resolution, tendered his thanks to those gentlemen who had so clearly stated the objects of the Society. The display of its duty and character was one which entitled it to the approval of the citizens of London. They were apt to consider that the great things which tended towards the growing prosperity of the City were these—first, economy in the application of the means to the end; and secondly, efficiency in the results which they were to obtain. Now, he thought there was no one subject upon which the application of those two rules was more eminently necessary than in the application of means to charity, for there was certainly no one quality which had been in our own time, and he must say up to the present moment, so difficult as charity. It had been almost impossible for individuals to exercise the natural feelings of charity without being haunted with the idea that they had been victimised by impostors, and that they had probably done more harm by stimulating fraud than they had done good in the way of relieving mere distress. And again, if they employed any of the societies which were instituted for the purpose of their protection, they also felt that in this multitude of societies there was an enormous waste of money in the very machinery which they employed; so that, in fact, the work of charity had been beset with difficulties on every side. From what he had heard that day, he must say that this Society was throwing light upon a very difficult and obscure question. If the objects which were contained in the programme of the Society were ably and honestly carried out, they would be a great relief to all those charitably-minded persons who had really been withheld from the indulgence of their natural feelings by a doubt as to the efficacy of their contributions in producing the end for which they were intended. The work of charity had not been without its shortcomings and dangers, for there was something insidious in it both to the giver and to the receiver. Then the idea that the ministrations or comforts of religion were to be accompanied by the relief of physical difficulties—he would not certainly attempt to deprive the ministers of religion, and religious-minded persons who worked with them, of what was one of their chief comforts—the being able to relieve the physical and moral distresses of their fellow-creatures—but he would say this, that they ought, in the exercise of their grand functions, to be armed with all those precautions which this Society appeared ready to give. This Society took a most generous position. It did not say, 'Give us of your wealth, and we will apply it;' it said, 'Give us the means of organising with all those institutions—the charitable institutions already formed—such a system as shall conduce to carry that relief wherever it may be wanted in the most convenient and efficacious form, and in putting away from you the danger—painful to you and demoralising to those who are successful actors in the fraud—all those cases of imposture which have really been

the great trial of the religious system of the metropolis hitherto.' After what had been said in the admirable addresses just delivered, he need not recapitulate, but he would say that now money might be given to the Society with a feeling of great relief. This was the eighth year of the Society's existence, and it was quite time its claims were brought before the City of London at such an influential meeting as this; and he trusted the operations of that day would tend greatly to the perfection of the system which had been so ably brought before their notice.

The resolution was then put and carried.

The Earl of Lichfield, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for the use of the Egyptian Hall, and to Sir John Lubbock for presiding, said it was generally admitted that the work which the Charity Organisation Society from the outset undertook was one of a most important nature, and deserving of support. He did not know that the Lord Mayor could have given the Society greater assistance than by lending the hall where was publicly discussed the subject of permanently improving the condition of the poor.

Its objects had been explained at the Mansion House nearly five years ago, and at that time it was stated that what they desired to see was that the representatives of all the different charitable agencies at work throughout the metropolis should combine in their different districts to consider carefully the work that they were each of them in their respective spheres engaged in; and that they should form from among the different charitable agencies a Central Council for the discussion of their work. That plan had been carried out with as much success as could, under the circumstances, have been expected. He, for one, had most carefully and jealously watched the various criticisms that had from time to time been made upon the action of the Society, and there were one or two to which he would like to allude, because the Society was misunderstood. First and foremost, he believed that there was a very general impression abroad that this Society desired to see the administration of relief carried out by deputy, and through the means of agents, rather than by their personal administrators of relief, to which we had all hitherto been accustomed. That was by no means the intention of any of those who had worked in this Society from the beginning. What they had always desired to see was that this Society should confine its attention as much as possible to discriminating between deserving and undeserving cases; and when they had given the public the benefit of the information they had obtained, they desired that those who had been in the habit of administering relief should continue to do so, but under much more favourable circumstances than they ever did before. Any person who had administered relief in any shape or form to a poor person without having had the means of obtaining that thorough knowledge of the person's circumstances which would enable him to tell how best and most effectually to relieve him, would feel that any relief that he could give would be given with far greater satisfaction to himself, and with far greater benefit to the recipient, when all the circumstances were known which this Society took upon itself to place within the reach of those who inquired for it. There was another matter in which he thought the action of this Society had been misunderstood, and that was that there had been a sort of desire to create a new society, and in some way to interfere with the action of charitable societies and agencies already in existence. Nothing had been further than this from the intention of this Society, as could be proved by its original programme, which laid down that it was desirable that the Society should be formed from the representatives of existing charitable agencies. It never professed and never desired to establish an entirely new society in the metropolis, but what it did was to recommend the public to adopt a different system to that which was then in existence in administering charitable relief generally.

Canon Milman seconded the vote. The preceding speakers had not, like Boaz, left a sheaf here and there for the last comer to pick up, but had carried off every ear of corn, and left him nothing to say. (Laughter.) He thought the greater development that could be given to the Society's operations the greater would be the benefits conferred upon the community. From what had already been advanced, and from what they knew of the disastrous results of promiscuous almsgiving, the objects of the Society should be made generally known. There were persons who viewed with considerable suspicion everything that was new; they clung to the old forms of administering relief, sometimes from kindness, sometimes for reasons hardly so good. He hoped what had been said that afternoon would have a tendency to do away with the resistance the Society sometimes found in districts from the clergy, and that it would tend to dispel certain suspicions which still seemed to rankle in their minds. The Society was growing largely in favour with the clergy, and it was quite clear they only required to be more fully acquainted with the mode of its operation in order to be converted from opponents into upholders of it.

The motion having been carried unanimously,

The Chairman responded in a few words, and the meeting separated.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES.—PAUPERISM.—How many thousands of paupers have lived and died, and been buried at the public expense, whom a little friendly advice, a little search for friends or relations, some pains taken to find proper work, would have lifted out of the mire and set on the rock of honest industry.—*Denison's Letters.*

RETURNS FOR APRIL.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, April 28, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Monitors for other Committees	Spare cases dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total		
Kensington	30	6	19	45	..	3	5	8	14	2	10	..	26
Fulham	4	2	1	7	..	15	3	12	14	4	6	13	32
Paddington	4	3	7	14	3	8	3	14	6	4	3	17	45
Chelsea	4	3	7	14	3	8	3	14	6	4	3	17	45
St. George's	5	1	13	19	..	4	..	4	7	2	11	..	112
G. Committee	8	7	17	32	..	20	6	26	17	1	28	..	72
St. James's and Soho	3	5	4	12	1	4	2	7	5	1	7	..	18
Westminster	9	1	11	21	1	31	17	49	10	4	8	33	102
St. Marylebone	5	..	7	12	1	4	..	5	3	1	1	5	22
Hampstead	7	1	3	11	1	16	3	20	..	2	1	3	34
North St. Pancras	7	1	3	11	1	16	3	20	..	2	1	3	34
South St. Pancras	7	1	3	11	1	16	3	20	..	2	1	3	34
Islington	9	4	12	25	2	43	9	54	3	3	6	8	87
Hackney Union	..	1	2	3	1	..	1	7	2	..	9	..	15
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	2	1	7	10	..	34	5	39	7	4	..	13	52
Strand	2	3	12	17	..	13	3	16	2	..	2	7	42
Holborn	4	3	12	19	..	60	7	67	5	3	..	8	94
City	1	2	1	4	24	7	4	30	6	8	..	14	53
Shoreditch	3	1	8	12	..	9	5	14	3	3	..	6	32
Bethnal Green	2	1	9	12	2	4	3	9	11	5	1	17	36
Whitechapel	5	5	18	28	..	3	3	6	5	3	..	7	41
St. George's-in-the-East	2	1	6	9	..	9	5	14	3	1	..	2	29
Stepney	8	3	11	22	..	6	1	7	2	2	..	4	33
Mile End Old Town	7	1	11	19	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	3	24
Poplar	7	3	10	20	1	3	2	6	2	5	..	7	66
St. Saviour's	7	3	10	20	1	3	2	6	2	5	..	7	66
Newington	2	5	11	18	1	3	5	4	3	1	7	..	36
St. Olave's	8	6	8	22	..	5	5	10	9	3	..	12	44
Lambeth	7	3	4	14	..	7	1	8	6	1	1	8	30
Brixton	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	3	..	5
Wandsworth and Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Battersea	6	1	10	17	..	2	2	10	1	1	..	12	31
Clapham	2	1	3	6	1	1	2	2	1	..	1	4	13
Camden Town	..	1	6	7	3	12	3	18	3	..	3	..	25
Grove Lane	..	1	6	7	3	12	3	18	3	..	3	..	25
Peckham	..	1	6	7	3	12	3	18	3	..	3	..	25
Greenwich	1	1	5	7	3	11	4	3	7	2	4	..	16
Deptford	1	3	..	4	3	1	3	7	5	..	8	..	14
Woolwich	3	1	3	7	1	3	3	5	1	..	1	..	14
Lewisham	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	1	3	10	14	..	28
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	6	..	6
Totals	168	94	309	671	48	371	124	543	204	88	28	79	399
													1513

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of April 1877 was 38,278, and 44,728 received outdoor relief, making a total of 83,006. This was a decrease of 383 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 1,283 but a decrease of 8,102 and 17,604 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 72. This was an increase of 18 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 98 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct free 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coult & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 217.

THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 17, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, May 17 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Tuesday, " 22 ... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday, " 23 ... 2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday, " 24 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

There will be no Meeting of Council on Monday, the 21st inst., being Whit Monday. The next Meeting of Council will be held on Monday, the 28th inst., at 3 p.m.

The next Number of the *Reporter* will be published on Thursday, the 31st inst.

The Central Office will be closed on Whit-Monday.

NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

THE REPORTER.—District Committees are informed that contributors to their funds of £5 and upwards will in future, if they desire it, receive the *Reporter* free. Hon. Secretaries are requested to give due notice of this to the contributors to the funds of their District Committee, and to send to the Secretary the names and addresses of those persons who wish to have the *Reporter* sent to them.

THE MANUAL.—A new edition of the Manual is nearly ready.

KENSINGTON.—The offices of the Kensington Committee have been removed from 39 Holland Street, W., to 42 Church Street, Kensington, W.

BRIXTON.—The Rev. H. Robertson has been appointed representative of this Committee.

LAMBETH.—Mr. C. S. Harry has resigned the hon. secretaryship of this Committee. Mr. Heathcote Long and Mr. W. M. Venning are now the hon. secretaries of the Committee.

HOSPITAL LETTERS.—A letter for the 'Bournemouth National Sanatorium' is wanted for an urgent case.

Five letters for the 'North Eastern Hospital for Children' can also be obtained by the East End Committees.

PENSION FOR A BLIND PERSON.—A nomination for a pension of £5 from 'the Charities to the Aged Blind, distributed by the Clothworkers' Company,' may be had on application, by a District Committee dealing with a case suitable for such pension.

Qualifications.—Applicants must be fifty years of age, of sober life and good morals; have been totally blind for three years; not be entitled to any estate, annuity, salary, pension, or income for life, to the amount of £20 a year; nor be an inmate of a Workhouse or public institution; nor publicly solicit or receive alms.

The nomination must be sent in by the 30th inst.

The following business stands for Monday, May 28:—

I. Mr. W. F. Lawrence to move:—

'That, inasmuch as it is desirable that the public should be made aware of the claims of the deserving poor, as well as of the demerits of the undeserving, this Society should publish in the *Times* a monthly list of deserving cases, and the sums required for their need, or set on foot some other system for getting money to deserving cases of destitution.'

II. Major FitzRoy will ask:—

'What is the practice of District Committees with regard to giving up the names of people asking for investigation, to the persons whose cases are being investigated?'

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, May 14, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, and subsequently Mr. A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

PADDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Holland.
CHELSEA:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel.
ST. GEORGE'S:—W. Jones Loyd, M. Clive, R. Dundas, Hon. R. C. Moreton.
WESTMINSTER:—W. Bevan, H. Peto.
ST. MARTLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill, Rev. P. H. Wicksteed.
HAMPSHIRE:—C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F. Mallet.
NORTH ST. PANCRA'S:—A. N. Butt.
HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
ST. GILES:—H. M. Keary.
STRAND:—Rev. B. J. Simpson, W. W. Wood.
HOLBORN:—W. Sheepshanks.
CITY:—Rev. W. H. Lyall.
SHOREDITCH:—J. L. Forster, Rev. C. Kirtton, Rev. H. G. Henderson.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford.
WHITECHAPEL:—C. L. Corkran, C. Lavers Smith.
MILE END:—Hon. H.R. Scott, Major Nares.
POPLAR:—R. Killis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—W. F. Smith, H. Hoper.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson, Sir T. Graham Briggs.
LAMBETH:—W. M. Venning.
WANDSWORTH:—Miss H. Gurney.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
LEWISHAM:—G. Parker, J. J. Bramley.
VICE-PRESIDENTS:—F. D. Mocatta, W. M. Wilkinson.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. Trevelyan, S. Fuller, C. A. Miner. TOTAL:—47.
SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.
VISITOR:—J. F. Phillip.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, May 10. There had been present:—

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in the chair; Lord Monteagle, Sir T. Graham Briggs, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Messrs. Holland, Barrington, and Lawrence.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending May 5 the receipts had been £52. 14s. for the General Fund, and £6. 6s. 6d. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £411. 18s. and £73. 17s. 2d. respectively, £8. 0s. 4d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—That they had made grants of £14, £37, and £25 to the Poplar, St. Saviour's, and Bethnal Green Committees; the total amount granted to these Committees since the 1st of October last had been £144, £137, and £125 respectively.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 8 there had been present:—

Mr. A. D. Graham, subsequently Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Miss O. Hill, Mrs. Lathbury, Hon. R. Grosvenor, Messrs. Bousfield, Barrington, Clive, Fuller, and Fletcher.

NEW MEMBER.—Mr. A. G. Crowder had been appointed a member of this Sub-Committee.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 8 had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, and Major FitzRoy.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 9 had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the chair; Sir C. Trevelyan, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Messrs. Hill and Wilkinson. Mr. Hintzen (visitor).

PENSIONS.

Mr. A. H. Hill asked whether the plan adopted by the Wandsworth Committee of granting pensions from the funds of the Committee was in accordance with rules laid down in Section VI. of the Manual, on the 'Committees' mode of dealing with cases.

It was ruled that while District Committees were empowered to obtain pensions for suitable cases from charitable individuals or societies, and could, if necessary, in cases of sickness, grant sums from their own funds, week by week, till the applicant was restored to health, they were not, in accordance with the rules laid down in the Manual, entitled to give pensions from the funds of the Committee in such chronic cases as those referred to in the Report of the Wandsworth Committee.

CHARITY AND OUT-RELIEF.

The Secretary, with the permission of Council, read a letter from Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, of which the following is an extract:—

A very active parish clergyman, having written to ask the Committee to use their influence to extend out-relief, was invited to come and state his views; and several Guardians met him by appointment.

The clergyman urged that indiscriminate almsgiving could never be prevented, unless people were sure that those whom they rejected received quick, effectual, and suitable relief from some other quarter; that the Poor-law supplied the only agency able to give such relief; that the Workhouse was not suitable for cases of temporary distress, and was too severe when offered to those whose destitution was not the result of misconduct, but that such persons might fairly expect some more comfortable arrangement to be made for them.

That the present policy of the Board seemed to be to refuse out-relief in almost every case; such persons, consequently, who had no means of inquiring, felt obliged to relieve good and bad alike, being unable to wait for the tardy operation of the Charity Organisation Society.

The Guardians and others who were present replied: It was true out-relief had been greatly lessened during the last few years—some 90 per cent. No general distress had been the consequence. The Poor-law ought not to be expected to provide more than subsistence; persons whose character or life entitled them to more than this, might reasonably be left to charity, associated or private, the Poor-law never having been intended to relieve private persons from the duty of themselves sifting and helping fit cases; that provident habits would be out of the question if relief from the rates were as a rule given in any but a disagreeable form; that the present policy of the Board certainly was to make out-relief the exception, but that no rule against it had been laid down.

Sir Charles Trevelyan then continued the adjourned debate* on the following amendment moved by Dr. Daniel, viz.:—

That the co-operation of the Metropolitan Charities (p. 8 of the Report) is not such as to warrant the Council in taking the responsibility of encouraging the total abolition of outdoor relief; that such encouragement would tend to increase the number of cases of hardship mentioned in the Report (p. 8), while the Charity Organisation Society is not in a position to deal adequately with such cases; and that therefore it is expedient to adjourn the consideration of the Report to this day six months.

He urged that Dr. Daniel's position was—that organised charity was unable to deal adequately with cases of hardship arising out of the

abolition of outdoor relief. And in support of this Dr. Daniel referred to the answers received by the Co-operation Sub-Committee from 130 'Trade' and 'Class' charities. These charities, however, were the last to be relied upon for any purpose of this kind. They might be had recourse to in individual cases to which they might happen to be applicable, but as a rule the Society must depend on the active living force of general charity, which was ever ready to adapt itself to each new exigency as it arose.

He then alluded to the general readiness of charitable persons to undertake investigated deserving cases in Marylebone, St. George's East, Wandsworth, and elsewhere; and he referred to a recently published report of the Chester Charity Organisation Society, and to the action of the Charity Commission in dealing with endowed charities which no longer fulfilled the objects for which they were founded.

The interim report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee had been published,* in order to 'elicit further information,' but, while general allegations of starvation and vagrancy had been made, no specific evidence of distress resulting from the abolition of out-relief in the three Metropolitan 'Atchams'—Whitechapel, Stepney, and St. George's East—had been adduced. There was, on the other hand, a new development of the best description of charity, ample evidence of which was found in a paper by Mr. J. Jones, one of the relieving officers of the Stepney District, and in the fact of the establishment of the Pension Society,† described in the report of the Sub-Committee. The elastic natural social forces so long compressed by the intervention of the outdoor relief system had, on its removal, sprung back to the place intended for them in the Divine economy.

'Let us consider, then, whether this movement is leading us. As regards these three metropolitan unions, we have actually arrived at the model standard position which has long been the object of our aspirations. We have realised before us a system of Organised Charity which, backed by a greatly improved English indoor system, is not unlike the Poor-law system at Elberfeldt. The deserving poor, who have done the best they could for themselves in life but have been broken down by misfortune, are relieved at their own homes by thoughtful, discriminating charity, and for the rest there are admirably efficient infirmaries and dispensaries for the sick, asylums for aged destitute persons who are too helpless to have a home of their own, and boarding-out or district work for destitute, orphan, and deserted children.

'And it is only by a safe, gradual process that this result is attained. In the absence of other available means, the Guardians are held to their responsibility, and they nowhere show any disposition to precipitate matters. The three unions of Whitechapel, Stepney, and St. George's-in-the-East are among the poorest in London, and if these are able to maintain their outdoor poor without assistance from the rates, how much more could other parts of London do so, where the proportion of rich to poor is so much larger.

'Mr. Cummins says that although cases of actual starvation are rare, there is plenty of semi-starvation. This is freely admitted, and the real question is, what is the cause of this semi-starvation, and how is it to be remedied?

'It has grown up under the outdoor relief system, and may therefore fairly be presumed to be connected with it. At any rate, the out-relief system has entirely failed to prevent it. This, however, is far short of the truth. Semi-starvation directly arises out of the system of which Poor-law outdoor relief is the most prominent feature, and is indissolubly associated with it.

'Outdoor relief is merely a vast system of doles, large enough to pauperise, but a great deal too small for adequate relief. According to law, the relief given by the Guardians ought in all cases to be "adequate," but it is so much pleasanter to live by alms than by labour, that if full subsistence were given without the application of the workhouse test, the poorer ratepayers would be ruined, and we should be rapidly brought back to the state of things before the passing of the New Poor-law, when society was turned inside out, and while landlords gave up their rents, farmers their tenancies, and clergymen their glebes and tithes, paupers refused to accept the whole land of the parish, avowing that they liked the present system better, and daily riot and nightly incendiarism prevailed in those parts of England in which the largest Poor-law expenditure had taken place. One of the earliest conclusions at which our Society arrived was to

* See Reporter, No. 216, p. 78.

* See Reporter No. 198, p. 178. † See Reporter No. 210, p. 48.

condemn doles when given by private persons; and Poor-law doles are far worse, because they are lavishly administered by persons who are not spending their own money, and are greedily scrambled for, without sense of shame, under the idea that they are a partial common assurance provided at the public expense.

'The wages of all the common kinds of labour are supplemented in a wholesale manner by outdoor relief; the market is consequently overstocked, and a large population is habitually kept on the verge of starvation. In short, outdoor relief is synonymous with semi-starvation. It leads to semi-starvation, and is in itself semi-starvation.'

'Outdoor relief discourages industry, providence, and independence of character; encourages self-indulgence of every kind, especially that connected with our national vice of inebriety; and effectually checks the exercise of the family affections. We are only trifling with the subject, if with one hand we endeavour to give our people thrifty and provident habits by means of savings banks, friendly societies, and such like arrangements, and, with the other, uphold a system which mulcts those who save, gives to those who waste, and represses all the charities of life by making it the primary condition of assistance that the applicant must be entirely destitute.'

Rev. J. Johnson said that the irregular wages received by those who were employed in such trades as tanning, hat-making, mantle-making, &c., in which work could be obtained for only a part of the year, were the chief cause of the starvation and semi-starvation of which so much was heard. He thought that while 'the House' ought to be made almost a prison to receive the worthless, outdoor relief should be continued to the destitute poor of a better class, in order that their homes might not be broken up. The Society could not meet the deficiency of outdoor relief; out of the 449 cases dealt with by the St. Olave's Committee, 106 were considered ineligible: not because they were undeserving, but because they were such as the Committee could not deal with in accordance with the Society's rules. In reply to a question from Mr. A. H. Hill, he admitted that these cases had not as a rule been referred to the Guardians.

Mr. J. R. Hollond said that the fact that in certain trades a large number of the industrial class were always out of work during a portion of the year was one of those economic facts which no charity could meet. It was possible that in such trades higher wages were given during the part of the year in which work was obtainable; but the real question was, whether in the locality there was such a demand for those kinds of labour as would sustain the labourer. If the fact that there was not such a demand, was fully realised, there could not but be an alteration in the labour market in consequence. If out-relief, or even charity, intervened to prevent this fact becoming apparent, they only perpetuated an unhealthy state of things and delayed the application of the natural remedy. St. Olave's was one of the few unions in which out-relief had increased; and a comparative view of the position of the different unions of London as to the increase or decrease of out-relief would show, he believed, that where out-relief was largely given, labour was most congested.

With regard to what had been said by Mr. Lavers Smith and Mr. Sapsford respecting the Parliamentary returns of starvation cases, it was impossible to infer from these returns how many of these cases were really starvation cases, and for how many the reduction of out-relief could be made responsible. Thus, in the return for 1875, there were several cases in which the cause of death was entered as 'exposure to cold,' 'syncope,' 'death accelerated by privation.' Two cases of carpenters were mentioned in the Whitechapel District, in one of which it was stated that the deceased was in receipt of charity. Unless each case was investigated, as those to which the Sub-Committee referred in their report had been, no positive conclusions could be drawn from them. It was evident, too, on other grounds, that the returns could not bear any relation to the reduction of out-relief.

It was absolutely impossible to wait, as Dr. Daniel suggested, till charity was organised. Until the Guardians adopted a firm, simple policy, the public would not understand that charity ought not to be given on the mere whim, but on definite principles, and so long as there was out-relief to fall back upon, they would naturally be ready to assert that cases in which they were unwilling to help were cases for the Guardians. While it must be allowed that there were exceptional cases, it was wrong to suppose, as several speakers appeared to do, that charity could become a substitute for out-relief. Charity becoming a substitute for out-relief would probably do as

much harm as out-relief had done. The only substitute for out-relief was thrift.

The Secretary pointed out that the argument used by Mr. Cummins and Dr. Daniel in their amendments, viz. that the report ought not to be adopted because it tacitly approved the abolition of out-relief, was irrelevant. The Sub-Committee had been instructed to ascertain how far they could, by extended co-operation with metropolitan charities, meet cases of hardship alleged to have occurred in consequence of the withdrawal of out-relief, and they had rightly, therefore, attempted to show, without alluding to the abolition of out-relief, that these cases of hardship, if they occurred at all, occurred very rarely. They had at the same time reported what progress they had made towards obtaining the co-operation of charities, and had specially referred to the Tower Hamlets Pension Society, which appeared to combine all the characteristics of a useful pension society, acting in thorough co-operation with the Charity Organisation Society. It was a pension society the plan of which was equally applicable to districts in which the Guardians were reducing, as to districts in which the Guardians had practically 'done away with' out-relief. The reduction of out-relief gave charity an opportunity for performing her proper function; and he quoted instances to show that there was at present very great necessity for every effort being made to organise charity, and thus obtain adequate relief for cases which, though suitable for charitable assistance, were now, in the absence or disorganisation of charity, left to the Poor-law. Everything pointed to the inadvisability of adjourning the consideration of the Report.

Dr. Daniel having, with the permission of the Council, said a few words in reply, the amendment was put and lost, 4 voting for it, and 18 against it.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson, in the absence of Mr. Russell Barrington, then moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Mr. H. Peto:—

That the Council, having read the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on 'Charity and Out-relief,' are of opinion that there is no evidence to show that there has been any suffering caused by the reduction of out-relief which the local and metropolitan charities are unable to meet; at the same time, the Council are not prepared at present to express an opinion as to the principles involved in such reduction.

He said that the opinion of the country on the question of out-relief was not yet fully formed. The Guardians were making a series of experiments, and so long as the subject was in a transitional state it was inadvisable for the Council to pass a definite resolution respecting it. The amendment would be a recognition of the course to be pursued, and would not involve the Council in any opinion as to the immediate or subsequent abolition of out-relief.

Mr. W. W. Wood referred at length to the previous resolutions of the Council on the subject of outdoor relief, and to the debate which had taken place on the question of placing lists of the recipients of out-relief in front of the offices of District Committees, and he showed that the Council, though they had previously expressed themselves in favour of the ultimate abolition of out-relief, were now, on a side issue and under retrogressive influences, tempted to falter in their opinion. The only consistent course for those who disapproved the report was to meet it with a direct negative. But there was every reason for the belief that out-relief had, next to drink, caused the greatest misery, and that, subject to any vested interests, it should be swept away as soon as possible. From Queen Elizabeth's time to 1795 there had been in England a good workable poor-law system. In 1795, a time of war abroad and, at home, a time of the greatest political excitement and of the most urgent distress among the lower classes, the Act authorising the distribution of State relief at the homes of the poor was passed, not on statesmanlike grounds, but from fear of the people, as a 'sop to Cerberus,' because the usage of giving relief in the Poorhouse only, was 'inconvenient and oppressive,' and interfered with the 'comfort and domestic situation and happiness' of the poor. This enactment gave rise to such serious social evils that the Poor-law Commissioners advocated the policy of absolutely abolishing out-relief, and, had not the Act for the amendment of the Poor-law been subsequently altered in passing through Parliament, out-relief would, in accordance with their intention, have been granted in cases of emergency only. With such evidence as this before them, it was not for the Council to temporise by accepting either of the amendments on the paper. He believed

that the Boards of Guardians who continued the system did so rather from a false notion of its economy than, as Mr. Bartley had put it, because they wished to make a distinction between the deserving and the undeserving poor.

Mr. Russell Barrington's amendment having been put and lost, 6 voting for it, and 13 against it, and a motion for the adjournment of the debate having been lost, Mr. Cummins' amendment, which was as follows, viz.:

That, without committing the Council of the Society to the principle of the absolute abolition of outdoor relief, the best thanks of the Council be given to the Sub-Committee for the care with which they have drawn up their able Report,

was put as a substantive motion, and lost, 7 voting for it, and 12 against it.

No resolution was therefore arrived at respecting the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on Out-relief and Charity.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, May 12, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
'A Friend,' per Miss Fanny Wormald	2	0	0	Capper & Sons, Messrs.	1	1	0
Buchanan, T. R., Esq.	10	0	0	Fletcher, A. P., Esq.	5	5	0
'C. J. C.'	5	0	0	Gillum, Lieut.-Col.	1	1	0
Daniels, A., Esq.	0	10	0				
Guise, Mrs.	1	0	0	District Committee Aid Fund:—			
Hyde & Co., Messrs.	1	1	0	'C. J. C.'	5	0	0
'J. J.'	10	0	0	Rodger, D. P., Esq.	1	1	0
Taddy & Co., Messrs.	1	1	0				

INSTITUTIONS FOR IDIOTS, &c.

On Idiocy and Imbecility. By Dr. Ireland, Superintendent of the Scottish National Institution for the Education of Imbecile Children, author of the 'History of the Siege of Delhi,' 'Studies of a Wandering Observer,' &c. London: J. & A. Churchill, New Burlington Street.

The appearance of this book is extremely opportune. On Thursday a deputation will wait upon the President of the Local Government Board and the Chairman of the Commissioners in Lunacy, to present the Report of the Special Committee convened by this Society upon the Education and Care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics, and to urge upon them the importance of early legislation on the subject. From one end of England to the other our county administrators are at their wits' end owing to the pressure arising from the capitation grant of 4s. for every idiot and imbecile placed in an asylum. New buildings are indispensable, and the only question is one of classification and education. The leading principles recommended in the Report are that idiots and imbeciles should be treated separately from acute cases of lunacy, and that they should all be trained, in childhood and youth, in the special manner suited to their infirmity, previously to their being disposed of, according to the degree in which they are developed, either by being returned to their families as practically cured, or placed under trustworthy persons in industrial establishments, or employed in doing the rough work of large households or public institutions, those only being permanently transferred to custodial asylums who require constant medical attendance. Dr. Ireland's book is an admirable supplement to the Report, for it enters in detail into the causes, and classification, of idiocy, which the Committee were reluctantly compelled to pass over, as involving medical and moral considerations beyond the scope of the inquiry confided to them. The book is not only scientifically important, but also in a high degree entertaining to everyone who has capacity to interest himself in the philosophy of human nature. This might have been expected from the author of the 'History of the Siege of Delhi' and the 'Studies of a Wandering Observer.' The chapter on the strange, and still unsolved, problem of 'Wolf Boys' will be read with delight by persons who would turn with distaste from a dry treatise about idiots and the best mode of educating and providing for them. When a highly accomplished professional man, who has seen the world in various aspects, including an episode like the siege of Delhi, gives himself up to the elucidation of a physical and social question, he cannot fail to tell us something worth hearing.

C. E. T.

[A report of the Deputation to the Local Government Board will appear in our next number.]

DIFFICULT CASES.

No. 4. The St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee have forwarded to us the following difficult case:—J. S., aged 23, son of a soldier, parents both dead, has no relations or friends; left arm paralysed from a sunstroke when six years of age; is weak both in body and mind; had a situation as messenger, but was discharged because he could not carry parcels.

No. 5. The Chelsea Committee would be glad to hear of an institution which would take up the following case: 'A pensioner, now employed in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, with the very highest testimonials, had a married son, who, with his wife, has recently died. The grandchildren, six in number, are, or will soon be, thrown on the grandfather's hands. His object is to get one or more of them into some institution where they can be educated. We are at present most concerned with the case of a boy aged 6. . . . The father was in the Post Office.'

ORPHANAGES AND CONVALESCENT HOMES.

District Committees may be glad to hear of the following:—

(1) Miss Poole, Winwick Rectory, Rugby (to whom all communications are to be addressed), has established an orphanage, and is ready to receive twelve boys, ages 7 to 10. A charge of 5s. per week is made, which includes everything except travelling and medical and funeral expenses in case of death. Sons of small tradesmen, clerks, or schoolmasters preferred, the object being, as far as possible, to train them for schoolmasters. Miss Poole has had great experience herself in educational work. The boys will live with the Master of the Village School, who has just passed through Peterborough College. The main object of limiting the number is to keep up the feeling of a family. Ample funds have been subscribed to start the undertaking, and the house is now ready for the reception of orphans.

(2) A lady has kindly consented to receive at a private home one orphan or deserted girl, of from 3 to 10 years of age. A trained nurse is the matron. For further particulars apply to the Secretary of the Council.

(3) Thomas Banting's Memorial.—Seaside Convalescent Home, Parade Lodge, Marine Parade, Worthing, Sussex.—The object of this trust is to help convalescent women needing the beneficial climate and other advantages of Worthing, to obtain the same, and to provide for or assist them during the period of their convalescence there. Parade Lodge will be ready to receive ladies on and after 1st March, 1877. Eight inmates at one time is the present limit. Every convalescent admitted to the establishment must be over the age of 18 years, and belong to (or be a wife or daughter of a person belonging to) one of the classes or descriptions following:—Clergymen, ministers of any religious denomination, solicitors, writers, signet, surgeons, apothecaries, persons engaged in literature, science, art, schoolmasters and mistresses, tutors, governesses, farmers, master tradesmen, private persons, and such other persons as the trustees shall deem socially fit to mess and associate in a common home with any of the classes before specifically named, to their mutual comfort and satisfaction.

Twenty-one days is the ordinary time a convalescent remains in the home (subject to extension). Admission is by medical certificate. The whole of the household expenses (including laundress) are provided by the trustees, so that the only expense falling upon a convalescent will be her travelling expenses. Applications for admission to the charity and for forms of admission, and all correspondence connected with the charity, are to be addressed to 'The Secretary, Thomas Banting's Memorial, Worthing, Sussex.'

(4) There is a 'Private Institution for Ladies of Limited Means,' at St. Laurence House, Langley Lane, Surbiton Hill. Terms: £1. 1s. and 17s. 6d. weekly, according to the kind of sleeping accommodation desired. Inmates paying £1. 1s. weekly are entitled to separate bedrooms. All payments must be made weekly, in advance. No bedridden or entirely helpless invalids can be received. Applications and inquiries are to be addressed to the Lady Secretary, St. Laurence House, Langley Lane, Surbiton Hill.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fifth week of April 1877 was 37,965, and 44,638 received outdoor relief, making a total of 82,603. This was a decrease of 403 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 1,301, but a decrease of 7,558 and 16,987 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 684. This was a decrease of 43 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 86 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.
Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) 5 0

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 218.

THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 31, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, May 31	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, June 4	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday „ 5	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday „ 6	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee. 3 P.M., Collection and Finance Sub-Committee.
Thursday „ 7	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

LAMBETH.—On and after the 21st of June next the offices of this Committee will be at 353 Kennington Road, S.E., instead of at Archbishop Sumner's School, Kennington Road, S.E.

ST. PANCRA'S, NORTH.—Colonel Wilkinson, the President of this Committee, has kindly acceded to the request of the Committee that a Drawing-room Meeting should be held at his house on Monday, the 18th of June, at 3 P.M. Miss Octavia Hill will read a paper at the meeting.

NEWINGTON.—Mr. F. D. Thornton has been elected a representative of this Committee.

CLAPHAM.—The meetings of this Committee during the summer months of 1877 will be held at 8 P.M., on May 31st; June 14th and 28th; July 12th and 26th; August 9th and 23rd; September 6th and 28th; October 4th.

Irons for straightening a child's leg have been sent to the Central Office, for the use of a District Committee in a deserving case.

The following business stands for Monday, June 4:—

I. To consider recommendations of the Administrative Committee respecting changes in the Central Office.

II. Mr. Russell Barrington to move:—

That the District Committees be recommended to observe the same rule with regard to inquiry into cases as the one observed by the Inquiry Department of the Central Office, viz.:—

That no inquiry should be instituted into any case without the applicant being made aware that such inquiry is being made; also that this Society

can never pledge itself not to give the name of any person who asks for an inquiry, though it is frequently unnecessary to do so.

III. Sir Charles Trevelyan to call attention to the present state of the question respecting the Metropolitan Charitable Endowments, and to move:—

1. That the Committees of the Society be recommended to prepare statements of the Charitable Endowments within their respective districts, and to consider, in concert with the Trustees, what improvements may be made in the application of the funds, so as to meet the real exigencies of the present day; and

2. That the Co-operation Sub-Committee be instructed to place themselves in communication with the Charity Commissioners with especial reference to the Parochial Charities of the City of London, which form the subject of an important expression of opinion in their recent annual report.

IV. Mr. W. Wightman-Wood to move:—

1. That any District Committee whose chairman is not in the habit of attending the meetings of Council may, in the absence of such chairman, send its vice-chairman, or one of its vice-chairmen, to the Council, as an additional representative.

2. That any District Committee which has only one Hon. Secretary may send a third elected representative to Council.*

V. Mr. W. Wightman-Wood to move:—

That a return be made of the names of the twenty-five societies stated, in the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on 'Charity and Out-relief,' to have replied to the circular letter of the Sub-Committee respecting co-operation with this Society in relieving the deserving poor.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, May 28, at 3 P.M.

Present:—A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—Dr. F. Anderson, J. W. Probyn,
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson, G. Charles.
CHELSEA:—R. A. Aspinall, Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel, W. S. Seton-Karr.
ST. GEORGE'S:—W. Jones Loyd.
ST. JAMES'S, SOHO:—W. Bousfield.
ST. MARTYNS:—Rev. P. H. Wicksteed, Miss Octavia Hill.
HAMPTSTEAD:—O. E. Maurice.
NORTH ST. PANCRA'S:—A. N. Butt.
SOUTH ST. PANCRA'S:—C. A. Reiss.
HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare, W. F. Lawrence.
STRAND:—Rev. B. J. Simpson, W. W. Wood.
SHOREDITCH:—J. L. Foster.
BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford, J. F. Sapsford.

STEPNEY:—A. C. Mitchell.
MILE END:—Hon. H. R. Scott.
POPLAR:—A. D. Graham.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—R. Barrington, F. Montgomerie, Rev. W. A. Richmond, W. F. Smith.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson, Sir T. Graham-Briggs.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
WANDSWORTH:—Rev. C. Carruthers, Alan Lambert.
BATTERSEA:—T. E. Hardy.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.
LEWISHAM:—G. Parker, J. J. Bramly.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley, C. A. Miner.

TOTAL:—44.

SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, May 17. There had been present:—

Mr. A. H. Hill, in the chair; Sir T. Graham Briggs, Lieut.-General Cavenagh, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Rev. C. Carruthers, Messrs. Barrington, Brand, Brown, Ellis, Holland, Hoare, Lawrence, Miner, Probyn, and Roberts.

At an adjourned meeting of the Administrative Committee on May 18 there had been present:—

Mr. A. H. Hill, in the chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major FitzRoy, and Mr. Roberts.

* Vide Rules of the Society, VII. and IX.

There were present at the meeting of the Administrative Committee on May 24:—

Mr. S. Fuller, in the chair; Sir T. Graham Briggs, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Capt. Gardner, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Bevan, Hill, Mitchell, Miner, Roberts, and Wood.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the two weeks ending May 19 the receipts had been £62. 3s. for the General Fund, and £6. 1s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £165. 12s. 11d. and £16. 14s. respectively, 16s. 2d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—That they had made grants of £15, £10, and £25 to the Fulham, Holborn, and Lambeth Committees; the total amount granted to these Committees since the 1st of October last had been £75, £90, and £70 respectively.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 15 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Rev. S. A. Barnett, Miss O. Hill, Miss Howes, Mrs. Lathbury, Hon. H. R. Grosvenor, Messrs. Clive, Crowder, Fuller, Fletcher, Graham, and Lewes; Mr. Mills (visitor).

At the meeting on May 22 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Miss Howes, Miss O. Hill, Messrs. Edcombe and Barrington.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 15 had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Miss Howes, Hon. H. R. Scott, Major FitzRoy, Capt. Gardner, and Mr. Bevan.

At the Special Meeting, May 18, were present:—

Hon. H. R. Scott and Major FitzRoy.

At the meeting on May 22 there had been present:—

Capt. Gardner, in the chair; Hon. H. R. Scott and Mr. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 16 had been present:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, and subsequently Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the chair; Sir Charles Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, and the Rev. H. F. Mallet.

INVESTIGATION: NAMES OF INQUIRERS.

By the permission of Council, the following question was asked, in the absence of Major FitzRoy, viz.:—

‘What is the practice of District Committees with regard to giving up the names of people asking for investigation to the persons whose cases are being investigated?’

A letter from Mr. F. J. S. Edcombe, forwarded by Major FitzRoy, was read; and after a short discussion, in which Rev. P. H. Wicksteed, Mr. T. E. Hardy, Mr. Jones Loyd, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. C. E. Maurice, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Dr. Daniel, Mr. Bousfield, and Mr. G. Charles took part, Mr. R. Barrington undertook to give notice of a motion on the subject.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

The Secretary pointed out that, while the contributions to the Council had increased, the expenses of the Committees in the poorer parts of London, which were mainly supported by grants from the funds of the Council, were, as the work extended, becoming larger; and, with the exception of £100 from the St. George's (Hanover Square) Committee, but little assistance had been received from the Committees in the richer districts.

After a discussion, in which Mr. Barrington, Mr. Bousfield, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. C. A. Reiss, Mr. C. A. Miner, and Mr. A. D. Graham joined, the following urgent recommendation of the Administrative Committee was carried:—

That a letter be transmitted to the District Committees of the Society calling their attention to the want of funds at the disposal of the Council for the use of the Society, and urging them to redouble their efforts with a view to obtaining further contributions.

DESERVING CASES.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence then moved:

That inasmuch as it is desirable that the public should be made aware of the claims of the deserving poor as well as of the demerits of the undeserving, the Society should publish in the *Times* a monthly list of deserving cases and the sums required for their need, or set on foot some other system for getting money to deserving cases of destitution.

He considered that such a plan would give due prominence to a part of the work of the Society, the importance of which, as one of its main objects, was not fully appreciated by the public. There were numerous cases to meet which no charity existed, or for which it was impossible to get relief, owing to the complicated methods by which suitable relief could alone be procured. Many people would be glad to give small sums in direct relief who could not afford to be subscribers. He suggested that cases in which the District Committees desired special help should be forwarded to the Central Office, and that it should be left to the Administrative Committee to advertise them or not, as they thought best. The appeal would be made, not on behalf of the District Committee, but on behalf of the Council.

Mr. W. F. Smith seconded the resolution.

Sir Charles Trevelyan thought the plan proposed was out of proportion to the end to be gained. The District Committees should be obliged to do their duty and, by establishing satisfactory relations with those in their district, be in a position to obtain adequate relief. Reference could, under existing rules, be made to the Administrative Committee in exceptional cases.

Dr. Hawksley said that, while all recognised the principle that adequate relief should be obtained, owing to the want of organisation in charity, it was doubtless difficult to obtain such relief in the poorer districts. When charities refused or professed themselves unable to assist suitable cases, the fact ought to be made public. He moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Mr. C. E. Maurice, viz.:—

That in view of the difficulty of obtaining that organisation and co-operation of the charities of London which is essential to the efficient relief of distress by voluntary agency, and to the abandonment of an inefficient outdoor Poor Law relief, it is resolved that the District Offices of the Society shall report weekly to the Central Council the various deserving cases they have found worthy of relief, but for which the suitable agencies were not available, with a view to the Central Office publishing the cases of failure.

Mr. W. W. Wood considered the question a financial one. If the District Committee could not obtain the necessary relief from charitable persons and institutions, they could fall back on their own funds; if their funds were insufficient, it was their duty to make special efforts to collect a larger income. Exceptional cases could be referred to the Administrative Committee.

Mr. C. A. Miner drew the attention of the Council to the resolutions passed in April 1876.*

Mr. Russell Barrington agreed with Mr. Wood that the question was one of finance. He always advocated that each case should be taken on its merits, and decided upon irrespective of the means apparently available for assisting it. What ought to be done having been agreed upon, the Committee was under an obligation to carry this out; and, from his experience of the work of several Committees, he could say that what was considered best in each case was, in spite of great difficulties, done. The course proposed by Mr. Lawrence was dangerous, and would lessen the responsibilities of the District Committees.

After a few words from Mr. H. N. Hoare, the Rev. C. Carruthers pointed out the great necessity for removing from the mind of the public the impression that the Society was solely engaged in the suppression of mendicity.

Mr. Bousfield supported Dr. Hawksley's amendment, and Mr. F. R. Montgomerie spoke in favour of advertising.

Mr. A. D. Graham gave notice of the following amendment:—

That inasmuch as it is desirable that the public should be made aware of the claims of the deserving poor, and that the Committees in the less wealthy districts should be better able, than they are at present, to secure ‘fitting action’ in such cases, ‘where other charities are unable to afford the required assistance,’ a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider the object here indicated, and to report to Council as to the best means of carrying them out.

At the suggestion of the Chairman the following resolution was agreed upon, viz.:—

That it be referred to the Districts Sub-Committee to inquire and report on the subject-matter of Mr. W. F. Lawrence's, Dr. Hawksley's, and Mr. A. D. Graham's amendments; and that their report be submitted to Council within a month.

The Council then adjourned.

* See Reporter, No. 177, p. 85.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the two weeks ending Saturday, May 26, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
Churchill, Lord	2	0	0	Brown, Davis, & Co.,			
Codrington, Gen. Sir W.,				Messrs.	1	1	0
G.C.B.	5	0	0	Flachfeld, J., & Co.,			
Davy, C. R., Esq.	1	1	0	Messrs.	1	1	0
Erlanger & Co., Messrs.	2	2	0	Gibbs, A., & Sons, Messrs.			
Gough, Viscount	5	0	0	(1877-8)	2	2	0
Herrick, Mrs. Perry	10	10	0	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J.			
Hewitson, W. C., Esq.	10	0	0	(1876)	5	5	0
Hoare, Miss F. A.	2	2	0	Hubbard, J., Esq.	0	10	6
Holling, C., Esq.	1	1	0	Keyser, Mrs.	1	1	0
Hunter, C., Esq.	1	0	0	Loebl, J., & Co., Messrs.	0	10	6
McMichael, W. F., Esq.	1	0	0	Payne, W., Esq.	0	10	0
Middleton, Rev. H. O.	5	0	0	Playfair, Mrs.	1	1	0
Prince, Miss M. A. C.	1	0	0	Prince, J., Esq.	2	2	0
Trevelyan, Sir W. C., Bt.	5	0	0	Wilson, H. Maitland, Esq.	2	0	0

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of May 1877 was 37,555, and 43,932 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,487. This was a decrease of 674 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 1,232, but a decrease of 6,587 and 15,701 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 719. This was an increase of 113 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 74 on the corresponding day of last year.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IDIOTS, IMBECILES, AND HARMLESS LUNATICS.

A very influential deputation, representing Ireland, Scotland, and various parts of England, waited upon the President of the Local Government Board on the 10th inst., to represent to him the views of the Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society who have inquired and reported on the questions connected with the education and care of idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics. Sir Charles Trevelyan, K.C.B., introduced the deputation, among whom were Lord Shaftesbury, K.G., Lord O'Hagan, Lord Wimmarleigh, Lord Wrottesley, Lord Waveney, Lord Clinton, Mr. Hutchinson, M.P., Dr. Cameron, M.P., Mr. Ripley, M.P., Mr. Hibbert, M.P., Mr. Whitworth, M.P., Dr. Brewer, Dr. Beach, Mr. T. Kemble, the Hon. Charles Strutt, Mr. J. H. Kimbell, Dr. Graham, Mr. E. Lawrence, the Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. J. Sapsford, Dr. Millard, Mr. F. T. Mappin, Dr. Tukey, Mr. Mocatta, Mr. H. G. Moysey, Mr. H. Burdett, Mr. Spaulding, &c.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, K.C.B., in introducing the deputation, said the object of that deputation was to present a report by a Special Committee convened by the Charity Organisation Society. The Committee had held sixteen meetings, and had sought for information not only at home, but from the very ends of the earth, and had been greatly aided by the different departments of Government. The report proceeded upon two principles—the first, that imbeciles and idiots should be treated separately from acute cases of insanity. Legislation had only been directed to the needs of dangerous lunatics, and not to those of the harmless idiotic class, so that the legal name of 'lunatics' applied to the most harmless case of idiocy. The result was that when benevolent persons established institutions for the most harmless class they were met by the most harassing formalities, the formalities which were presented in placing a person in a lunatic asylum. A far worse result was that the idiotic class had been placed to a great extent in lunatic asylums. Another result was that these asylums were crowded so much by imbeciles, sent in under the temptation of the Government grant, that lunatics could not be properly dealt with, and the mixture of the two classes was injurious to both. The second principle was that the imbecile class should be improved to the extent of their capacity. Much the largest proportion of this class could be made wholly or partly self-supporting by industrial training and education. It was recommended by the Committee that after being trained the patients should be disposed of according to the extent of their recovery. The best class could be returned to their families as practically recovered. Others might be, under supervision, rendered useful in the service of large families or public institutions. The working classes were in a bad position as regarded this subject. The majority of working-class families had a hard struggle. Such a family, having an imbecile member in it, might be broken down and pauperised in its struggles to keep an idiot. Two modes were proposed for providing for such a case: first, to establish public schools for juvenile idiots and asylums for adults out of the rates, the inmates to be paid for by their relatives according to their means; and where the families could not pay there should not be

pauperisation. They had, fortunately, the arrangements made by the Metropolitan Asylums Board as a model, that board having met the case entirely as regarded the metropolitan population. They began by separating lunatics and idiots, and then the idiot children from the adults, giving the children a thorough special training. As regarded the children, the necessity of entire separation was absolute. The subject was now handed over to the Government to deal with as they thought proper, and Sir Charles read the resolutions of the Committee. He also read letters from Lord Lichfield, Lord Fortescue, and Sir John Ogilvy in excuse of absence.

The Earl of Shaftesbury considered there was absolute and unqualified necessity for all Sir Charles Trevelyan had asked. His lordship said he had been on the Lunacy Commission fifty years, and ever since 1845 they had regularly reported upon the absolute necessity of treating imbeciles and idiots as a class separate from lunatics, and it had been proved that the idiot was capable of a high degree of cultivation and of industrial training. It was clear that sufficient provision could not be made by the voluntary system merely, for that system at that moment did not provide for more than 1,100 idiots, while there were at least 15,000 such children in the country. It was difficult to get the public to undertake an original expense, even although a good object was promised. The matter was one of religious duty, as it was the Lord's command that we should gather up the fragments, that nothing might be lost. He knew objections were urged to what was called a paternal Government; but he thought that in this case it was the duty of the State to come in.

Dr. Denis de Vitre urged that according to the Census of 1871 there were about 30,000 idiot children in the country; and as Lord Shaftesbury had shown that only about 1,100 were cared for by voluntary effort, there must be at least some 28,000 or 29,000 who needed to be thus trained. There was no provision made in the county for imbecile and idiot children, except as persons of unsound mind; and a great number of these people were sent to the poor-houses, where there was neither special instruction or training for them. He urged that these poor people should be trained to industrial pursuits, otherwise their imitative faculties led them to acquire the actions of the insane. He spoke warmly of the work carried on at Earlswood and at Clapton, at the latter place under Miss Stephens and Dr. Beach, and said that under such training generally there would be a great decrease in idiocy, and a lessening in the expense of keeping such persons as incurables.

Sir Charles Reed urged that it was a national duty to provide for the separation and training of the imbecile and idiot class, and said that his experience as Chairman of the London School Board had shown him that many of these children were shut up in families and were kept from all training.

Lord O'Hagan said his attention had been directed to this subject by the Committee's inquiry, and the result of his investigations was that he warmly supported the report set forth by the Charity Organisation Society of London. He urged that it was the common duty of humanity to care for these poor creatures, and not to be treated as they were, as beasts of burden. The imbeciles in Ireland, he said, were shut out from the relief given to the blind and to the deaf mutes, and he urged that Ireland should not be excluded from all legislation upon the subject, as she had been hitherto.

Lord Wrottesley urged that to go on building new asylums for lunatics was certainly working in a wrong direction.

Mr. Kemble spoke with respect to the crowding of the county lunatic asylums with imbeciles, to the injury of both.

Dr. Langdon Down urged that if schools were established for the weak-minded, they should not be attached to lunatic asylums, as it was necessary, in order to get people to accept the training they would offer for the children, to remove the stigma of insanity from such cases.

Mr. Hibbert, M.P., speaking as one who had had experience in the management of asylums, held that it was impossible to provide for the imbeciles and idiots in the lunatic asylums and workhouses. The training schools asked for, he said, would not be inexpensive, but they were necessary, and in the end would be found economical. The counties, he thought, should have power to combine, so as to share the costs of these schools for idiots, there not being sufficient children in a county to justify the erection of a separate school for each county. He also urged that the imbecile asylums and training schools should be apart from county asylums, and not in the same grounds.

The President said he had listened with great interest and attention to the statements laid before him by gentlemen so eminently qualified, not only to state their own views upon those important subjects, but also to represent the views and opinions of others. The work of the Charity Organisation Society in instituting these inquiries had been well known to him, and he had kept himself well informed by one of the secretaries of this Department—Mr. Fry—who assisted in the inquiry. (Hear, hear.) The movement had his (the President's) entire sympathy and co-operation, and he was very glad that gentlemen of so much intelligence and patriotic and benevolent zeal should have summed up and brought into one focus much information and many practical suggestions, for the adoption of

which public opinion now appeared to be almost ripe. In deprecation of the sentiments of more than one speaker he would say a few words—in the expression of opinion that the Department was behindhand, and had been neglectful of the interests of these lunatic patients. It was not above twenty years ago that the attention of Parliament and the public was directed to the subject of lunacy, and it was then first dealt with in a comprehensive way; and it was not long since that the members of the Department of which he was the head were placed under the obligation to provide for the different classes of lunatics, for the Commissioners saw the necessity for the separation and classification of the patients. They had reported on the necessity for additional asylums, and the main object was to provide places where the unfortunate objects under consideration could be at once humanely, separately, and safely treated. He was speaking then not only as the head of that Department, and from the knowledge which he ought thus to possess, but having been chairman of his county asylum, he was acquainted with what had been done generally. He knew that it was true that the numbers of applications for admission to the county asylums were greater than could be received. Public attention was directed to the most effective form of dealing with the difficulty; and having been educated by the experience of the last twenty-five years it was seen that the classification of these various classes of lunatics and the separation of class from class were necessary; but he could not agree that those patients had not been bettered in their condition by the treatment of late years. Then as to idiot children, their treatment in wards was an improvement over their previous condition, though he quite agreed that a great deal more was needful to be done. Though the Commissioners in Lunacy had long since thought that the lunatic asylums should be devoted to the care of curable patients, he did not think that the public mind had been ripe for the consideration of the subject until forced to consider it by the existing state of things. He need not say that he entirely endorsed the views of Sir Charles Trevelyan and Lord Shaftesbury—he entirely concurred with them that the various classes of patients ought not to be mixed up together and subjected to the same treatment. He also held with Sir Charles Trevelyan and Lord Shaftesbury that the children should be separately cared for, separately treated, and separately trained. (Cheers.) When Sir Charles Trevelyan, however, came forward, as at this meeting, and presented the views as if they were new views presented for the first time, it was his (the President's) duty to say, for the credit of the Department and for the credit of the local institutions which had grown up under its guidance, that example was better than precept, for in the metropolis it had been shown not only what might be done, but what had actually been done under the provisions of the existing law. It was quite true that the provisions of the law were more perfect and complete in the metropolis than they were in the country, but when it was considered that the metropolis was a province containing one-seventh of the population of this kingdom, and that these views were completely new, that was an answer to the suggestion that the Department and Parliament were indifferent to the subject. It had only been since he had had the honour of holding the position of President of this Department that the happy suggestion was made to separate from the adult imbeciles the children afflicted with idiocy, and to treat them as a separate class, at Clapton. He had been very happy to support the suggestion, and he was gratified beyond expression at knowing how successfully that practical suggestion of the Metropolitan Asylums Board had been carried on at the asylum at Clapton, which was only a temporary establishment, while the permanent building at Darenth was being completed. Then why was it that what had been done in the metropolis was not done in the country at large? Mr. Hibbert had said that what had been done in the metropolis could be done in the counties, and he thought that the counties might combine, and it would have been well if the counties had taken his view of the subject, and if, instead of multiplying asylums, like the usual county asylums, they had instituted such asylums as the metropolis possesses at Leavesden, in Hertfordshire, and Caterham, in Surrey, built by the Metropolitan Asylums Board. They would have found that whereas the lunatic in lunatic asylums cost eleven and twelve shillings a week, the imbecile may be maintained at a much less cost, for they can be maintained in imbecile asylums at a cost of seven shillings a week. Then as to the difficulty of the form of admission into these asylums. There was no such difficulty in regard to the admission of imbeciles to these asylums, as they were held to be the inmates of workhouses. With regard to the provision for idiots in the country, the case was very different from that of the imbeciles, and it was required to educate the public mind and to instruct the ratepayers, as represented in the House of Commons, that it was for the advantage of those who paid rates, as well as for the interests of humanity, that schools should be instituted for the education, the training, and the permanent improvement of idiot children; and though he could not endorse the suggestion that there were 30,000 of such idiot children in the kingdom, yet he could not but think that the number was large; and though the children idiots in the general asylums of the country were in a better condition than if left in their own homes, still he was free to admit that the time had arrived when it would

be advantageous to have establishments, after the same kind as at Clapton, set up for the counties. In his own county the necessity had been felt for increased accommodation; and he hoped that a separate building which was being constructed for that county would be for a separate class, and that so far as the imbeciles were concerned they should show a better result in economical management. He was sorry to say that they were without any general separate management for imbeciles in counties, but he hoped it would not be long before such separate arrangement would be given. The subject of county government was interesting Parliament and the country at this time, and one of the most interesting subjects in which it could engage would be with regard to this class. There was nothing in the proposals of the Committee to which he could take exception, and he promised to do everything he could to advance the objects represented by the deputation.

Sir Charles Trevelyan having, on behalf of the deputation, thanked the Minister for the reception he had given them, the deputation retired.

DIFFICULT CASES.

No. 6. A home, at which he may be trained, is wanted for a boy of 15, who is blind and deaf and dumb. A Board of Guardians will contribute towards his maintenance. For further particulars apply to the Secretary.

No. 7. The St. James's and Soho Committee would be glad of help in the following case:—M. A. M., a domestic servant, of good character, has become quite deaf and almost blind. No relations able to assist.

We have received the following reply respecting Difficult Case No. 4:—'Why is this considered a difficult case? Surely it is a case for the Poor Law. J. S., being "weak both in body and mind," unable to do the work of a child, i.e. to "carry parcels," will be best provided for in the workhouse.—Y.'

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

LEWISHAM, BLACKHEATH, AND LEE.—The Lewisham Guardians have withdrawn the request which they made twelve months ago to this Committee to allow their board, on which are affixed lists of the outdoor paupers,* to be placed in the garden in front of the Committee's office. The Clerk of the Guardians, writing to this effect, adds: 'The Board are, however, about to take into their careful consideration the best course to pursue with a view of still co-operating with the Charity Organisation Society, and assisting them in systematising, as far as possible, relief operations in various parts of the metropolis.'

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

DEAR SIR.—It was erroneously stated in the report of the meeting at Lambeth on the 23rd ult., given in your issue of the 26th, that the Archbishop had spoken of 'the organisation of the Society for the Relief of Distress by Bishop Blomfield.'

The mistake would be at once apparent to anyone acquainted with the facts, but it may be well to state briefly that the Society alluded to by his Grace in connection with the name of Bishop Blomfield was the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association, which was founded, and its rules drawn up, at a meeting held at London House, under that Bishop's presidency, on Saturday, December 16, 1843. Its first title was 'Association for Promoting the Relief of Destitution in the Metropolis, and for Improving the Condition of the Poor, by means of Parochial and District Visiting, under the superintendence and direction of the Bishop and Clergy.' A large and influential Committee was formed, and the objects set forth in the prospectus point clearly to the organisation of charity through the existing parochial agencies, and the restraint of indiscriminate almsgiving. The Committee still meets periodically at its office at 21 Regent Street, and makes grants from its funds, which depend upon voluntary subscriptions, to the parochial clergy who apply to it, and satisfy the conditions required.

In 1860, seventeen years later, and after the decease of Bishop Blomfield, the Society for the Relief of Distress was founded with similar objects, but acting through its own almoners, although in communication with the parochial clergy.

This was followed in 1869 by the Charity Organisation Society, which first introduced the systematic investigation of cases from different centres throughout the Metropolitan District.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, as I understood him, mentioned the establishment of these three Societies as marking successive stages in the attempt to organise charity in London.—Yours,

C. S. LOCH, Esq.

HENRY F. MALLORY.

Hampstead, May 8, 1877.

* See Reporter, No. 185, p. 120; and No. 214, p. 68.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 219.

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 7, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, June 7	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 11	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday " 12	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
	3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday " 13	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday " 14	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

OPEN SPACES.—A deputation will wait on the School Board, Victoria Embankment, at 2.50 P.M., June 13, to bring before the School Board the desirability of opening the Playgrounds attached to the Board Schools, on the Saturday holidays and on summer evenings. Mr. Shaw Lefevre, M.P., will read a Memorial on the subject.

METROPOLITAN POOR LAW CONFERENCES.—The Annual Conference of the Metropolitan Poor Law Guardians will be held at the offices of the School Board, Victoria Embankment (Temple Station), on Thursday June 14, at 11 A.M. Mr. Albert Pell, M.P., will preside. The following gentlemen will read papers:—

Mr. J. T. Hibbert, M.P., on 'The Mode of Election and Tenure of Office of Guardians of the Poor.' The Rev. J. Llewelyn Davies on 'The Duties of Metropolitan Boards of Guardians under the Education Act of 1876.' Rev. T. T. Tuffield, on 'The Duties of Guardians to Pauper Children.'

The following business stands for Monday, June 11:—

I. The adjourned discussion on the following motions of Sir Charles Trevelyan:—

1. That the Committees of the Society be recommended to prepare statements of the Charitable Endowments within their respective districts, and to consider, in concert with the Trustees, what improvements may be made in the application of the funds, so as to meet the real exigencies of the present day.

2. That the Co-operation Sub-Committee be instructed to place themselves in communication with the Charity Commissioners with especial reference to the Parochial Charities of the City of London, which form the subject of an important expression of opinion in their recent annual report.

3. To these motions the Rev. Harvey Brookes has given notice of the following amendment, viz.: 'That the words from "districts" to the end of the second motion be omitted.'

II. Mr. W. Wightman-Wood to move:—

1. That any District Committee whose chairman is not in the habit of attending the meetings of Council may, in the absence of such chairman, send its vice-chairman, or one of its vice-chairmen, to the Council, as an additional representative.

2. That any District Committee which has only one Hon. Secretary may send a third elected representative to Council.*

III. Mr. W. Wightman-Wood to move:—

That a return be made of the names of the twenty-five societies stated, in the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on 'Charity and Out-relief,' to have replied to the circular letter of the Sub-Committee respecting co-operation with this Society in relieving the deserving poor.

IV. Mr. Russell Barrington to move:—

That no resolution of Council affecting the practical work of the District Committees be considered as carried, unless voted by two-thirds of the Council present.†

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, June 4, at 3 P.M.

Present:—A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—Mrs. Lathbury, F. J. S. Edgcombe, J. W. Probyn.	BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Sapsford, Rev. C. Kirtton, J. F. Sapsford.
FULHAM:—Sir Douglas Forsyth, C. Stevens.	WHITECHAPEL:—Hon. C. W. Fremantle.
PADDINGTON:—J. R. Holland.	POPULAR:—A. D. Graham.
CHELSEA:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel.	ST. SAVOIR'S:—F. Montgomerie, Rev. W. A. Richmond, R. Barrington, W. F. Smith.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Major FitzRoy, Hon. R. C. Moreton, Meysay Clive.	NEWINGTON:—F. D. P. Thornton.
ST. JAMES'S, SOHO:—W. Bevan, W. Bonfield.	ST. OLAVE'S:—Sir T. Graham Briggs.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—Rev. P. H. Wickstead, Miss Octavia Hill.	LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown, W. M. Venning.
HAMPSTEAD:—O. E. Maurice.	BATTERSEA:—T. E. Hardy.
HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.	CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
ST. GILES:—R. L. Kenyon.	LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramly.
HOLBORN:—W. Sheephanks, G. B. Baker.	VICE-PRESIDENT:—F. D. Mocatta.
CITY:—Rev. W. H. Lyall, Rev. Harvey Brookes.	ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. Trevelyan, C. A. Miner, Dr. Hawkley.
SHOREDITCH:—J. L. Foster, Rev. H. G. Henderson.	TOTAL:—46.
	SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, May 31. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Major FitzRoy, Messrs. Brown, Bevan, Barrington, Fuller, Hill, Charles, Ellis, Mitchell, Miner, Topley, and Lawrence.

THE REPORTER.—It had been resolved to publish monthly a double number of the *Reporter*, suitable for more general readers.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY.—A letter to District Committees on this subject had been approved, and an order had been given that it be sent to all the District Committees of the Society.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending May 23 the receipts had been £50. 1s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £148. 0s. 10d. and £68. 19s. 7d. respectively, £53. 1s. 9d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

* Vide Rules of the Society, VII. and IX.
† Vide Rule of the Society, XVI.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 29 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Rev. S. A. Barnett, Miss Howes, Miss Hill, Mrs. Lathbury, Messrs. Barrington, Bousfield, Clive, Edecombe, Graham, and Lewes.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 29 had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Major FitzRoy, Capt. Gardner, Miss Howes, and Mr. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 30 had been present:—

Mr. A. H. Hill in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Mr. Hollond, Hon. C. W. Fremantle, and Mr. Lavers Smith, visitors.

FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on May 30 there had been present:—

Rev. H. I. Cummins in the chair; Messrs. Roberts, Corrie, and Hill.

CHANGES IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

The recommendation of the Administrative Committee under this head was, after some discussion, adopted.

INVESTIGATION: NAMES OF INQUIRERS.

Mr. Russell Barrington moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Major FitzRoy, viz.:—

That the District Committees be recommended to observe the same rule with regard to inquiry into cases as the one observed by the Inquiry Department of the Central Office, viz.:—

That no inquiry should be instituted into any case without the applicant being made aware that such inquiry is being made; also that this Society can never pledge itself not to give the name of any person who asks for an inquiry, though it is frequently unnecessary to do so.

He urged that there was the necessity for the adoption by District Committees of some such simple rule as this, by which, within certain limits, uniformity would be secured, while the machinery of the Society would be at the disposal of those only who were entitled to make use of it.

Dr. Daniel moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Mr. W. F. Smith, viz.:—

That the name of an inquirer seeking information through the Society of the merits of any alleged case of distress shall not be divulged unless authorised, but the Subject of inquiry shall be at once informed that any information given is entirely voluntary, and that any aid likely to be rendered would depend upon a full and satisfactory explanation of all its circumstances given to the Society.

He considered that no harm could accrue to the applicant for charity by the name of the person on whose behalf the inquiry was made not being mentioned. It was open to him, if he wished it, to withhold information, and thus forego any advantage he might obtain through the Society's instrumentality.

After some discussion, in which Dr. Hawksley, Rev. P. H. Wicksteed, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. J. R. Hollond, Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, Mr. W. Bevan, Rev. H. G. Henderson, Mr. Bousfield, and others joined, the amendment moved by Dr. Daniel was lost, together with an amendment moved by Mr. J. R. Hollond, 'That the whole question be referred to the District Sub-Committee,' on the ground that more detailed regulations are necessary.

Mr. Barrington's motion was then carried.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS.

Sir Charles Trevelyan then moved:—

1. That the Committees of the Society be recommended to prepare statements of the Charitable Endowments within their respective districts, and to consider, in concert with the Trustees, what improvements may be made in the application of the funds, so as to meet the real exigencies of the present day; and

2. That the Co-operation Sub-Committee be instructed to place themselves in communication with the Charity Commissioners with especial reference to the Parochial Charities of the City of London, which form the subject of an important expression of opinion in their recent annual report.

He said it was full time for the Charity Organisation Society to give serious and systematic attention to the munificent provision which had been made by former generations for the charity of the metropolis.

This provision might, for practical purposes, be divided under three heads:—

1. Parochial Charities other than those of the ancient city. These were, in general, in actual use, although that use was rarely of a kind suitable to the circumstances of the present time.

2. The parochial charities of the ancient city, which for the most part were either unused, or made use of for personal profit, or appropriated to objects which, although professedly public, had now no real public utility: and

3. Charitable endowments for metropolitan purposes, of which the Corporation of the City, or the City Livery Companies, were the Trustees.

According to the return moved for in 1865 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, then Bishop of London, the annual income of the City Parochial Charities was £64,500. According to the continuation of the same return just presented to Parliament, this income had since increased to £101,380. This, however, fell far short of the annual amount which might be obtained from the property if it were rescued from beneficial leases and other personal arrangements, and if the shares of houses, small pieces of land in central situations, and other miscellaneous parcels of which it chiefly consists, were sold under the superintendence of responsible persons, and invested in the funds, where it would not be subject to further waste, and the expenses of management would be reduced to a minimum. The charities of the City of Westminster, exclusive of the charities administered by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and of the charities belonging to the extensive metropolitan region, which had grown up outside the ancient Cities of London and Westminster, had in the same ten or eleven years increased from £22,463 to £28,358.

With regard to the charitable endowments under the Corporation and Livery Companies, Sir Charles Trevelyan said that he believed that these endowments were of vast extent, but that that portion of them which was under the Livery Companies could not be estimated, as the Companies had refused to render an account of them, and claimed, notwithstanding judicial opinions to the contrary, that the original appropriations of the donors having been complied with, all increase in the value of the charity estates was the private property of the Company.

It might safely be affirmed that, after setting aside what was intended for religious and educational purposes, the provision made by our ancestors for charitable uses in the metropolis would, if it was properly realised and applied, amply suffice to supplement the efforts of the present generation. For instance, there would be more than enough to give pensions to all poor aged or infirm persons, who ought to be assisted at their own homes instead of going into the workhouse.

In 1870, Mr. Andrew Johnston, supported by Viscount Seaton, Mr. W. H. Smith, and Mr. C. Dalrymple, brought in a Bill, providing that the charitable endowments of the lapsed City parishes should be taken charge of by a Royal Commission, with power to sell, and to invest the proceeds under one or other of two schedules, to be called respectively 'The City of London Charitable Trusts Fund,' and 'The City of London Churches Fund,' and, with the approval of Her Majesty in Council, to prepare and lay before Parliament schemes for the application of those funds, subject to the checks of delay, right of petitioning, and power of further inquiry. This had been opposed by the City Corporation; but several members of Parliament were alive to the importance of the subject. Mr. Cross, in his answer to a question on the 15th May last, appeared to imply that the Government intended to deal with it; and the Charity Commissioners had summed up the actual state of the case in the following extract from their last Report:

In our Thirteenth Report we drew attention to the large income available for charitable purposes possessed by many of the parishes in the City of London. Of many of these Charities no Deeds of Foundation are found to exist, but by such parish records and memoranda as are available, they appear to have been intended originally for the benefit of the poor, and for charitable purposes within the parish. But, from the altered circumstances of the city, many of these parishes have now no poor, and the revenues are administered by the churchwardens and overseers at their discretion for miscellaneous objects. The case of one parish has been brought to our notice, which is in possession of parochial charities of the value of upwards of £800 a year, the population of which is at the present moment 46 only, of which number it is believed that only four or five sleep within the parish, and not one of whom could properly come under

signation of 'poor.' Nor can the administration of these large sums be considered satisfactory as regards the objects for which they are applied, for, while considerable sums are given to increase the stipends of clergies, or to defray the expenses of Ward Schools, large sums are given under the head of 'General Parochial Purposes' to increasing numbers of, or the presentation of testimonials to churchwardens, or parish officers, and to other objects, sometimes of a convivial nature, and are widely removed from the original objects of the foundation. The donors have in several instances, notwithstanding the opposition of parish authorities, who have claimed the right to expend the income from these charities as they think fit, enforced the production of the accounts relating thereto; and we, no doubt, have power, upon a proper application made to us, to frame schemes for the application of these funds to more beneficial than those to which they are at present devoted. If the necessary application could be obtained, which is highly probable, such a method of dealing with them would be neither easy nor costly. Each case would have to be dealt with separately, or if a scheme were established dealing with the revenues of more than one parish, the circumstances of each would probably be found to be so different that the allocation of the income in such a case to an object of common interest, would be found to present the greatest difficulty. It is possible, of course, that, out of Equity also, on the information of the Attorney-General, to whom in the case of each parish a new scheme or schemes for administering these large funds. But we have reason to believe that the Attorney-General is himself alive to the unsatisfactory result which would probably be produced by such proceedings, and there is no doubt that if these funds are to be dealt with in this manner, separately and independently of other, we have the means, through our powers of local inquiry and official communication with all parties concerned, of securing an advantageous result more readily and in a greater degree than a Court of Law. It is, in fact, this consideration which has led to the establishment of this Commission, with the very extensive powers which have been conferred on it.

In these circumstances we are compelled to recur to the suggestion made so long ago as the year 1866 in the Report quoted above, that these funds are in effect so far liberated by the altered circumstances of the country in which they are applicable, as to require reappropriation to new and noble uses, a work which can be carried out only by some special authority out of existing jurisdictions by the authority of Parliament.

A clause in the Endowed Schools Commission Act, authority given to apply charitable doles to purposes of education. The Corporation had founded a large day school out of what Mr. Johnston called 'thirty thousand pounds worth of useless and the City Middle Class Schools Corporation, and other educational establishments, had received assistance from the same source. Well that funds, which would only pauperise and corrupt if expended according to their original application, should be put to any useful purpose, but ought bequests made for charitable purposes to be diverted to education? The Charity Organisation Society, had undertaken to organise charity and direct it into proper channels, was under a special responsibility in this matter. The motion of Mr. R. Barrington, the Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

following contributions were received by the Council during the evening Saturday, June 2, 1877:—

Donations:—			Annual:—		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Donors	0	1 0	Devas, T., Esq.	1	1 0
Light Hon. Sir W.	10	10 0	Emery, C. H., Esq.	1	1 0
Mr. G. G., Esq.	1	1 0	Salter's Company	2	2 0
Mr. J., Esq.	0	2 6	<i>District Committee Aid Fund:—</i>		
Mr. G., Esq.	3	0 0	Peck, Francis, Esq., (7th		
Mr. Samuel, Esq.	5	5 0	instalment of £3,000)	250	0 0

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

LAVE'S.—*'Sanitary Hints.'*—This Committee has purchased copies of a little pamphlet recently published by the Society for Promoting Knowledge, called 'A Few Simple Sanitary Hints for Working Men' (5d. per 100), and is distributing them amongst the applicants. In the instance of a member of the Committee, the St. Olave's District of Works have ordered copies of the pamphlet for distribution by the inspectors of Nuisances.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—*Co-operation with the Clergy.*—Extract of letter from Rev. J. Walker, Vicar of St. Saviour's, St. George's Square, S.W.:—

'I had a letter asking me to give the Society an offertory. I will not only do so, but I shall have infinite pleasure in doing it, and shall not fail to tell my people the thousand and one kind acts you have done the poor through me. Perhaps this will serve for a formal answer to the letter. I will have the offertory for you when the season is at its height.'

Extract from the 'Twelfth Annual Address of the Vicar of Christ Church, Mayfair,' 1877:—

'I again acknowledge the courtesy and assistance received from the St. George's Committee of "The Charity Organisation Society." Regarding any of our poor who apply to them they are always disposed to act in concert with our parochial agency, and they are ever ready to assist in affording substantial relief to persons in times of real need.

'I take the opportunity of suggesting to my parishioners, to whom application is made for relief by persons from other parts of London, that if they wish to avoid encouraging impostors and other unworthy persons, they should first seek information respecting the applicants from the above-named Committee, whose office is 48 Buckingham Palace Road, and who will gratuitously and gladly investigate such cases and report upon them.

PROVINCIAL.

CROYDON.—We have received the following circular-letter from the Croydon Charitable Society:—

'THE WHITGIFT HOSPITAL AND CROYDON CHARITIES COMMITTEE, 1877.

'Sir,—The Committee appointed by the Public Meeting of the 28th March 1877, and re-appointed by the Vestry on Easter Tuesday last to inquire into the Croydon Charities, with confidence appeal to their fellow parishioners to aid their labours. The estates belonging to Archbishop Whitgift's, Elys Davy's, the Little Almshouses, and the other charities of Croydon have become very valuable, yet it is doubtful if a single person in the parish knows accurately either their extent or worth.

'To terminate this state of uncertainty respecting those various properties which from time to time have been left to Croydon, and to procure and publish such reliable statistics as will render the resources of the said endowments more available to the ratepayers for educational and other purposes, is the aim of your Committee.

'As there are no funds set apart for carrying out the orders of the Vestry and the instructions of the Public Meeting, the Committee rely upon the support of the inhabitants to carry out the work intrusted to them, and therefore respectfully solicit your kind assistance by subscribing to the fund.

'Subscriptions can be paid into the London and County Bank, Croydon, to the account of Geo. Day, sen., Treasurer of "The Whitgift Hospital and Croydon Charities Committee, 1877."

'Croydon, 10th May 1877.'

HULL CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—The number of cases dealt with by this Society during 1876 amounted to 531, of which 275 had assistance given or obtained. Lord Ripon, in his opening speech at the annual meeting, stated that when the London Charity Organisation Society was established he 'entertained a suspicion, which had happily turned out groundless, that there might be some attempt on the part of bodies of this kind to draw to themselves all the charitable efforts of the town in which they existed, and to enter into some course of opposition to their older, but in some respects more restricted, competitors in the great field of charitable labour.' 'No society,' he said, 'no common organisation, ought ever to attempt to interfere with or to diminish the labours of what he might call personal and individual charity—the charity which passes from man to man.' After stating the objects of the Society, he asked, 'Would it be possible for such a Society to content itself with making inquiries and reporting to its subscribers the facts it had ascertained, but take no steps—have no funds of its own with which to administer relief in deserving cases?' He thought not. It seemed to him that that course could not be successfully pursued. In the first place, he was sure that if that Society were to be continually making those inquiries without having any means in its hand to aid deserving cases, it would soon become very harsh and inquisitorial; it would lose the character of a charitable organisation, and become a sort of charitable police. That was not what they wanted. It was a very undesirable thing in itself, because of the hardening tendency it would have on all connected with it; and he was sure the Society would speedily prove to be unsuccessful, if those who were deserving, and came to it, found that they were sent away equally unaided with the most gross impostors. . . . Therefore a certain power of giving assistance itself, as well as of obtaining assistance in any particular cases for those who might be specially interested, was essential to the effectual working of that which he took to be the first object of the Society, namely, the conducting of inquiries, the sifting of cases, so that the unworthy person might be separated from those who deserved assistance.

LIVERPOOL CENTRAL RELIEF AND CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—The annual report for the year ended October 31, 1876, shows that 9,773 cases were visited; of these 1,650 were of applicants for the benefit of the Ladies' Charity and Lying-in Hospital. 'The charity was granted in 1,355 and withheld in 295 cases.' 'Butcher's meat to the value of £123 has been granted to persons recovering from sickness, in order to expedite their convalescence, and where a change of air has been necessary to complete their recovery, your Committee have always readily granted orders for the various Convalescent Institutions, a sum of £114 having been spent in this way, as follows, viz.: Woolton, 49 orders, Southport, 30, New Brighton, 14, Buxton, 3; total, 96 orders. This form of assistance is given principally through the agency of the District Nursing Society, between whom and this Society cordial relations exist.' During the year 174 persons were assisted to migrate, 'making 1,169 who have been assisted by the Society in this way. Of those sent this year 13 families were on the parish books, at a cost to the rates of £4. 12s. per week, or £240 a year.' Under Rule 4 the Committee is 'empowered to carry on such Workshops, or other modes of employment, as they may deem desirable, for giving temporary work to unemployed poor.' During the year 224,673 Firelighters and 268,944 Bundles were sold from the workshops where employment was given to 417 men. 'Work orders were given by the Society's own Visitors to 668 men, only 206 of whom applied for work.' The following is worth quoting:—'A decent labouring man, with a family of six children, from 13 to 4 years old, had been for some time at the Society's Workshops. An opening was found for him to go to Yorkshire, in April 1875, and he and his family now jointly earn £1. 16s. 9d. per week.' The Committee 'sends an officer three times a week to the Parish Relief Committee, with a view of rescuing from pauperism persons whose distress is only temporary, and who would otherwise come upon the Parish books.' We were under the impression that a member of the Committee attended also the meetings of the Guardians for the same purpose. We trust that in their next report the Committee will give the results of such attendances. We regret that we have been prevented from noticing earlier this excellent report.

THE NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITY.—In their annual report for 1876—their first—the Committee state that they considered 655 cases. 'Many of the most deserving cases were not those of common mendicants, but of the unobtrusive poor, to which the Committee's attention was called by the Town Missionaries, the Visiting Sick Nurse, and by private individuals.' Periodical lists of persons relieved are received from eight parishes and three chapels, and a register of such persons kept at the office. Many of the cases helped from the Society's funds were placed under the care of ladies who act as visitors. 'Having charge of only a few cases, and these often for a considerable time, they have been able to give a personal attention to them which no Committee or paid officer could have done; and their advice and sympathy have often been of as much benefit as the food or clothing they have given. The Lady Visitors have often been able to interest their friends, and to obtain work or assistance for the poor people under their care; and have been the means of enabling not a few families to make a fresh start.' Two of the regulations as to Lady Visitors, who are elected by the Committee, are as follows:—'These Lady Visitors to undertake to report once a week on the cases confided to them, and not to vary from the suggestions of the Weekly Committees as to the nature and amount of relief given; or, when appointed to visit only, not to give any relief whatever.' 'The Hon. Secretary to prepare lists of cases referred to the Lady Visitors by the Weekly Committees, and to hand them to the lady acting as Hon. Sec. for the Lady Visitors.'

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

ACCIDENT RELIEF SOCIETY.—We are requested to warn the public against Mr. Edward Barker Gale, of 184 Westmoreland Road, Walworth, who, the Committee of the Accident Relief Society, 23 Great Winchester Street, E.C., have reason to believe is collecting ostensibly for the Society, and has been appropriating to his own purposes the sums received by him under such pretence.

DOVER CONVALESCENT HOME.—We regret to learn that the London and Dover Convalescent Home, of which Mrs. Rusher is Hon. Lady Superintendent, is likely to be closed for want of funds. The home has been found of great service to District Committees of the Society.

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, 3 and 4 Vincent Square, S.W.—The following letter has been received from this Hospital:—

'Sir,—Arrangements have been made whereby ladies and gentlemen in reduced circumstances, who are in want of proper care and nursing during illness, but are unable to pay the ordinary fees for medical attendance, can be received in private rooms, and have the benefit of medical attendance and regular nursing for a payment of £1. 1s. a week, or upwards, according to their means.

'Cases may probably be brought to your notice of persons who would be glad to avail themselves of these arrangements.

'The ordinary charge for in-patients having subscribers' letters is 2s. a week, but patients are admitted without letters, but not into private rooms, at a charge of 10s. or 15s. a week.'

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.—The *Echo* in an article on 'Cookery in Schools,' referring to a school of cookery in connection with the Church of St. Mary, Crown Street, Soho, says:—'Friends of the working man, and of the industrial classes generally, should hail and aid all efforts at assisting them, not only to habits of self-dependence in the getting of their daily bread, but in the art of making it go further, and of making it savoury and enjoyable. It is far better to train a person to walk than to carry him. . . . The practical instruction day is Saturday, from ten till four. Take one day as a sample. The refreshments provided are, say, of the following—sausages, sausage-rolls, jellies, blanc-manges, and pressed meat—made by the girls in the school, at a stove specially provided. The work begins with mending; some of the girls, accompanied by the teacher, go out to purchase in Newport Market, or, more frequently, from the costermongers, and partly from the shops, what is required for the intended meal. There is the usual bargaining and criticism, so important in the choice and purchase of food; and the cost of every article is entered in a book—a most important part of the exercise. It is the custom, on the marketing party's return, for the lady instructor to explain the manner of cooking to be followed, and each girl works from a written receipt. The teacher superintends the work, pointing out any defects or errors of manipulation, and speaking when opportunity offers on the importance of forethought, cleanliness, and orderly management. In the course of the twenty lessons given to the teachers, a vast variety of dishes and articles are brought before the class, including provisions for all meals, in great diversity of forms, hot or cold; food for invalids; food for children, &c. The question of cost, and how it is defrayed, is vital. This is met in the simplest manner. Each pupil pays 3d. per lesson for instruction, but gets a good dinner into the bargain; and, as the school is necessarily a loser, the balance is made up by voluntary contributions from without—a point about which, we believe, there has hitherto been no difficulty. The good done is so obvious, the method of charity employed is so healthy in its tendency, and the young people benefited are so conscious of the value of the privileges they enjoy, that the School of Cookery is supported with readiness—the poor themselves being often liberal contributors. We should add that a diary is carefully kept, in which the daily work of each girl is entered, with name opposite. Mr. Buckmaster informs us that the girls who passed the best examination in cookery also passed the best examination before Her Majesty's inspectors.'

On the 16th instant Mr. W. Stephen Mitchell read a paper at the Society of Arts, on the Practical Use of the Food Collection of the Science and Art Department. The paper will be found in No. 1,277 of the Journal of the Society.

An annual conference on this subject, the first meeting of which will be held at Birmingham in the first week of July, is being arranged by the Society of Arts.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.—The summary of a paper read by Mr. H. N. Hoare at the St. James' and Soho Club on the 16th inst. together with an account of the discussion that followed the paper, is given in the *Workmen's Club Journal* of the 26th inst. The following is from an article on the subject in the same No. of the *Journal*:—'Our colleague, Mr. Thomas Paterson, in an admirable speech at the discussion, suggested that a Committee should be formed at the St. James' and Soho Club, to report what some steps could be taken to place themselves in correspondence with the Charity Committee of the district. We heartily hope that this wise thought may be carried out. It would be a great step in the direction of this co-operative charity which is so urgently needed. Our clubs will then indeed become a great power in this country, when they manifest a determination to be centres of social reform.'

OPEN SPACES.—Miss Octavia Hill's paper on 'Open Spaces,' which we read, on behalf of the National Health Society, at the Society of Arts on the 9th of May, will be found in the *Sanitary Record* of the 18th inst.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of May 1877 was 37,223, and 43,823 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,046. This was a decrease of 441 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 996, but a decrease of 6,226 and 15,684 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 771. This was a decrease of 8 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 126 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 13d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 220.

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 14, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, June 14	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 18	...	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, " 19	...	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
		3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday, " 20	...	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday, " 21	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

AGENTS' MEETING.—On June 27 a meeting of Charity Agents and Inquiry Officers of the Society will be held at the offices of the Council, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C. Major FitzRoy will take the chair at 8.30 P.M. Rev. H. I. Cummins, Hon. Secretary of the City Committee, will read a paper on the 'Work of Agents and Inquiry Officers.' Hon. Secretaries of District Committees are invited to attend.

COFFEE HOUSES.*—With the kind permission of the Duke of Westminster, a Conference with reference to the Establishment of Public Houses, without the sale of intoxicating drinks, will be held at Grosvenor House, on Thursday, June 21, at 3.30 P.M. Cards of admission may be obtained on application to Major Scotland, at Grosvenor House, W.

The following business stands for Monday, June 18:—

Mr. W. Wightman-Wood:

1. To call attention to the circumstances under which a recommendation of the Administrative Committee affecting the Council's Staff was put and carried on June 4; to ask whether any other changes in the Central Office have been agreed to by the Administrative Committee for recommendation to Council other than the recommendation with regard to the Assistant Secretary; and to move for a return of such other changes.
2. To move that every alteration in the present Staff, whether authorised or contemplated, be suspended until each officer of the Council affected thereby has actually obtained other suitable employment, subject in the meantime to the right of the Council to dismiss any such officer for adequate cause.

* Vide Reporter, No. 210, p. 48.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, June 11, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—J. W. Probyn, Dr. Anderson.
FULHAM:—Rev. H. Wilson, C. J. Stevens.
PADDDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson.
CHALKERS:—B. A. Aspinall, Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Meysey Clive.
ST. JAMES'S, SOHO:—W. Bousfield, W. Bevan, H. Peto.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—Miss Octavia Hill, Rev. P. H. Wicksteed.
HAMPSHIRE:—C. E. Maurice.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS:—C. N. Butt, G. B. Dickinson.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS:—C. A. Reiss.
HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
ST. GILES:—Rev. L. Kenyon, H. N. Hoare.
STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill, W. Wightman-Wood.

HOLBORN:—Capt. Fortescue, G. B. Baker.
CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brookes, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Rev. W. H. Lyall.
SHOREDITCH:—Rev. H. G. Henderson.
BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. C. Kirtton.
ST. SAVINUS:—F. Montgomerie, W. F. Smith, E. Barrington, Rev. W. A. Richmond.
NEWINGTON:—F. D. Thornton.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Sir T. Graham Briggs.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown, W. M. Venning.
Brixton:—S. S. Tayler.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
LEWISHAM:—George Parker, J. J. Bramly.
VICE-PRESIDENT:—W. M. Wilkinson.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. Trevelyan, S. Fuller.

TOTAL:—47.

SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, June 7. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Capt. Fortescue, Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, Brown, Copeman, Fuller, Hill, Miner, Peters, and Venning.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending June 2 the receipts had been £32. 9s. 10d. for the General Fund, and £250 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £143. 0s. 8d. and £87. 9s. 1d. respectively, £21. 11s. 3d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on June 5 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Miss O. Hill, Mrs. Lathbury, Hon. H. R. Grosvenor, Messrs. Barrington, Bousfield, Clive, and Lewes.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on June 5 had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major FitzRoy, Capt. Gardner, and Mr. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on June 6 had been present:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the chair; and Mr. A. H. Hill.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS.

Mr. C. E. Maurice seconded the following resolutions, moved by Sir C. Trevelyan, on the 4th inst., viz.:—

1. That the Committees* of the Society be recommended to prepare statements of the Charitable Endowments within their respective districts, and to consider, in concert with the trustees, what improvements may be made in the application of the funds, so as to meet the real exigencies of the present day.
2. That the Co-operation Sub-Committee be instructed to place themselves in communication with the Charity Commissioners with especial reference to the Parochial Charities of the City of London, which form the subject of an important expression of opinion in their recent Annual Report.

Mr. Russell Barrington thought that, before entering upon a work of such magnitude as that referred to in the resolutions, the Council

* With the exception of the City Committee.—Vide p. 100.

should seriously consider whether there were not other important duties, equally connected with the organisation of charity, which had a prior claim on the Society. In any case, he hoped that the part which would be assigned to District Committees would be more clearly defined.

Mr. F. D. Thornton drew attention to the lists of local charities published in the Reports of several District Committees—Fulham, Lewisham, and others.

Rev. Harvey Brookes said he would not move the previous question, as he considered the subject required settlement; and the Report of the Charity Commissioners had given it a new prominence. Nor would he be in favour of opposing the motion, for to negative the motion would be a tacit acknowledgment that the education of the public on the question was complete. There were, however, numerous complications in the trusts of parochial charities, and, for this reason, while he was most desirous of a wise and politic redistribution of these charities, he thought that such a proposal as that contained in the first paragraph of Sir Charles Trevelyan's motion was most inapplicable to the City Committee. The trustees were in most cases quite alive to their fiduciary character, and such a recommendation from the Council would have the effect of inducing the Committee to adopt a course which would give the trustees just grounds for resenting the action of the Society as needless interference. He would move:—

That the words from 'districts' to the end of the second paragraph be omitted.

Rev. H. I. Cummins seconded the amendment, giving notice of the following, as an amendment to Mr. Harvey Brookes' amendment, in the event of the latter being carried, viz.:—

That, in the place of the words omitted, the following be inserted: 'That as the Government has announced its intention to deal with the City Parochial Charities, it is not desirable at present that this Society should take any steps in the matter.'

Sir Charles Trevelyan explained that the first paragraph of his motion referred to the metropolis generally, and not to the City, and the second to the City only; to make this clearer he obtained permission to insert after the first word of the first paragraph the words 'with the exception of the City Committee.'

Mr. C. E. Maurice alluded to the great difficulty the District Committees experienced in obtaining the co-operation of local charities, but he quoted cases in which such co-operation had been secured or appeared practicable, and he urged that as the work of District Committees could not be considered complete while they ignored the Endowed Charities in their localities, the Committees should undertake the preliminary work of procuring correct statements of these charities, with a view to negotiating with the trustees in the manner suggested by the motion.

Mr. Galabin, speaking of Camberwell, said that information respecting the Endowed Charities there was not procurable, and the attempt to obtain it would injure the District Committee. The charities were administered by vestrymen, who would resent interference.

Mr. W. W. Wood supported the motion. He regretted that it was necessary to bring such a motion forward after so many years. It would no doubt entail considerable labour on the District Committees; but the organisation of charity was the most important work of the Society, and the Committees were bound not to leave this portion of it undone.

Rev. H. I. Cummins pointed out that the resolution did not appear to refer to Corporation Charities, and did not define precisely to what charities allusion was made. Many City Charities extended their benefits beyond the City; the trustees of many resided outside the City.

Sir Charles Trevelyan explained that the resolution referred to the local applicability of the trust, and not to the residence of the trustees.

Mr. Cummins then said that the Society was not at present in a position to undertake so large a work, and that the administration of such charities being vested in legally responsible trustees, it would only injure the prospect of a better distribution of the charities if the Society unadvisedly attempted to gain information from them, or, without any status for such action, undertook to negotiate with them. The Government, he considered, were about to take up

the question, and the Society, by its interference, would only make it more difficult to obtain a just and ready settlement of it.

Miss O. Hill said that the course proposed in the first paragraph had already been adopted with good results in Hampstead, Beckenham, and elsewhere.

Mr. H. H. Hill said that the Society should not restrict its natural field of action. The Report of the Whitechapel Committee on the endowments in their district showed what might be done. The difficulty which District Committees experienced was to obtain co-operation.

Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Peto, and Mr. H. N. Hoare supported the amendment.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in replying, said that the Government had not undertaken to deal with the question; they had only promised to consider it. If the Society neglected their duty, on whom would it devolve? Though not at first always apparently coincident, duty and interest, even if the lowest meaning was attached to the latter word, were in the long run compatible, and the Society ought not to forfeit its position by shirking a definite opinion on this question. There was no reference to the City Companies in the resolutions, which were of a most moderate character; and he was sure that those Companies were full of upright men, who would approve of any well-considered scheme for turning to better use the parochial charities of the City of London.

The amendment was then put and lost, 15 voting for it and 17 against it; and the resolution was carried as a substantive motion, 18 voting for it and 14 against it.

REPRESENTATION AT COUNCIL.

Mr. W. W. Wood then moved, and Rev. R. J. Simpson seconded, the following motion, the latter part of which was subsequently withdrawn, viz.:—

1. That any District Committee whose chairman is not in the habit of attending the meetings of Council may, in the absence of such chairman, send its vice-chairman, or one of its vice-chairmen, to the Council, ~~as an~~ additional representative.

2. That any District Committee which has only one hon. secretary ~~may~~ send a third elected representative to Council.

He said that, owing to some of the chairmen of the District Committees being noblemen and others, whose engagements made their frequent attendance at Council impossible, it was necessary to arrange that District Committees should, by the attendance of their vice-chairmen, be enabled to secure a just representation.

After a few words from Mr. S. S. Tayler and Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. R. Barrington, supported by Mr. W. F. Smith, moved the previous question, which was put and lost; while a suggestion that the first paragraph should be referred to the Administrative Committee was agreed to.

CO-OPERATION WITH CHARITIES.

The following motion of Mr. W. W. Wood was agreed to, and the returns laid on the table:—

That a return be made of the names of the twenty-five societies stated, in the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on 'Charity and Out-relief,' to have replied to the circular letter of the Sub-Committee respecting co-operation with this Society in relieving the deserving poor.

VOTING AT COUNCIL.

Mr. Russell Barrington withdrew the following motion of which he had given notice:—

That no resolution of Council affecting the practical work of the District Committees be considered as carried, unless voted by two-thirds of the Council present.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, June 9, 1877:—

Donations:—	£ s. d.	Annual:—	£ s. d.
Gruise, H. J. W., Esq. (in completion of a donation of £10. 10s.)	9 10 0	Franks, W. J., Esq. . . .	0 10 6
Hubbock, E., Esq. . . .	1 0 0	Murrietta, Messrs. C. de, & Co.	2 2 0
Rooper, Mrs.	1 0 0	Shrimpton, Dr.	5 0 0
		Smith, J. Denham, Esq. .	10 10 0
		White, Rev. L. B. . . .	1 1 0

RETURNS FOR MAY.

wing is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the four-
ing Saturday, May 26, 1877, returned by the District Com-

	Class I. Dismissed or unfavorably reported on as				Class II. Recommen- ded to				Class III. Assisted by									
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise Ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals, &c.	Class total	Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with	
.....	34	16	16	50	3	11	2	15	21	1	23	45	7	110	37	23	50	
.....	1	4	14	20	2	2	13	17	1	1	2	4	7	17	10	13	40	
.....	4	4	15	19	..	8	1	9	5	1	6	11	23	73	59	34	166	
.....	2	1	4	7	1	1	3	5	10	3	..	2	14	138	117	18	237	
.....	11	9	21	44	1	32	6	39	14	4	..	5	24	43	6	..	59	
.....	7	1	4	12	2	2	4	8	7	..	..	2	7	27	19	23	69	
.....	5	..	10	15	2	27	17	46	11	6	..	7	10	80	21	34	135	
.....	23	..	3	2	4	..	4	1	1	1	1	3	9	18	6	10	34	
.....	35	..	3	6	..	15	8	27	..	1	..	3	4	37	6	10	53	
.....	26	..	21	47	..	32	16	49	5	2	..	2	10	106	61	32	199	
.....	6	3	14	23	..	49	6	55	3	1	..	2	16	36	46	..	118	
.....	..	..	8	8	..	..	..	..	15	1	..	..	16	24	..	..	..	
.....	1	..	6	7	..	6	3	9	6	8	..	1	15	31	4	12	53	
.....	3	2	9	10	..	11	23	34	4	2	..	1	6	32	30	57	117	
.....	6	1	9	16	..	40	4	44	3	4	..	..	1	45	31	31	143	
.....	1	1	4	6	10	4	4	18	9	..	..	..	17	41	21	13	79	
.....	5	1	9	15	..	6	7	13	8	4	..	..	19	40	13	26	81	
.....	4	7	9	20	2	2	1	3	12	4	..	2	18	41	23	16	80	
.....	3	3	9	15	3	2	3	8	..	4	..	4	27	32	29	..	98	
.....	1	1	11	13	..	7	9	16	3	2	3	1	9	38	16	16	73	
.....	1	5	12	18	..	1	6	4	11	2	1	..	1	4	23	33	20	56
.....	5	..	15	20	..	3	1	4	3	..	..	1	4	28	13	26	65	
.....	7	2	16	25	..	5	6	11	1	9	..	3	12	49	7	18	74	
.....	1	4	6	11	..	3	5	5	7	4	..	1	3	16	6	11	33	
.....	4	5	15	24	..	2	3	5	5	7	4	..	3	12	41	11	66	
.....	2	..	8	10	1	6	7	14	12	..	..	..	13	37	10	14	82	
.....	4	1	8	13	..	4	4	2	7	2	..	2	11	30	7	39	0	
.....	2	..	2	2	1	1	1	2	5	..	..	1	6	10	1	4	28	
.....	..	1	8	9	..	1	2	3	1	3	..	1	5	17	8	4	35	
.....	3	..	11	14	..	2	6	8	8	2	1	2	13	35	12	6	54	
.....	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	3	4	4	37	
.....	1	2	3	6	1	1	7	4	12	6	1	..	1	8	37	5	9	64
.....	1	..	6	7	..	2	1	3	6	1	..	1	1	1	4	6	4	44
.....	2	1	5	8	1	1	1	2	6	4	..	5	15	25	7	3	61	
.....	4	..	7	11	1	6	3	10	2	..	..	..	2	23	9	7	10	44
.....	..	1	7	8	1	..	..	3	1	1	2	9	12	23	18	7	41	
.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	2	7	17	17	13	4	31	
.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	
.....	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	2	3	..	..	5	8	4	3	41	
.....	143	85	330	558	29	315	151	485	224	92	47	92	455	1506	632	793	937	

DIFFICULT CASES.

received the following answers to these difficult cases : *

f the parents are unable to pay, the Guardians have the power to bind and deaf and dumb child to any public or charitable institution, and to pay the full cost up to the age of 16, and without the charge of the paupers. After that the Guardians may also pay the full cost.

his is also clearly a case for the Poor Law.—W.

CHARITY.—The *Saturday Review*, in a recent article on acts of Charity, referring to the pensions granted by Her the sisters De Foo, says:—“But happily in this instance the error has been corrected by the Queen’s generous grant of pensions to the sisters De Foo. All this freakishness in charity springs from the fact that charity is too often a mere form of self-indulgence. First, a man is excited by some highly-coloured tale of sin or wrong, and then he feels the need to relieve the feeling of undue superiority and fortune. When once the attention of people is caught by a story, they are ready enough to see that it is more by luck than desert that the person is saved while others are disgraced or ruined. The charitable act is partly an effort to right the wrong, still more an attempt to atone for one’s own conscience; not least, it is a little gift to Nemesis, like that of the ring which has so often been quoted. A little more disinterestedness and a little more gratitude would improve the character of the rate charity which is mainly impulsive.”

* Vide Reporter No. 218, p. 94.

RETURNS OF SCHOOL BOARD CASES FOR THE QUARTER
ENDING MARCH 31, 1877:

Four District Committees had no cases:—

Paddington	Brixton	Clapham	Eltham.
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Thirty-four District Committees expended money on the relief of cases:—

No money expended	Money expended	Total number of cases		Amounts expended. £ s. d.
17	9	26	Kensington	10 18 6
3	10	13	Fulham	38 19 9
7	9	16	Chelsea	6 9 0
11	4	15	St. George's (Hanover Square)	3 5 0
25	12	37	St. James's and Soho	17 9 0
4	2	6	St. Marylebone	0 10 6
0	1	1	Hampstead	0 5 0
2	3	5	North St. Pancras	2 14 6
13	11	24	South St. Pancras	22 6 8
12	16	28	Islington	22 15 0
1	4	5	Hackney	2 12 0
6	4	10	St. Giles and Bloomsbury	1 13 0
20	13	33	Strand	7 4 0
21	12	33	Holborn	6 14 2
2	6	8	City	11 12 6
16	21	37	Shoreditch	23 16 8
49	16	64	Bethnal Green	12 5 0
11	6	17	Whitechapel	17 10 10
3	5	8	St. George's (East)	8 16 1
7	5	12	Stepney	6 11 3
13	7	20	Mile End	16 4 6
18	10	28	Poplar	12 15 3
16	5	21	St. Saviour's	8 19 1
6	6	12	Newington	2 17 7
9	16	25	St. Olave's	13 8 0
16	16	31	Lambeth	16 5 0
2	2	4	Wandsworth	1 6 9
6	5	11	Battersea	3 0 6
11	10	21	Camberwell (Grove Lane)	4 15 2
3	5	8	Do. (Peckham)	3 4 9
5	15	20	Greenwich	5 18 0
15	9	24	Deptford	5 15 16
14	27	41	Woolwich	18 3 0
2	1	3	Lewisham	0 5 6
1	1	2	Sydenham	0 5 0
366*	303	660	Total	£337 13 7

May 14, 1877.

C. S. LOCH, *Secretary.*

• Of these:—

89	were dismissed, or unfavourably reported on as	'Not requiring relief.'
81	do.	'Undeserving.'
183	do.	'Ineligible.'
8	were recommended to the Guardians.	
9	were do.	Institutions or Local Agencies.
1	was assisted by Letters for Hospital.	

Total 366, being the number of cases upon which no money was expended.

AGENTS' MEETING.

At a well-attended meeting of Hon. Secretaries and Agents, held at the Offices of the Council, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C., Mr. Rignall, Agent of the Stepney Committee, read a Paper on 'Loans.' Mr. Rignall drew attention to the difficulty of enforcing payments of loans made by District Committees of the Society, and to the misunderstanding which prevailed respecting the *charity* of helping the industrious poor by this means. He suggested that members of individual Committees, or groups of Committees, might form Registered Loan Societies. The following is an extract from his Paper:—

In 1873 the Kensington Committee seemed to have arrived at the same conclusion as mine, as they in that year established the Holland Street Loan Society, registered under the Act 3rd and 4th Vic., cap. 110. The 39th rule of that Committee states that "no loan shall be granted from the funds of the Committee unless the applicant is in actual or impending distress; but any industrious person of good character may be recommended to the Holland Street Loan Society, who, in the opinion of the Committee, will be permanently benefited thereby." Upon referring to the Annual Report of the Kensington Committee for 1875 I find that loans amounting to £144. 4s. were granted from the Holland Street Loan Society, and nothing from the funds of the Committee.

'The powers granted by the Act under which this Society is registered, are very arbitrary; the whole of the money being recovered from their defaulters through the local *Police Court* (they never think of taking a case into the County Court), the Magistrate having the power to order payment within a certain time, and, in default, a distress is issued. If the distress warrant is returned "No effects," the Magistrate can imprison the defendant. The whole affair is settled quicker, and with less trouble and expense, than through a County Court.

'Loan Societies under this Act are generally formed by a number of persons establishing themselves as a society, each subscribing a certain sum towards the capital, and making a profit by granting loans on interest; and the Act makes provision for treasurer, trustees, &c. being appointed; but if one or all of the East End Committees were to decide upon establishing a Loan Society as I suggest, I have no doubt that a Sub-Committee could so modify the constitution of the Society in accordance with the Act that the existing loan funds of the Committee could be used to form the capital.'

Mr. Pimlett (Hackney), Mr. E. Brooks (Bethnal Green), Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. King (Greenwich), Mr. J. F. Sapsford, Mr. Harrison (Paddington), Rev. H. F. Mallet, Mr. Martin (Lambeth), Mr. E. Peters, and others took part in the discussion. The following, among others, were present,* viz.:—Rev. H. F. Mallet, John F. Sapsford, jun., Frederick Sapsford, John Pearson, Richard James Rignall, Eph. Brooks, Frederick Field, Arthur Fulcher, J. Posser, Thomas Hodge, Robert Frisby, Robert Bristow, Samuel Pinnett, Fred. Day, W. Kersey, P. Madigan, William Browne, E. J. Eeles, William Bendell, A. Bendell, Chas. C. Vizer, A. H. Hill (chair), H. Harris, F. Colden, James Dean, James T. Thornton, W. Martin, Page Hannant, John Martin Quincy, William Couzens, C. E. Macleod, R. Court, W. Cliburn, Major FitzRoy, E. Peters, Rev. H. I. Cummins.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of May, compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of April 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week April	4th week May	4th week April	4th week May
Kensington	1,014	1,008	378	382
Fulham	401	397	665	638
Paddington	813	781	982	976
Chelsea	921	881	438	412
St. George's	1,849	1,785	1,665	1,573
Westminster	764	753	294	296
St. Marylebone	2,494	2,394	2,111	2,003
Hampstead	190	178	83	89
St. Pancras	2,862	2,800	5,011	4,735
Islington	1,420	1,332	2,504	2,482
Hackney	858	861	2,056	2,011
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury .	1,249	1,179	644	588
Strand	746	730	373	303
Holborn	2,631	2,543	3,854	3,802
City of London	2,097	2,054	2,969	2,968
Shoreditch	1,154	1,143	876	831
Bethnal Green	1,517	1,458	681	641
Whitechapel	1,158	1,116	153	148
St. George's, East	1,155	1,136	143	124
Stepney	901	879	212	219
Mile End Old Town	839	819	626	637
Poplar	1,147	1,113	1,785	1,724
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,418	2,400	2,744	2,737
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,469	1,438	2,353	2,424
Lambeth	1,672	1,628	3,127	3,096
Wandsworth and Clapham	931	922	1,545	1,508
Camberwell	1,141	1,136	1,425	1,332
Greenwich	1,400	1,303	2,125	2,079
Woolwich	778	748	2,323	2,305
Lewisham	289	293	583	566
Total	38,278	37,208	44,728	43,629

* We regret that we are unable to give a full list of those who were present, as several who attended did not enter their names.

PROVINCIAL.

BIRMINGHAM CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—In their seventh Annual Report the Committee call attention to 'the waste of charitable funds, not by private individuals, but by the great charitable corporations of a town like Birmingham, and it is in this direction that the question may arise. Could not such a society as ours be made largely useful? We publish, they proceed, 'this year a tabulated statement by which it will be seen that the annual expenditure of the medical charities alone, exclusive of that on building, repairs, furniture, &c., amounted in 1875 to the sum of £34,121. 14s. 1d., and the number of cases which received gratuitous treatment amounted to 7,098 in-patients, and 92,013 out-patients.' 'Any reform,' they conclude, 'of our hospital system seems to us to be hopeless, until provident dispensaries are provided.'

LEAMINGTON PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—In their Annual Report for 1876—their eighth—the Committee call attention to a proposition to establish 'a Nursing Institute to provide better attendance than can at present be obtained for the provident members in their own homes;' and they express a hope 'that the expense will be met in part by the employment of the nurses in private families when their services are not required by provident members.' The medical report states that 3,990 cases were attended during the year; and the medical officers, in calling attention to the low mortality—63 cases—explain it 'by the fact that the members, feeling themselves undeterred by the fear of expense, apply for relief to the medical officers for the most trivial complaints, and in the earliest stages of more serious illnesses. Thus the medical officers have the opportunity of meeting serious disease in its very earliest stages, of preventing its increase, and of maintaining generally the health of that section of the community which is committed to their care.' £548. 18s. 1d. was paid by provident members, an increase of £48. 2s. 6d. on 1875; but the Committee, in calling attention to the falling off of subscriptions and to a notion that the dispensary is becoming self-supporting, say, 'It was never intended to be entirely so; its fundamental principle is that help should be given to those who help themselves.'

SHREWSBURY DISPENSARY.—Nearly three years ago the Charity Organisation Society at Shrewsbury suggested 'that the subscribers of the dispensary should substitute benefit members' payments for free recommendations.' The objections of harshness and unfairness towards the scanty earner that were thus raised are fully answered in the Report of the Dispensary for 1876. 'The number of benefit members entered on the books between the 30th September 1875, and the 31st December 1876, is 4,172, and the average weekly attendance has been 600.' The Committee call attention to statements that have been made that persons not properly eligible have been admitted as benefit members, and in answer state, 'First, that at each weekly meeting the names of those members who have entered since the previous meeting are carefully read over, and their eligibility considered. Second, that the Committee are always ready to receive and investigate any written complaint on this subject. And, third, that in the very few cases in which such a complaint has been made an investigation has invariably shown that it was based on insufficient grounds.' The payments of members are: 'Husband, wife, and children under fourteen years of age—Entrance fee, 1s.; subscription, 3d. per week. Wife and children under fourteen years of age—Entrance fee, 1s.; subscription, 2d. per week. Single entries, 6d.; subscriptions, 1d. per week. Persons entering when ill—Entrance fee, 5s., together with one month's subscription, as above. Assistants in the various business establishments in the town, and clerks, are eligible for membership.' Domestic servants pay 5s. a year, payable half yearly, and an entrance fee of 6d. Members residing beyond the limits of the town and suburbs pay extra for visits. From the 30th of August 1875, to December 31, 1876, £714. 15s. 2d. was received from benefit members for subscriptions &c., and for fees for attendance of medical officers and midwives at confinements.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of May 1877 was 37,208, and 43,629 received outdoor relief, making a total of 80,837. This was a decrease of 209 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 1,002, but a decrease of 5,693 and 15,234 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 729. This was a decrease of 18 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 41 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

221.

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 21, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is
the improvement of the condition of the poor:

by bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.

by securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
by granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
by repressing mendicity.

Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Monday, June 21 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
" 25 ... 3 P.M., Council.
" 26 ... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Monday, 27 ... 2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
" 28 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

AGENTS' MEETING.—On June 27 a meeting of Charity Agents and Inquiry Officers of the Society will be held at the offices of the Council, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C. Major FitzRoy will be in the chair, at 8.30 P.M. Rev. H. I. Cummins, Hon. Secretary of the City Committee, will read a paper on the 'Agents and Inquiry Officers.' Hon. Secretaries of the Committees are invited to attend.

MEETING.—The weekly meeting of this Committee will be held at 2 P.M. on Wednesdays.

OFFICES.—The offices of this Committee are now at 353 Gt. St. Martin Road, S.E.

following business stands for Monday, June 25:—

That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the King's Hospital Committee, at their discretion, to the amount of £47, the amount of the estimated deficit of that Committee for the current year.

W. Wightman-Wood:

Draw attention to the circumstances under which a recommendation of the Administrative Committee affecting the Council's Staff was put and on June 4; to ask whether any other changes in the Central Office have been agreed to by the Administrative Committee for recommendation other than the recommendation with regard to the Assistant Secretary; and to move for a return of such other changes.

Charles Trevelyan to move the adoption of the following memorial from the Council:

THE MEMORIAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY

SHAW, ETHEL.

That Major-General Sir Thomas Biddulph, K.C.B., having conveyed to the Rev. C. F. Lowder, M.A., of St. Peter's Vicarage, London Docks, the message of Her Majesty the Queen to a large number of clergymen and others in the East of London, Her Majesty has called upon your Lordship to frame rules for the future administration of the Saint Katharine's Hospital.

That among the various charitable institutions and societies in the metropolis within whose province it falls to provide pensions to the sick and aged deserving poor, there are but few whose scope is not limited by numerous restrictions and conditions which prevent their being available for a large number of the poor, who are deserving of such charitable assistance, but are from many circumstances unable to fulfil the conditions under which applications for aid have to be made.

That there has been recently, in the districts of Whitechapel, Stepney, and Saint George-in-the-East, and also in Poplar, a large reduction in the outdoor relief granted by the Guardians; and that while the action of the Guardians has been instrumental in creating a spirit of self-reliance, and has in many instances strengthened the bonds of family affection and revived between members of the same household that natural charity which the lax administration of the Poor Law has a tendency to destroy, the funds of the charitable have had, by the withdrawal of outdoor relief, to afford assistance in those cases of deserving poverty caused by misfortune, old age, or sickness, in which an adequate pension was necessary.

That there is also, on other grounds, reason to believe that—distributed after careful and impartial inquiry, and in accordance with those just principles which a regard for the best interests of the poor, and a knowledge of the causes of their distress, would suggest—a Pension Fund would be at least one means of making less severe that hard lesson of provident habits which many of the clergy and ministers, the School Board, and, by a better administration, the Poor Law and charity, are each in their sphere inculcating.

Your Memorialists believe that such portion of the funds of the Saint Katharine's Hospital as may be considered available for eleemosynary purposes would be wisely and justly appropriated for affording, under due safeguards, small pensions for the deserving and provident poor in the East of London, so as to meet any exceptional distress that may be contingent on the laudable efforts of the Guardians to administer the Poor Law on sound and well-defined principles.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c.

4. Mr. A. H. Hill to move:

That the Districts Sub-Committee be requested to report upon the present degree of uniformity of organisation attained by the District Committees of this Society, and to make any recommendations they may think necessary for more effectually carrying out the work of the Society in all parts of the metropolis.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, June 18, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut. General Cavenagh (in the Chair).

KEYSINGTON:—J. W. Probyn, Dr. F. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe.

PADDINGTON:—G. Charles.

CHELSEA:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel, W. S. Seton-Karr.

ST. GEORGE'S:—Hon. R. C. Moreton, M. Olive, Major Dundas, Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Major FitzRoy.

ST. JAMES'S and SOHO:—W. Bevan.

HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.

BRAND:—Rev. B. J. Simpson.

HOLBORN:—W. Sheepshanks.

BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. C. Kirton.

MILE END:—Hon. H. R. Scott, H. N. Down.

POPLAR:—R. Ellis.

ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. Montgomerie, W. F. Smith, Rev. W. A. Richmond, R. Barrington.

NEWINGTON:—F. D. P. Thornton.

ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.

LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.

WANDSWORTH:—Rev. C. Cartwright.

CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan.

TOTAL:—33.

SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, June 14. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Sir G. Briggs, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Baker, Barrington, Brown, Charles, Hill, Miner, Tidman, and Venning.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending June 9 the receipts had been £30. 13s. 6d. for the General Fund, and that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £151. 17s. 11d. and £37. 9s. 1d. respectively, £21. 11s. 3d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on June 12 there had been present:—

Mr. A. D. Graham, in the chair; Miss O. Hill, Mrs. Lathbury, Rev. S. A. Barnett, Messrs. Edgcombe, Barrington, Fletcher, and Lewes.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—There had been no meeting of this Sub-Committee.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Sub-Committee on June 13 had been present:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Rev. H. F. Mallet, and Mr. J. R. Hollond.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

It appeared from the report of the Sub-Committee that, in the first quarter of the present year, the donations had been on the General Fund £1,083, as against £533, in 1876, and the subscriptions £750, as against £543. The donations on the District Committee Aid Fund had been £93, as against £159, in the first quarter of 1877, and the subscriptions £34, as against £11. £495 had been transferred from the General Fund to the District Committee Aid Fund. The total receipts on the General Fund had been £1,971, as against £1,099.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RELIEF.

Sir Charles Trevelyan presented copies of his paper on Metropolitan Medical Relief,* with which were printed the speeches of Sir William Gull, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Sir Rutherford Alcock, Mr. Timothy Holmes, and others, at the Conference convened by the Society on the 16th April last. The pamphlet contains also the following appendices: a report of the Social Position of the Out-Patients of the Royal Free Hospital; a paper on 'The Limits of Unpaid Service'; the first report of the Medical Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, with rules for Provident Dispensaries; the report of a Conference on Out-Patient Relief, in December 1871; Correspondence relating to the Memorial to the British Medical Association; statement of Metropolitan Provident Dispensaries in March 1877; Metropolitan Poor Law Infirmaries and Dispensaries. There is also some interesting correspondence.

OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS.

A letter from Mr. W. Wightman Wood, regretting his enforced absence, was read.

The Chairman ruled that the second paragraph of his notice of motion was, in accordance with Bye-Law 14, out of order.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, June 16, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
Dennistoun, Cross & Co.	2	2	0	Benyon, Rev. E. R.	1	1	0
Grocers' Company	100	0	0	Leaf, Sons & Co., Messrs.	5	5	0
Lincoln, The Dean of	5	5	0	McCulloch & Co., Messrs.	10	10	0
District Committee Aid Fund:—				Wodehouse, Mrs.	0	10	0
Anonymous	10	0	0				

* Vide Reporter, No. 213, p. 64.

PROVINCIAL.

THE MANCHESTER AND SALFORD PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES' ASSOCIATION.—The last report of this Association contains information of great importance to those interested in the reform of Medical Charity; 'the system adopted in Manchester being much more comprehensive than any which has formerly been tried.'

'The Council of the Association has every reason to believe that, although there are now fewer members on the books than there were a year ago, the dispensaries are distinctly growing in favour with the class for whose benefit they were established. For some time after the dispensaries were opened a great many persons entered them from motives of curiosity, or because they were in immediate need of medical advice, and they withdrew as soon as their curiosity was satisfied, or when they were restored to health. Now, on the contrary, the great proportion of our members are healthy and enter because they have faith in the system; and it is no longer the rule, but the exception, for them to withdraw when they appears to be no likelihood of the services of the medical staff being required. The members generally are now willing to make greater sacrifices than they were before in order to retain their membership; their subscriptions are paid with more readiness and regularity, and at the same time their demands on the time of the staff and on the dispensaries for medicine have very sensibly diminished.'

'One of the strongest arguments in favour of the existence of provident dispensaries is this that without them it would be difficult to very greatly reduce the number of out and home patients at our medical charities. Many of these patients are now very properly refused assistance, because of their ability to procure it for themselves through the provident dispensaries; but only a small number could justly be turned away if the only alternative were the employment of private practitioners. The adoption of a system of investigation into the circumstances of the out and home patients at the charities in connexion with this Association considerably reduced their number in 1875, and during 1876 the reduction was still more marked. The Provident Society, acting as agent for the Council, continues to receive daily lists of the names and addresses of these patients. They are then visited at their own homes, and those who are found able to pay the provident dispensary charges are referred to the dispensary nearest to them. The greatest care is, however, taken that no hardship is inflicted by a too rigid adherence to rule, special and peculiar cases being treated as their circumstances may require.'

The number of members on the books on 1st January 1876 was 16,686; on the 31st December 1876, 13,759. The amount subscribed by the members during the year was £2,880. 16s. 3d.; £1,491. 11s. was paid to the medical men; and the Council of the Association have enabled the dispensaries to meet their liabilities by granting them the sum of £1,468. 1s. 4d. The loss for the year was £1,235; the balance of the amount being for expenses incurred in 1875, including the costs of establishment.

Out of 13,310 applicants at the Infirmary, Children's Hospital, Clinical Hospital, Chorlton Dispensary, and the Hospital for Incurables, 892 were 'living in other towns'; 1,977 were 'living outside dispensary districts'; the residences of 1,210 were 'incorrectly or insufficiently described'; 6,934 were hospital cases, and 2,297 were provident dispensary cases. It follows that, excluding non-resident cases, and those whose addresses could not be identified, out of 9,231 applicants 2,297, or 25 per cent., were ascertained to be able to become members of a provident dispensary. They were consequently refused further medical relief. There is a decrease of 9,601 in the number of applicants at the above hospitals—i.e., 36,003 in 1875, as against 26,407 in 1876.

'This large decrease is a remarkable one, as only 4,714 were refused relief and referred to the provident dispensaries in 1875 and 1876. It would seem, therefore, that a great many persons abstained altogether from applying for charitable relief, either because they were unwilling to have their right to charity investigated, or because the sentiment is gaining ground amongst them that it is better to rely upon their own exertions than upon the help of the rich.'

At the Hulme and Ancoats Dispensary, the system of the Association is adopted, and at these institutions also there has been a marked decrease in the number of applicants.

There is, at the same time, an increase of 3,394 in 1876 (16,188 as against 12,794) in the applications at the Salford and Pendleton Hospital and Dispensary; the number of patients at the St. Mary's Hospital remains nearly the same; and that at the Southern Hospital has risen from 2,555 in 1875 to 2,818 in 1877.

It would appear from this that about one-fourth of the ordinary applicants for medical charity are in a position to subscribe to a provident dispensary; that the establishment of provident dispensaries in connexion with hospitals largely reduces the attendance at the hospitals, and enables them to receive special 'hospital' cases, while those requiring ordinary treatment are dealt with at the local provident dispensary; and that, just as on the introduction of the anti-mendicity system, tramps and

left those places where they were watched for less guarded as, so applicants for medical relief gravitate to those institutions (or but slight) restrictions are placed on their admission.

number of patients at the medical charities does not seem to so much upon the real needs of the poor as upon the facilities for relief. The establishment of a charity, medical or other, always a crowd of applicants, and it has to be shown on quite other than the size of the crowd whether such charity is doing good or

WINCHESTER CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—Penny Bank.—In their annual report the Committee call attention to the success that has attended their founding and working a Penny Bank and a Provident Coal Dispensary. The former can now show 471 depositors, whilst the latter numbers 131 members. They have also assisted at the formation of a Provident Dispensary, which already, though little more than a year old, has 131 members. They report that 'they have, during the past year, endeavoured to improve the custom, so long established in this town, of giving relief by means of petitions. They have inquired thoroughly into those that have been presented to them, and sanctioned those they have deemed deserving.' In noticing (vide *Reporter*, No. 200, p. 4) a similar case in the part of the Scarborough Society, we asked what safeguards were taken by the Society to prevent any abuse of endorsed petitions? What was the result of the petition? If the petition was for £10, were any steps taken to prevent more than that sum being collected? And would be glad to know the nature of the precautionary measures taken by the Winchester Society.

LAMPTON CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—Co-operation with the clergy.—At the quarterly meeting of this Society, held in April, the Committee reported upon the late conference with the clergy and ministers of various denominations and the heads of some of the local charities. 'The Committee were glad to state that this conference was attended by many influential representatives of charity, and that nearly the whole of the rural deanery, as well as the ministers of the various denominations, had decided to join the Society. The Committee, since the conference, had obtained a fortnightly list of all those relieved by the Society, and had every fortnight sent to each of the clergy and ministers the persons relieved in their respective districts; but they regretted that only three of the clergy had reciprocated that information, and that two months had since elapsed. The Committee feared there was some misunderstanding on the point, and would remind them that they only asked for the names and addresses of such cases as it seemed desirable for them to send in.' We trust the Committee will be encouraged. Their experience is far from being singular, and though the information were not reciprocated, a periodical list kept up, and sent monthly to the clergy and ministers of the persons in their respective districts whose cases had been before them during the month, would not only furnish them with such information as they ought to be made acquainted with, but would also bring under their notice the nature and the method of the work of the

NOTTON CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—At the first annual meeting of this Society, in February last, the Mayor, in opening the proceedings, said: 'This system of the organisation of charity has been in vogue among the Jews for many years. Among the Jewish society there is always cared for by their own people, and for the purpose of giving an organisation in every town there is an organisation of this kind, in which the charity of the Jewish people themselves is disseminated among poorer brethren, by means of the secretary to their synagogue. Instead of that—and it had been very successfully carried out—is to provide one individual receiving from each charitable person a sufficient sum to meet their necessities, and thus making a larger sum in the aggregate than any one individual is entitled to receive.' The report states that 575 applications had been received and dealt with. We do not quite understand the meaning of the last sentence: 'Renewed applications and cases recommended, but who failed to be relieved, 181.'

DORSET MENDICITY SOCIETY.

from the *Dorset County Chronicle and Somersetshire Gazette*, April 5, 1877.]

The Committee of this Society—which has hitherto worked so beneficially for the suppression of vagrancy, and which owes its establishment to the Chief Magistrate of the county, Captain Amyatt Brown—had its annual meeting on Wednesday afternoon, Sessions day, at the Shirehall, Dorchester, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Eldon. There were also present Mr. Floyer, M.P. (deputy-chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions), Mr. E. W. Williams, Mr. W. M. Calcraft, and others. The proceedings commenced by Captain Amyatt Brown reading the annual report:—

to lay before you the seventh annual report of the Dorset Mendic-

city Society, and, for the first time since its establishment, I have to state that during the past twelvemonths there has been an increase in the number of vagrants relieved in our unions as compared with the preceding year. Hitherto in each year since the adoption of this system there has been a large and continuous decrease in the number of persons relieved in our casual wards, but during 1876 the number amounted to 3,971, against 2,490 in 1875. For some time past there has been a marked and general increase in vagrancy throughout the country, and there can be no doubt that owing to the continued depression in trade many persons belonging to the manufacturing and mining districts, and those not the best hands, have been thrown out of employment, and are now wandering about in search of work. Notwithstanding, however, these circumstances, the number of casuals relieved in this county has been reduced by 64 per cent. as compared with the year previous to the formation of this society, whilst the commitments under the Vagrant Act have in like manner decreased by 69 per cent., and at the annual census taken on the 28th March last it was found that there were only 28 tramps and vagrants in Dorset on that night. As a proof that a large amount of food had been supplied to persons passing through this county, it appears that during the past year 4,411 tickets have been exchanged for bread at the relief stations. The receipts and expenditure have been as follows:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, 1st January 1876	.	46	13	6
Subscriptions and sale of tickets	.	48	11	6
		£95	5	0
Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
Paid for bread	.	37	0	2
Printing and stationery	.	7	19	9
Postage	.	1	4	3
Collector's commission	.	3	0	0
Posting bills	.	0	7	3
Gratuities to clerk and superintendents of police	.	15	0	0
Total cost	.	£64	11	5
Balance in hand 31st December 1876	.	30	13	7
		£95	5	5

Taking into consideration that owing to circumstances over which no mendicancy society can have any control, an unusual number of persons are passing through the county, it seems more than ever necessary to impress upon the charitable public the necessity for carrying out the principle of this society—"That relief to wayfarers be confined to necessary food only." To give money to such persons is no real kindness. If begging does not pay, those who are temporarily out of employ will not be tempted to become professional vagrants, but will return to work at the first opportunity that offers.

Mr. Floyer, in moving the adoption of the report, remarked that there was an increase in the number of vagrants of over 50 per cent., but under the circumstances mentioned in the report he did not see how that could be avoided.

Mr. Calcraft asked whether there was any reason to think the good relations which had hitherto existed between the public and the society had failed.

Captain Amyatt Brown replied there was none, and said formerly the complaint was that there were no vagrants to whom to give the tickets. But this cause for complaint no longer existed. He begged to point out that the subscriptions received from the 1st January this year amounted to only £13, while in the same period there had been paid for bread distribution about £20, so the society had really been carrying on its operations partly with the balance in hand on the date specified. The hon. secretary also explained, in answer to a further question, that the subscriptions received last year amounted to £46. Alluding to the extent of the existing vagrancy, he said the accounts for the past month showed a bread bill to the amount of £6, which indicated that a great number of persons were passing through the county. The average expenditure for bread was about £2, but, of course, the amount greatly depended upon the number of persons passing through the county in the capacity of mendicants.

Captain Williams: Have more tickets been exchanged for bread this year than last?

Captain Amyatt Brown: Yes, considerably. There had been a great many vagrants not only from South Wales but from various parts of England. Unfortunately, however, when enquiries were made as to the places from which they came, their answers could not be depended upon. But no doubt many who applied for tickets were *bonâ fide* out of employ. Inquiries which he had made elicited the fact that in Kent and other counties there had latterly, as in Dorset, been an increase in the number of vagrants.

The hon. secretary was warmly thanked for his services, and thus the proceedings terminated.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES.—No. V.

POVERTY AND PAUPERISM.—It is of the utmost importance accurately to distinguish between poverty and pauperism; for by confounding them, poverty is dishonoured and pauperism countenanced. Supply poverty with means and it vanishes, but pauperism is the more confirmed. Poverty is a sound vessel empty, but pauperism is not only empty but cracked. Poverty is a natural appetite, merely wanting food; pauperism a ravenous atrophy, which no food can satisfy. Poverty strives to cure itself; pauperism to contaminate others. Poverty often stimulates to exertion; pauperism always paralyses. Poverty is sincere; pauperism is an arch-hypocrite. Poverty has naturally a proud spirit; pauperism clamorous and imposing—the one grateful, the other the reverse. There is much that is alluring in poverty, but pauperism is altogether hateful. It is delightful to succour the one, and irksome to be taxed for the other. Poverty has the blessing of Heaven, as well as those who relieve it; pauperism, on the contrary, has nothing in common with the Christian virtues.

St. Paul has described the spirit of pauperism, and given his decided opinion upon it: 'Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you, to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.'

Indeed the injunctions of Christianity are wholly in opposition to the spirit of pauperism; and the merit of those institutions which serve to encourage, and of those individuals who thoughtlessly succour it, may be estimated accordingly.—*Walker's Original*, pp. 192, 193.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

WOOLWICH.—*Annual Meeting.*—The annual meeting of the Woolwich Committee was presided over the other day by Mr. J. Macgregor, who said 'they wanted feeling hearts and sensible heads to deal with the poor, and this Society was most useful in bringing together men who possessed these qualifications.' Mr. Talbot, M.P., subsequently moved, 'That this Society is one of the best existing agencies for securing the permanent and substantial benefit of the poor.' The resolution was seconded by the Rev. J. Bond, who mentioned that 'they had in hand the case of a decrepit schoolmaster, and were trying to obtain £200 to secure him a permanent pension for his few remaining years. Such a case as that could scarcely have been dealt with effectually except by their Society.' The work of the Committee has lately been very ably and prominently brought before its readers by the *Kentish Independent*. We trust that the public notice thus called to it may prove of benefit, and induce men of business and tradesmen in the town to join those fellow-townsmen who are already so earnestly and zealously working, and proving in their own persons that there is time not only for business, but also for duty.

BRIXTON.—*Annual Meeting.*—On Tuesday, April 28, the first annual meeting of the Brixton Committee was held. Mr. Alexander McArthur, M.P., was in the chair. The Rev. A. Robertson, Mr. J. T. Hart, Rev. David Jones, Mr. A. H. Hill, Rev. M. C. Osborn, Rev. T. L. Marshall, and others, addressed the meeting. The Chairman, referring to the attacks which are made upon the Society, said, 'It was in some cases urged upon the Society—inferentially, at any rate—that it ought to take upon itself the duty of indiscriminate charity. Those who advocated these views were either ignorant, or absolutely depraved and wicked. He then spoke of the Christian character of England, and its wealth, and remarked that the waste of money in charity was scarcely conceivable. He related the manner in which he had himself been imposed upon, and then spoke of the operations of this Society in checking imposition. In proportion as the objects of the Society and its results became known, he felt it would be better supported. He trusted the Society would receive liberal support, because it was not only important that cases should be inquired into, but also that there should be the means to give temporary assistance.'

CONVALESCENT HOMES.*—Hon. Mrs. Bonham-Carter receives women of respectable character recovering from illness, or needing country air, at Mrs. Child's, the Reading Room, Sheet, Petersfield (two hours by L. & S.W. Railway from London). No infectious cases or people requiring nursing will be eligible. Payment, 4s. a week. Applications to be made to Miss Bonham-Carter, 25 Ashley Place, S.W.

* Vide 'Reporter,' No. 217, p. 90; No. 185, p. 122.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of June 1877 was 37,010, and 43,418 received outdoor relief, making a total of 80,428. This was a decrease of 409 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 1,235, but a decrease of 5,421 and 15,090 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 742. This was an increase of 13 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 166 on the corresponding day of last year.

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London, LONGMANS & Co., and at the Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

To call attention to the circumstances under which a recommendation of the Administrative Committee affecting the Council's Staff was put and carried on June 4; to ask whether any other changes in the Central Office have been agreed to by the Administrative Committee for recommendation to Council other than the recommendation with regard to the Assistant Secretary; and to move for a return of such other changes.

He referred in detail to the minutes of the Administrative Committee bearing on the subject, pointed out the difficulties of the work of 'organising' and aiding District Committees, and urged that, before any changes were made, the Council should have complete information respecting them.

The Chairman pointed out that the Administrative Committee expressly stated that the subject was under consideration, and that, apart from the recommendation adopted by the Council on the 4th June, no rearrangement had been definitely agreed upon. None but a negative answer could therefore be given to the request for a return of these changes. The subject would in due course be submitted to the Council.

After a few words from Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. Copeman, Mr. S. Fuller, Mr. H. H. Hill, and Mr. Bousfield, Mr. W. W. Wood gave notice that he would bring forward the motions that stood in his name at an early meeting of the Council in the next Session.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, June 23, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
'Anonymous'	0	1	0	Northampton,			
Foster, W. O. Esq.	20	0	0	The Marquis of	5	0	0
Glyn & Co., Messrs.	50	0	0	District Committee Aid Fund:—			
Rogers, N. Esq. M.D.	10	10	0	Northampton,			
Smith, Sidney, Esq.	2	2	0	The Marquis of (Don.)	50	0	0
Stilwell & Co., Messrs.	10	10	0	Clapham Committee, The	19	9	0
Trevelyan, Sir C. E. Bart.,							
K.C.B.	50	0	0				

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of June 1877 was 36,601, and 42,995 received outdoor relief, making a total of 79,596. This was a decrease of 832 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876, this was an increase of 502, but a decrease of 5,760 and 15,440 compared with 1875 and 1874 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 687. This was a decrease of 55 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 126 on the corresponding day of last year.

DIFFICULT CASES.—No. 8.

69 East India Dock Road, London, E.

DEAR MR. LOCH,—I should be very grateful if any of those who read the *Reporter* would be kind enough to advise as to what it would be best to do for a poor boy of 15 who has had to undergo amputation of both hands. His education has been neglected, and he ought, for one thing, to be taught to read. His parents belong to the poorest class. It is possible to attach appliances to his arms, by means of which he may feed himself, but it might be well for him to be placed somewhere for two or three years where careful attention might develop to the uttermost such capacities for a life of interest and usefulness as he may still possess. I shall be thankful for suggestions made either to the *Reporter* or directly to myself.

Yours very truly,

ALLEN D. GRAHAM.

P.S.—He has been refused by the Homes in Wright's Lane and Moore Street.

HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND.

On the 19th June Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., presided at a well-attended Conference, convened at the Charing Cross Hospital, by the kind permission of the authorities of the hospital.

The meeting was summoned to discuss the question, 'Whether Provident Dispensaries were entitled to benefit by the Hospital Saturday collection.' The discussion was opened by Mr. Hamilton Hoare, who was followed by Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., Dr. Brudenell Carter, of St. George's Hospital, Dr. Ford Anderson, Dr. Jabez Hogg, of Charing Cross Hospital, Mr. Hughes, Chairman of the Temperance Hospital, Dr. Edmunds, and Mr. Hardy. Mr. Guild, Mr. Halpin, and Mr. Mackenzie, of the Hospital Saturday Council, also took part in the discussion. Mr. Samuel

Morley concluded, and expressed his satisfaction with the result of the discussion. The question was thoroughly sifted, and the Hospital Saturday Council are glad to have suggested such a conference, where at least various aspects of the question were presented, and views differing to some extent from one another were interchanged. The feeling of the conference was entirely in favour of the Provident system, though opinions differed as to whether Provident Dispensaries ought to be supported by the Hospital Saturday collection.

H. N. H.

THE STRICT ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR LAW.

The following is a paper read in March last by Mr. A. G. Crowder, one of the Guardians of St. George's-in-the-East, at a meeting of the Liberal Social Union:—

The generality of well-to-do people wipe off their debt towards the poor by paying their rates, subscribing to certain prominent charities, and dropping an occasional shilling to gratify a passing emotion. There are others, however, who really do care for the poor. They go among them, and give to them both time and money, but for the most part unwisely, and without keeping sufficiently in view the causes of their misery. They aim at obtaining all the outdoor parish relief they can for every poor person they come across, unless living a manifestly immoral life, and from whatever source the distress may have arisen, supplementing it by private alms. They plead for their cases with guardians and relieving officers, causing want of uniformity and firmness in their administration, and a consequent gambling spirit among the poor.

The want of system produces confusion in the minds of both givers and receivers, between the functions of compulsory public relief and voluntary private charity, and a slipshod and uneducating administration of both. Such laxity and irregularity tempt the working classes to recklessness both in regard to saving and obtaining and retaining good and regular work; bring about congestion of labour and consequent intermittent and underpaid work; offer a premium on intemperance and systematic deception; cause much loss of energy and self-respect; and, worst of all, are, in a gradual measure, to blame for that loosening of family ties which we all deplore so much.

I propose to base my remarks on my experience on the one hand as guardian of one of the poorest districts of East London (St. George's-in-the-East); on the other, as almoner for the Society for Relief of Distress, and member of the Charity Organisation Committee in the same locality.

In dealing with the question of relief it is obvious that in towns at least, system is necessary. The functions of poor law and charity ought to be clearly defined.

First. As to sound principles of Poor Law administration, there is not much room for argument. The main question with thoughtful people is, I suppose, how best a sound practice may be carried out, now that the working class have been for so long trained up under a false one, and whether it can be rapidly applied without causing much suffering. I will attempt to show how this may be done by briefly describing the main rules at work in my own Union, and their results. We have substituted the indoor for the outdoor system; and the principle on which we work it is, to take part of a family into the workhouse instead of the whole.

Widows with children are offered maintenance in the district pauper schools for such of their children as they appear to be unable to support instead of outdoor relief. The object is, first, to induce husbands to subscribe to the Widow and Orphan Fund of benefit clubs, or to insure their lives; and, secondly, to draw out the affection and efforts of friends and relatives, who frequently take some of the distressed families into their own homes, when this load of pressure is brought to bear.

In not more than about one in three cases is this offer of the schools accepted, and yet from personally visiting nearly all the cases of refusal, I am fully prepared to endorse the written statement of the able and experienced senior relieving officer of the Stepney Union (where the same system is pursued). He writes that he is not aware of a single case of hardship entailed upon the families by insisting on this form of relief. Private charity can always be found through the Charity Organisation Committee to enable a widow to start in some employment, or tide over times of sickness, or even slackness of work; or to supplement provision by the husband.

Secondly. Cases of sickness or accident, where the patient is in a fit state to be removed, are dealt with by an offer of the infirmary, combined with an offer of the schools for some of the children, if necessary, when the sick person is father of a family. This offer provides for proper attention to the patient, and efficient assistance for the rest of the family. It diminishes the encouragement to improvidence, but does not 'break up' the home. Most of us are aware how easily sickness may be provided against by means of clubs, and where this provision runs short, or where other elements of thrift exist, private charity steps in through the Charity Organisation Committee.

Thirdly. The aged. At St. George's-in-the-East we have for some time

offered the workhouse to all new cases where no evidence of providence can be traced. Private charity in the form of regular weekly pensions has always been found through the Charity Organisation Committee for the exceptional provident cases. I may mention that married couples over sixty years are never separated in our workhouse, the law being strictly adhered to in this respect; and all the inmates have occasional holidays, and those over sixty years every Sunday out as well.

The development of family affection and neighbourly help has been most strikingly evoked by our action, and in numerous instances old employers, and those upon whom there existed some legitimate claim, have come forward; so that neither our relieving officers nor myself have had a single case brought to our notice of the 'breaking-up' of a respectable home, where the people could have lived decently upon the parish outdoor pittance had it been obtainable; so insignificant was the dole, yet in no union I believe has a strict practice been so suddenly applied. In the neighbouring division of Whitechapel, where the same system has been pursued for a much longer period, the experience is precisely similar. Out of one hundred and sixty-seven families (six hundred individuals) whose out-relief was discontinued in 1873 and 1875, only eight were found not to be doing well; two out of these were drunken, and four were cases of obstinate refusal to send children to the district schools. Seventeen had left the union, and only eleven entered the workhouse. The same was the case at Shrewsbury, where in six months pauperism was reduced seventy per cent. Mr. Baker, the relieving officer, stated that no suffering was occasioned.

The chief reason why no appreciable suffering has resulted from the sudden application of a strict system in St. George's-in-the-East, is, in my judgment, that we have uniformly applied our rules, and not permitted interest or importance to influence our action. We have never had any difficulty about what are called obstinate cases, and the really destitute, feeling that we mean what we say, accept the relief we offer. Moreover, it is plain that adherence to fixed rules and abiding by decisions once given is the secret in making a reform produce its effect on the habits of the poor.

Now, I am particularly anxious to make it understood that I have not formed my opinion upon the experience of a board-room, but upon personal visitation of the cases; e.g. I have notes of nearly every case in which outdoor relief has been discontinued since I joined St. George's-in-the-East. A great number of these I have visited; and I now keep a 'hard case' book, in which I enter all apparently respectable new cases, who would have had outdoor relief on the old system, for subsequent watching. At the present moment I have not a single case remaining on my book as one of suffering. No change, of course—not even a change of fashion nor the introduction of a single new machine—can be effected without necessitating some rather harder lives. The point to be decided must be, 'What is best to be done on the whole?'

In opposition to the frequently expressed opinion that out-door relief should not be discontinued but simply made adequate, and reserved for those exceptional cases which we, at St. George's, throw upon charity, I would submit:—

First. That really exhaustive inquiry by relieving officers and impartial discrimination by guardians is practically unattainable.

Secondly. That as long as public relief is given outside the workhouse, in any new cases, there will be so strong a tendency among the poor to rely on drawing a prize in the lottery that very much of the educating effect of a strict system will be lost.

And, if adequate State pensions for the respectable aged were to be given, and thus the present stigma removed, the incentive to pauperism would be so irresistible that numbers above the present pauper class would become candidates for them, and the rates in many districts could not bear the burden.

Again, in the present state of the law, it is a breach of trust to administer rates, as charity, for making poor people comfortable, destitution alone constituting a claim upon them. The tax is compulsorily levied, and the bulk of it is drawn from struggling ratepayers, many of whom have had no better opportunities in life than the paupers themselves.

All giving must do some harm, and the chief good arising from it is the personal feeling excited. But State relief can evoke no real gratitude on the part of the poor, who know that they have a right to it in some form, and that it costs the actual dispensers of it comparatively nothing; while it creates no sympathy or kindly intercourse on the part of the rich, who are by its existence, in the out-door form, simply helped to slip out of their responsibilities.

There is one very common error which I will allude to here. It is often said that a person is more likely to be pauperised by indoor than by out-door relief; but, so far from this being the case, I submit that it must be exactly the reverse. As Mr. John Hollond, Guardian of Paddington, wrote the other day:—'The thing that really pauperises (and it must be remembered that the spirit of pauperism is a moral evil) is what tends to make the poor think that others will provide for them, and that they need not provide for themselves. The less agreeable, therefore, the form of relief

is, the less temptation is there to rely upon it, the stronger are the motives to forethought and self-help.'

In the matter of a widespread system like that of public relief we must bear in mind how very widely demoralising every single mistake must be. Relief out of the workhouse cannot be given to a single immoral or improvident individual, or to an individual widow or aged person, however well conducted, who ought to have been provided for by the husband, or who ought to be supported by the children, without holding out a direct premium to other husbands and other children to neglect their duties in the same way.

It is generally admitted that much of the distress among the working classes is caused by their own extravagance and recklessness. It seems to make no difference as to a man's provident powers, whether he earns £1, £2, or £3 a week, or whether he has a large family or none; he pleads the same inability to save. Moreover, we see the foreigners thrive where Englishmen starve, and that public-houses drive the best trade in the poorest districts. Only the other day I heard of a man, not a drunkard, I believe, who could earn £5 a week; on being remonstrated with for not having saved, his only excuse was, 'Well, you see, we never do save!' Now I most fully admit that the battle of life is hard to almost every working man, and it is for that very reason that I am so anxious that he shall be braced up and nerved for the encounter, instead of being weakened and unnerved by mistaken efforts for his help.

Having endeavoured to show that a strict Poor Law administration is essential to the improvement of the condition of the working class, I would strongly urge those who have the time to study the subject to become candidates for election as guardians; and especially to qualify themselves in the poorer districts. Such as are unable to serve themselves may do good work in promoting the election of fit persons, and in the formation of a sound public opinion on the subject.

Secondly. As the handmaid of a strict and machine-like Poor Law there should be a gentle and personal charity. I want the real care of the poor to be thrown more upon the rich. I want the rich man to be forced into more direct contact with the poor man, and thus to become more awakened to the duties of stewardship. Strict Poor-Law gives a great impetus to all this.

Charity should be wise and systematised as well as personal and gentle, so as to commend itself to the administrators of the Poor Law; close co-operation between the two being necessary to the effective working of both. As to the statement not unfrequently put forward, that if outdoor relief were abolished, charity could not bear the burden, I may say, that in St. George's-in-the-East, where it is virtually abolished for new cases, and where a saving of upwards of £3,000 a-year has been effected in that department alone, not more, I estimate, than about £200 a-year has been given in additional charity, through the Charity Organisation Committee, among our 60,000 very poor population. Yet, either the relieving officers or the guardians themselves send every exceptional case to the Charity Organisation Committee, and that Committee has never allowed, to my knowledge, a single approved case to go unrelieved or inefficiently relieved, whatever the cost. Its office is situated in the main thoroughfare of the district, and must be known to everybody.

I am strongly of opinion that poor law reformers should not wait until charity is organised before they discontinue out-relief in new cases. In Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East, charity, I am persuaded, would never have become organised if it had not been for the prior pressure of the guardians. One broad direction I would here lay down, 'Leave to the sterner action of the Poor Law, the undeserving, improvident, and those whose relations ought to have provided for them, reserving the exceptional cases only for charity, e.g., in the case of a sick or aged applicant, the question should be, "Has he made reasonable provision, according to his circumstances?"' If he has done his best he is entitled to charity, if not, he should be referred to the Poor Law.

A word about personal intercourse between rich and poor, as an essential part of true charity. The old-fashioned mixing up of religion and relief in district visiting must produce a great deal of hypocrisy and cupidity; and intercourse, to be really useful, ought to be natural. What can one expect from knocking at a poor person's door, and introducing oneself by saying, 'I am come to make your acquaintance,' and on subsequent visits, 'I am come to see how you are getting on.' There are many ways in which a district visitor may become acquainted with her people in a natural manner. She may collect for provident clubs, lend books, distribute parish notices, inspect sanitary arrangements. (It is not difficult to find some vestryman or guardian whose name may be used as a quasi-authority, and by reading the Public Health Acts the points to which her attention should be directed, are easily ascertained.) She may obtain lists of the children in her district attending the day and Sunday Schools in the locality, and call upon their parents about them. Co-operation of clergy, School Board managers, and School Board visitors, could be secured, and introductions to them obtained through the Charity Organisation Committee for this purpose. Further, I urge the entire dissociation from

district visiting of the responsibility of dealing with relief. Relief should, in my opinion, be in the hands of an impartial experienced body. Failing the establishment of such a body by the clergyman (who should make use of the Charity Organisation Society's machinery), I would constitute the local Charity Organisation Committee the judge of all applications for relief. None but the most thoughtful and experienced people are really capable of performing this very difficult function efficiently, and enormous harm has been done by the relegation of it to dilettantes and paid inferiors.

I cannot think that any real and valuable influence need be impaired by the dissociation of almsgiving from a district visitor's work, provided that she is absolutely pledged to give nothing except to the relief agency of the district, whatever it may be. If a visitor prefers dealing with an individual instead of a committee, she may co-operate with the almoner for the Society for Relief of Distress (his name could be obtained through the Charity Organisation Committee whose machinery he generally employs). Both visiting and relief work require some leisure, but the size of a district can be reduced to almost any limits, and half a day a-week would enable valuable relief business to be effected. Persons wishing to give any portion of time, however small, to such work would, I think, do well to communicate with the Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, and I should myself be glad to have an interview on the subject with anyone willing to take up East London work in any form.

MENDICITY AND THE LABOUR TEST IN FLORENCE.

A Florentine journal, *La Nazione*, has, in its issue of May 14, an article informing the public that the *Laboratorio* maintained for the repression of mendicancy by the local *Società per la repressione dell' accattonaggio*, is still open for the reception of mendicants, referred to it by the public for employment and assistance. It appears that this notice has been rendered necessary by the persistent circulation on the part of professional beggars, of statements to the effect that the workshop is closed, and that it is useless for them to apply. These statements, says the notice, are the usual reply of mendicants, to whom the Society's tickets are offered, and are supported by every sort of trick and invention.

The article goes on to state that during the last five months for which it has been established, 66 individuals have been admitted to the workshop, and have stayed for periods varying from two or three weeks to as many months, while some have remained since the opening of the establishment. The daily attendances now amount to 30 or 40. The popularity of the workshop among the class who frequent it, is attributed by the writer to the fact that the work is found to be comparatively light, fatiguing neither the body nor the mind, 'that considerable leisure, which can be advantageously filled up with other casual occupations, is allowed, and that by these means, persons are put in the way of obtaining employment in ordinary branches of industry.' It is stated that the Society is doing good work, and is supported by most of the leading residents in Florence.

Had such a society as this been in existence in former times in Florence, the 'Beggars Bridge,' alluded to by the Rev. R. Maguire, at a meeting of the Holborn Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, held in 1873, would possibly never have been built.* According to the legend told on the spot to Mr. Maguire, an offer was made by one of the Dukes of Tuscany, to give to every beggar, who attended at a certain place, on a certain day, a new suit of clothes. Guards having formed a cordon around the assembled mendicants, they were compelled there and then to put on the suits provided, and from the pockets of the old suits, money enough was obtained to build the 'Beggars Bridge.'

H. H. G.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES. No. VI.

EAST LONDON.—*The Distress of the Poor and Provident Habits.*—Now about this East of London. What is so bad in it is, not what 'jumps at the eyes,' as the French say. No; this summer there is not so very much actual suffering for want of food, nor from sickness. What is so bad is the habitual condition of this mass of humanity—its uniform mean level, the absence of anything more civilised than a grinding organ to raise the ideas beyond the daily bread and beer, the utter want of education, the complete indifference of religion, with the fruits of all this, viz. improvidence, dirt, and their secondaries, crime and disease. The people create their destitution and their disease. Probably there are hardly any of the most needy who, if they had been only moderately frugal and provident, could not have placed themselves in a position to tide over the occasional months of want of work or of sickness, which there always must be. And this occasional pressure is what works the ruin. The breadwinner falls sick, or is out of work, for a few months; the home is broken up; the hospital or the workhouse swallows up the family; the thread of

* Vide *Reporter*, Vol. III., p. 106.

life is broken—perhaps they have been removed to a distance from former employers—at any rate, life has to be begun again right from the bottom. Is it wonderful that drink and crime levy a large conscription on these wretches, while the remnant subsides into dirt and despondency?

I do not underrate the difficulty of laying by out of weekly earnings, but I say it can be done. A dock-labourer, while a young, strong, unmarried man, could lay by half his weekly wages, and such men are almost sure of constant employment. I am sure I am not drawing the least upon my imagination when I say that a young man of twenty could, in five years, even as a dock-labourer (which is much the lowest employment, and least well-paid there is), save about £20. Is it unreasonable to suppose, that, from twenty to five-and-twenty, an average man might get through without any sickness? Then he would certainly do what I say. He earns 15s. a-week: we shall be giving him plenty if we make him live on 11s. 6d., putting by 3s. 6d. a-week. We will allow him to be out of work at one time and another for two months in the year, so there will be only forty-four times 3s. 6d. saved, and out of this must be deducted his living for the eight weeks of enforced idleness. The forty-four times 3s. 6d. is 154s.; allow him 10s. a-week out of this when idle, and he is still £3. 14s. to the good at the end of the year. This is not exactly Utopia; it is within the reach of nearly every man if quite at the bottom of the tree; but if it were of anything like common occurrence, the destitution and disease of this city would be within quite manageable limits.

And this will take place. I may not live to see it, but it will be within two generations. For, unfortunately, this amount of change may be effected without the least improvement in the spiritual condition of the people. Good laws, energetically enforced, with compulsory education, supplemented by gratuitous individual exertion (which will then have a much reduced field and much fairer prospects), will certainly succeed in giving the mass of the people so much light as will generally guide them into so much of industry and morality as is clearly conducive to their bodily ease and advancement in life. There are hardly any residents in the East rich enough to give much money, or with enough leisure to give much time. This is the evil. Even the best disposed in the West don't like coming so far off, and indeed, few have the time to spare, and when they do there is great waste of time and energy on the journey. My plan [that of living at the East End] is the only really practicable one, and as I have both means, time, and inclination, I should be a thief and a murderer if I withheld what I so evidently owe.—*Denison's Letters*, page 61-3.

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DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

NEWINGTON.—*Employment.*—The following is a form adopted and successfully used by the Newington Committee in obtaining employment for candidates. The form is filled in and placed in a conspicuous position in the window of the office:—

LIST OF SERVANTS

ON LABOUR REGISTER OF THE COMMITTEE.

No.	Name.	Age.	Occupation Required.	Remarks.
4384	M. H.	26	General Servant and Cook	
4391	W. R.	27	Housekeeper and Cook	
4392	A. C.	31	Charwoman and Washing	Would go to Coffee-house as Washer-up

For character and full particulars of above persons inquire of the Secretary. Office hours, 10 to 12.

ST. PANCRAS, NORTH.—*Conference of Charitable Workers at Highgate.*—On Monday, 18th inst., by invitation of Colonel Wilkinson, President of the North St. Pancras and Highgate Committee, a considerable number of the Clergy, District Visitors, and others interested in charitable work in the district assembled in the grounds of Southampton Lodge, Fitzroy Park, to hear a paper read by Miss Octavia Hill, on 'Effectual Charity,' and to confer with a view to promoting more effectual co-operation.

Colonel Wilkinson, before inviting Miss Hill to read her paper, spoke of the necessity for and value of the work which the Society was carrying on.

Miss Octavia Hill, in her paper, dwelt especially on the fearful want of the most ordinary forethought which the present system of doles encouraged, and pointed out the necessity for some representative body in order to secure protection from imposture and overlapping of relief on the one hand, and adequate relief for suitable cases on the other. Such a body was the Local Committee of the Charity Organisation Society. It had no desire to interfere, as was sometimes supposed, with charitable workers, but wished them all to send representatives.

After a few words from the Rev. H. F. Mallet and Mr. C. E. Maurice, Mr. Arthur N. Butt (Hon. Sec.) dwelt at some length on the unreasonableness of the numerous objections which had been raised to their *modus operandi*, and illustrated, by cases which had come under his own notice, the necessity there was for such a body and the mode in which they dealt with cases of unusual difficulty. As far as he had been able to ascertain they had never failed to obtain assistance, and that assistance as far as possible adequate, so as to avoid any necessity for further applications for every case they had decided as suitable for relief. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. H. Busk and Mr. T. J. Maude having spoken of the work of the Committee,

The Rev. C. B. Dalton, Vicar of Highgate, said, although this was not a formal meeting, he thought it due to Colonel Wilkinson that there should be some practical expression of the opinion of those present, and he therefore wished to propose a resolution. He was glad to see no account of the relief given, as he had perfect confidence in the Committee. Relief, where needed, was given—as it should be—unostentatiously. He concluded by moving:—

'That the Highgate and North St. Pancras Committee of the Charity Organisation Society deserves the hearty support of all interested in the welfare of the poor, and affords a valuable medium for co-operation and mutual assistance, of which all interested in the charitable work of the district should avail themselves.'

The Rev. G. S. Ram, Vicar of St. Ann's, Highgate Rise, wished to be allowed to second this. The work of the Committee was most valuable. Any cases sent by him or his District Visitors were most carefully investigated. He would give them all the help in his power and expect help in return. The Society was doing an admirable work.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously, after which

Colonel Wilkinson thanked Miss Hill on behalf of those present for her valuable paper; and

The Rev. G. D. Bartlet (Baptist), in supporting this, said those who wished to understand the work that was going on should attend the Committee meetings. If the objections had not been mentioned he thought they would have known nothing about them.

Mr. C. L. Lewes and Mr. T. J. Maude thanked Colonel Wilkinson for the agreeable opportunity of meeting which he had afforded them; and the company then, at the suggestion of their host, dispersed over the grounds, meeting again in the house for refreshment, where the subject of the gathering was actively discussed.

Besides those mentioned, there were present, Rev. C. H. Andrews, St. Luke's, New Kentish Town; Rev. E. B. Penfold, St. Michael's, Camden Road; Revs. T. C. Shepherd and F. W. Reade, Holy Trinity; Rev. S. Smith, Rev. James Morgan, Messrs. J. Pickett (Stranger's Friend Society), W. Ash, W. Legg (Hon. Sec.), and others.

WHITECHAPEL.—*Two Cases of Medical Relief.*—This Committee has recently dealt with the case of a boy aged 9 years, referred for assistance to their office by the School Board authorities. The parents were very poor, as the father was prevented by serious and painful disease from working regularly. The child was in bad health, and it was strongly recommended by the doctor that he should be sent to the sea-side. The Committee provided him with clothing, of which he was in great want, and sent him to the Margate Sea-Bathing Infirmary. The total expense, to be repaid from Mr. Peek's fund, was £4. 12s. 5d., £2. 6s. 6d. of which was expended on admission and expenses to the Infirmary, and the remainder on clothes. This Committee has also recently had before them a glaring case of abuse of a medical charity. The attention of the medical officer of one of the largest endowed hospitals having been drawn to an out-patient, he caused inquiry to be made through the Society. It was found that the woman in question was the wife of the proprietor of a tavern in a most favourable situation, who was doing a good business, and appeared to be 'very well off.' A local medical man, who had at various times visited the out-patient in question stated that, in his opinion, the people were perfectly able to pay for the services even of a physician if they chose to employ one.

ADMINISTRATION OF POOR LAW RELIEF.

The following is taken from a Paper by Mr. T. Barwick Lloyd Baker, in a recent number of *The Local Government Chronicle*:—

'What we do require is, as I maintain, a system which shall openly and fairly punish those who could have made provision for their old age, but have—not with intention, but from carelessness—neglected to do so, and who have thus thrown the burden of their support on to those who have been more careful; just as I ought to be punished if, by my carelessness, without evil intention, I set fire to my neighbour's house. I assume, of course, that punishment should be considered with a view to its prospect, not to its retrospect; that its object should be, not retaliation for the past offence, but the prevention, by deterrence, of future wrong.'

'All are agreed that our out-relief should be lowered; nearly all agree that this should not be done suddenly.'

'The truth is that we feel that we ourselves, the guardians of the last fifty years, have been in fault for teaching the poor that they might hope for a comfortable support in old age from the rates, and that they need not lay by for themselves. We have now to teach them the very opposite, yet to teach it with some consideration, remembering our own error.'

'The great difficulty appears to be in the cases of old men who have been all their lives in steady fair work, and have brought up moderate families, who may yet be able to do little to help them. These could no doubt, by the help of a little more energy, have laid by enough to support them for at least some part of their old age. They have failed in this duty, and so far deserve punishment; but, on the other hand, we must remember that we have also failed in our duty of teaching them.'

'Yet surely we might lessen the relief in such cases without hardship. Anyone applying for relief this year might be told that he could not have relief unless he could show cause why he had not laid by something. He should have out-relief for a month, and during that time he must tell the relieving officer for what masters he had generally worked during the last twenty years; and what were his wages, including drink, piecework, and harvest. At the end of the month, he might, perhaps, be told, "You have worked well and borne a good character; but you have only brought up two children, while your neighbour has brought up six on the same wages. You could, therefore, have lived as well as he did, and have laid by four shillings a week. However, we will consider your case for another fortnight." At the end of that time, during which he would have probably let all his neighbours know of his fears, he might be told, "You have not deserved out-relief; but you have never been taught the necessity of laying by money. We will give it you now, but if anyone applies in like manner twelve months hence, he will not have it unless he has laid by something to support him for a time after his wages have ceased; and the year after we shall expect any who then apply to have saved a larger sum." Such a plan would enable both the poor and the public to understand that it is both a possibility and a duty to habitually lay by something for old age, and would both assist and incline both poor and public to work with us. It is evident that nothing is more important for the spread and well-working of a system than the goodwill and co-operation of the public.'

'With regard to the sick (and here we come especially to the observations of the writer in the *Lancet*), I should say that it was desirable in nearly all cases to take them into the house. Our object is to accustom men to a

habit of saving; but, as I have before said, the poor, from our ready relief, have lost very much of the habit of looking for it. A young man thinks age so far off that it hardly affects him, but as or accident are felt to be nearer at hand; and the fact of a young being taken into the house, even though it be, as it ought to be, to a highly good hospital, where he will probably be sooner cured than at while it is carefully explained that his discomfort, for such it must be the consequence of his having failed in the duty of laying by, will, I e, make the strongest impression upon the young; and if they can be taught to lay by for sickness, they will go on to do it for old age. seems to me that we want to make more evident to the public some of careful discrimination between those who could have easily laid maintenance for their old age, and those to whom, by reason of a sickly family, it would have been difficult, or, by reason of long illness or ill health, it would have been impossible to do so.

the present state of the law a higher degree of comfort can only be by voluntary charity; but I fear that few people are qualified to do charity wisely without consultation with others; and that we ought to and I trust may in time have, a charity organisation attached to and ag with the guardians at each union, which will enable us to direct arity as not merely to gratify our own feelings, but to do as much and as little harm to our neighbours as possible.

t me conclude with an observation of a friend of mine, who some ago was the poor clergyman of a poor district. I asked him how ople had got through a very severe winter, and he told me that is had applied to the union for help. I said, "That is very extra-ry, but highly creditable." He replied, "But in two respects my t is exceptionally fortunate. We have no charities to help the y gifts of bread, money, &c.; and, what is more, we have no rich and his lady to help them at need. I am too poor to do it, so they o help themselves, and they do it better than others could do it for

alt very guilty, and I turned away; but I thought him more right liked to allow.'

PAROCHIAL CHARITIES IN LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.*

Parliamentary return moved for by Mr. Morley on June 14, 1875, of present income of the parochial charities of the Cities of London and Westminster has just been printed. The total present gross income of charities in 110 parishes in the city of London is £101,380. 12s., and of £16,172. 7s. compared with a return made in 1870. The of the foundation of these charities, or the purposes to which the is applicable are as follows:—Education, £20,076. 12s. 10d.; tituting and advancement, £2,198. 6s. 7d.; endowments of clergy, s, and sermons, £6,501. 17s. 9d.; church purposes, £34,424. 9s. 5d.; parochial uses, £9,611. 12s. 6d.; support of almshouses, their s, and pensioners, £10,949. 18s. 9d.; distribution of articles in £3,900. 13s. 3d.; distribution of money, £8,871. 18s. 1d.; general the poor, £3,840. 15s. 9d.; medical, £340. The total gross income parochial charities in the city of Westminster is £28,356. 9s. 7d., of £4,746. 2s. 10d. is classed under the head of 'general charities,' and mainder belongs to eleven parishes. The charities under the ad-ration of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster are not included in turn, and will be found, it is stated, in the digest of 'general es.' The objects of the foundation of the charities, or the purposes ch the income is applicable, are described as follows:—Education, £2,11s. 8d.; apprenticing and advancement, £332. 16s.; endowment rgy, lecturers, and for sermons, £843. 6s. 10d.; church purposes, 5s. 6d.; public parochial uses, £247. 13s. 6d.; support of almshouses, nmates, and pensioners, £8,539. 18s. 3d.; distribution of articles in £480. 7s. 3d.; distribution of money, £1,578. 1s. 1d.; medical, 1. 2s. 6d.; loans, £921. 8s. The total gross income of all the ial charities in London and Westminster is £129,737. 1s. 7d.—*Pall Gazette*, March 15, 1877.

USE OF HOSPITALS.—In the *British Medical Journal* for Saturday, will be found, under this head, the following report of the Joint ittee of the Liverpool Medical Institution:— he Committee are of opinion that the relief at present afforded to -patients of the various hospitals and infirmaries of the town is ted by the severity and urgency of the cases admitted, and does not : further comment. Their remarks apply to gratuitous advice and ance afforded to out-patients, either at hospitals and dispensaries, or r own homes.

ay consider that, in this latter respect, public charity is greatly l by persons receiving it who are quite in a position to contribute ing towards obtaining medical attendance; that the multiplying of ble institutions, by producing separate interests and requiring repe-ildings and staffs, involves a waste of public money which might be

* *Vide Reporters* No. 219, p. 96, and No. 220, p. 99.

better applied to maintaining the great leading charities in a highly effective condition; that, with the present diffuse mode of administering medical charity, no systematic inquiry into the circumstances of persons applying for it is made; that its indiscriminate distribution tends to destroy the self-reliance of the working classes, and to encourage improvidence and pauperism; that, in consequence of the number of unsuitable cases applying for treatment, the medical officers are unable to devote sufficient time to really serious cases, while it greatly hinders the scientific study and treat-ment of disease.

'Statistics of Liverpool charities, and proportion of persons relieved to population. The accompanying figures give an estimate of the number of out-patients attended to at the various public institutions of the town of Liverpool during the year 1876:—

Royal Infirmary	4,534
Dispensaries	67,346
Eye and Ear Infirmary	9,479
Northern Hospital	3,456
Royal Southern Hospital	6,840
Infirmary for Children, Myrtle Street	8,711
Dental Hospital	6,367
St. George's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Granville Street	1,000
Infirmary for Cancer and Skin Disease, Islington	6,003
Stanley Hospital	8,801
St. Paul's Eye and Ear Infirmary	2,106
Ladies' Charity, &c., Myrtle Street	1,516
Hospital for Consumption	2,309
Medical Mission (a), Burlington Street	12,725
Medical Mission (b), Beaufort Street	7,094
Homoeopathic Dispensary	20,324
Bootle Borough Hospital	4,983

172,594

'The number of paupers relieved by the "parish authorities" during the same period, either by admission into hospital or otherwise, is estimated thus:—

Admitted into workhouse	10,737
Relieved outside	5,145

'The population of the town is estimated at 521,544.

'The Committee feel that as the present unsatisfactory condition of matters has been one of gradual and slow development, it will be impossible at once to effect any serious or sweeping changes in the present constitution of the charities administering outdoor relief, but they would desire to bring prominently before the medical profession and the public two means by which they think some improvement might be effected, and which are already in successful operation in other towns. (a) They strongly recommend that more general support be given to the Charity Organisation Society, one of whose main objects is to inquire into the necessities of persons requiring medical or other relief, and they think that the existing medical charities ought to bring themselves into more direct connection with it; they do so in view of the fact that the present system of admission by governors' or subscribers' recommendation is undoubtedly much abused, as it by no means ensures that the applicants' means, or the urgency of their cases, have been properly inquired into. (b) They desire to advocate the introduction of the provident dispensary system, or some modification of it, by which the patients contribute something, however small, for their medical attendance. By this means they cease to receive relief *in forma pauperis*, while by the aggregation of the small sums paid by them some remuneration is made to the medical officers.'

JOHN S. MILL ON CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Apart from any metaphysical considerations respecting the foundation of morals or of the social union, it will be admitted to be right that human beings should help one another; and the more so in proportion to the urgency of the need: and none needs help so urgently as one who is starv-ing. The claim to help, therefore, created by destitution is one of the strongest which can exist; and there is *prima facie* the amplest reason for making the relief of so extreme an exigency as certain to those who require it, as by any arrangements of society it can be made.

On the other hand, in all cases of helping there are two sets of conse-quences to be considered—the consequences of the assistance itself, and the consequences of relying on the assistance. The former are generally beneficial, but the latter, for the most part, injurious; so much so, in many cases as to really outweigh the value of the benefit. And this is never more likely to happen than in the very cases where the need of help is the most intense. There are few things for which it is more mischievous that people should rely on the habitual aid of others than for the means of subsistence, and, unhappily, there is no lesson which they more easily

learn. The problem to be solved is, therefore, one of peculiar nicety, as well as importance: how to give the greatest amount of needful help with the smallest encouragement to undue reliance on it.

Energy and self-dependence are, however, liable to be impaired by the absence of help, as well as by its excess. It is even more fatal to exertion to have no hope of succeeding by it, than to be assured of succeeding without it. When the condition of anyone is so disastrous that his energies are paralysed by discouragement, assistance is a tonic, not a sedative; it braces instead of relaxing the active faculties; always provided that the assistance is not such as to dispense with self-help, by substituting itself for the person's own skill, labour, and prudence, but is limited to affording him a better hope of succeeding by those legitimate means. This, accordingly, is a test to which all plans of philanthropy and benevolence should be brought, whether intended for the benefit of individuals or of classes, and whether conducted on the voluntary or on the government principle.

In so far as the subject admits of any general doctrine or maxim, it would appear to be this: that if assistance is given in such a manner that the condition of the person helped is as desirable as that of the person who succeeds in doing the same thing without help, the assistance, if systematic, and capable of being previously calculated on, is mischievous; but if, while available to everybody, it leaves to everyone a strong motive to do without it if he can, it is then for the most part beneficial.—J. S. MILL, *Political Economy*.

DISORGANISED CHARITY.

A correspondent recently sent us the following:—

'A few days since one of the Vicarage Houses in Bethnal Green was undergoing some repairs, when the following piece of gossip was given as a fact to one of the servants by one of the labourers.

'There was an elderly woman of his acquaintance who attended regularly at a chapel. "Of course," added the narrator, "she was paid *regularly* every week." This person, having continued for many years in receipt of this donation, suddenly confided to her landlady that she was removing, having obtained a permanent situation at the chapel, where she should be in a position to receive many gratuities, and so be much better off. Her landlady, aware of her industry in securing the favours of all with whom she could scrape an acquaintance, saw at once that there was a ready way opened to her for pleading her poverty (?) and getting at the "feast of fat things" which her attention to her religious duties so well deserved; "but," said the narrator, "what do you think? The old lady has lately died, and they found £200! which she had hoarded together during all her pleas of poverty and distress."

"But," it was added, "she was very devout, you know," and did not make a bad thing of it."

LABOUR AND MENDICITY.*—Amongst these may be numbered all slothful persons which will not travail for their livings; they do the will of the devil. God biddeth us to get our living with labour; they will not labour, but go rather about a-begging, and spoil the very poor and needy. Therefore such valiant beggars are thieves before God. Some of these valiant lubbers, when they came to my house, I communed with them, burthening them with the transgression of God's laws. 'Is this not a great labour,' say they, 'to run from one town to another to get our meat? I think we labour as hard as other men do.' In such wise they go about to excuse their unlawful beggary and thievery. But such idle lubbers are much deceived, for they consider not that such labour is not allowed of God. We must labour so as may stand with godliness, according to His appointment; else thieves which rob in the night-time, do they not labour? Yea, sometimes they labour with great care, peril, and danger of their lives. Is it therefore godly because it is a labour? No, no; we must labour as God hath appointed us, every man in his estate.—*Lutimer's Sermons*.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES. No. VII.

The Organisation of Personal Charity.—I am just now busy with the preliminaries of putting up a new ragged school. Don't think I want you to give me anything, for I should send it back if you sent it me; your money is much better employed under your own eye. I am all for people concentrating their efforts each in some small field peculiarly accessible to himself or herself. In the first place, much more work is done with less waste, and the benefit to the doer is greater, owing to the personal exertion required. Still there will always be people whose duties forbid them to do this, and who must make others their agents.—*Denison's Letters*, p. 88.

Charity, like everything else, is a responsibility. One is just as bounden in his charity as in his justice. There is law in both cases.—*The Church Journal*, New York.

* See Reporter No. 211, p. 58.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of June 1877 was 36,304, and 42,434 received outdoor relief, making a total of 78,738. This was a decrease of 858 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 258, 6,495, and 15,674 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 639. This was a decrease of 48 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 80 on the corresponding day of last year.

DIFFICULT CASES.—No. 8.*

To Mr. A. D. Graham's letter on this case we have received the following answer:—'This is a case of probably more legal than practical difficulty. The boy's age being under 16, he could not be sent by the Guardians to a district school without the parents becoming paupers; but as they are said "to belong to the poorest class," this would be no injury. The Guardians would, no doubt, take the boy, and keep him as long as they can in the school, where, if taught sufficiently, he might become useful as a junior teacher. But first the Guardians will have to make use of their powers to supply the boy with the best mechanical appliance suitable to the case. After 16 the boy will be what the Poor Law calls able-bodied.' W.

* Reporter No. 222, p. 108.

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The 'CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' is published weekly during the Sittings of Council; on the second Thursday in each month throughout the year a Double Number is published.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. LOCH, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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ITALIAN CHILDREN: Report of the Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society appointed to inquire into the Employment of Italian Children for Mendicant and Immoral Purposes. Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Government had, on their part, passed laws forbidding, under heavy penalties, the exportation of children of tender age to foreign countries, but it was exceedingly difficult to enforce these laws. For such laws, however, there would be no necessity if, in the real interests of the children themselves, the English would abstain from giving money, which, passing into the hands of taskmasters, served only to keep the children in a life of degradation and shame.

Mr. Probyn, in seconding the motion, referred to an able article on the subject that had recently appeared in the *Standard*.

Mr. Bevan considered that if, as was stated in the Report, the present law duly enforced was sufficient to suppress the trade, there must have been great negligence on the part of our Government in not dealing with so great an evil more severely and radically.

Mr. C. E. Maurice pointed out that want of precise information, the removal of the children from one place to another, and sometimes the shipment of the children to other countries, had been found very great difficulties hitherto. There had not yet been any concerted plan of operations throughout the country. This was what the Committee suggested.

After a few words from the Organising Secretary, the Chairman, Mr. R. A. Aspinall, Rev. R. J. Simpson, and Sir Charles Trevelyan, the motion was put and carried unanimously.

THE ST. KATHARINE'S HOSPITAL.

Sir Charles Trevelyan then moved, on behalf of the Co-operation Sub-Committee, the adoption of the following memorial to the Lord Chancellor:—

THE MEMORIAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY

SHREWETH,

That Major-General Sir Thomas Biddulph, K.C.B., has conveyed to the Rev. C. F. Lowder, M.A., of St. Peter's Vicarage, London Docks, the gracious intimation of Her Majesty the Queen to a large number of clergymen and others in the East of London, that Her Majesty has called upon your Lordship to frame rules for the future administration of the Saint Katharine's Hospital.

That among the various charitable institutions and societies in the metropolis within whose province it falls to provide pensions to the sick and aged deserving poor, there are but few whose scope is not limited by numerous restrictions and conditions which prevent their being available for a large number of the poor, who are deserving of such charitable assistance, but are from many circumstances unable to fulfil the conditions under which applications for aid have to be made.

That there has been recently, in the districts of Whitechapel, Stepney, and Saint George-in-the-East, and also in Poplar, a large reduction in the outdoor relief granted by the Guardians; and that while the action of the Guardians has been instrumental in creating a spirit of self-reliance, and has in many instances strengthened the bonds of family affection and revived between members of the same household that natural charity which the lax administration of the Poor Law has a tendency to destroy, the funds of the charitable have had, by the withdrawal of outdoor relief, to afford assistance in those cases of deserving poverty caused by misfortune, old age, or sickness, in which an adequate pension was necessary.

That there is also, on other grounds, reason to believe that—distributed after careful and impartial inquiry, and in accordance with those just principles which a regard for the best interests of the poor, and a knowledge of the causes of their distress, would suggest—a Pension Fund would be at least one means of making less severe that hard lesson of provident habits which many of the clergy and ministers, the School Board, and, by a better administration, the Poor Law and charity, are each in their sphere inculcating.

Your Memorialists believe that such portion of the funds of the Saint Katharine's Hospital as may be considered available for eleemosynary purposes would be wisely and justly appropriated for affording, under due safeguards, small pensions for the deserving and provident poor in the East of London, so as to meet any exceptional distress that may be contingent on the laudable efforts of the Guardians to administer the Poor Law on sound and well-defined principles.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c.

He stated briefly the history and nature of the endowments of the St. Katharine's Hospital,* and pointed out that, though the

* The following may be of interest to our readers:—

ST. KATHARINE'S HOSPITAL.—A FEW WORDS ABOUT ITS HISTORY AND PROSPECTS.

Few who pass by St. Katharine's Hospital in the Regent's Park are aware that it represents a foundation older, with one or two exceptions,

buildings had been removed in George IV.'s time to the Regent's Park, it was evidently an East End charity, and was calculated to be used most beneficially in a neighbourhood which was the industrial suburb of London, and where there were no rich residents, and hardly any middle class. The Hospital had three separate functions—religious, educational, and charitable. The proposal contained in the memorial referred only to the latter; and it was the opinion of the Co-operation Sub-Committee that, while possibly some of the charitable funds of the Hospital should be utilised for the provision of nurses for the sick poor, or for other objects, a

than any College in Oxford or Cambridge, and a religious society founded by English Queens for the glory of God, and the edification of the poor inhabitants living round the Tower of London.

And yet the first Royal Hospital of St. Katharine was founded by Queen Matilda, the wife of King Stephen, in 1148. Queen Eleanor, wife of King Henry III., founded the Hospital anew in 1273. Queen Philippa, in 1351, gave it a fresh Charter setting forth the religious and charitable objects of the foundation.

The Hospital consisted of a Master and three Brethren, all in Priests' Orders, who were daily to perform divine service; three Sisters, who were to be present at the service and visit the sick and infirm living around; and ten poor women. Six poor scholars were to assist the Chaplains in the Church; and by Queen Eleanor's Charter considerable alms were to be given to the poor.

In succeeding reigns fresh benefactions were bestowed upon the Hospital, its franchises were enlarged, until in the time of Henry VIII. it reached its climax of prosperity, and though deprived of much of its property during his reign it survived, and Katharine Parr made her husband, Thomas Seymour, Master. This was the first instance of a lay Master, an irregularity which was acknowledged by the granting of dispensations in this and similar appointments.

The Sisters and poor women seem to have continued during these changes, and the clerical Brethren are mentioned in the time of Charles II. In 1698 Lord Somers, the Lord Chancellor, visited the Hospital, suspended the Master, made provision, in case of the revenues being increased, for additional members of the Community, and a school; directing the application of the remainder 'to such other good and charitable purposes as are suitable to the intentions of the Royal Founders.'

The Hospital in after years maintained its parochial character, the Brethren ministered to the people of the neighbourhood, a lecturer was supported partly by the parish and partly by the Hospital, and marriages, funerals, and other religious rites were performed in the Church belonging to it.

With many irregularities certainly, and shortcomings, yet for 700 years this Hospital did a good work among the seafaring and poor people around the Tower, until in 1828, to their great regret and in spite of their serious opposition, it was removed from the neighbourhood to make way for St. Katharine's Docks. The religious charitable assistance afforded by the Hospital was thus entirely lost to them.

£160,000 was paid by the Dock Company. £44,000 was spent in building a Church in Regent's Park, a Master's house, residences for three Brethren and three Sisters, a Schoolmaster, a Mistress, and dependants. The offices of the Master, Brothers and Sisters are, in the situation in which the Hospital stands, necessarily almost sinecures, the only gain to the public being the Church, the education of 50 to 60 boys and girls, and 40 pensioners of £10 a year each.

This is the present representative of the ancient 'Royal Hospital of St. Katharine's near the Tower;' this is the result of an income valued in 1865 at more than £7,000, and supposed capable of reaching the yearly sum of £15,000. Yet here is the nucleus of a religious society which might do incalculable good if restored to its original situation; here are revenues for educational purposes which, in the East of London, might find ample scope; here are charitable funds and ladies to superintend their application, whether for nursing, missionary, or kindred objects, which have been removed from the very districts which need them.

Yet the Report of the Royal Commission in 1869 entirely ignored these strong local claims, and merely suggested some trifling addition to the present machinery. The House of Lords, however, in 1871, took a different view and referred the Report back for reconsideration on the very question of these claims.

The post of Master of the Hospital, of which the Queen is Patron, having lately become vacant, the clergy and churchwardens of parishes in the East of London, to the number of 192, have memorialised Her Majesty, praying that these claims may be duly recognised. Her Majesty has graciously replied that, following the precedents of 1698 and 1829, she has called on the Lord Chancellor to frame rules for the future administration of the Hospital, and we hope that a scheme may now be prepared more

portion of the income might be devoted, with good results, to affording pensions, under stringent and salutary safeguards, to the sick and aged deserving and provident poor, to whom, wisely, outdoor relief was not given, but who might reasonably be considered suitable objects for charitable assistance.

Rev. H. G. Henderson seconded the resolution. The mismanagement of the St. Katharine's Hospital had for a long time been considered a grievance; but an opportunity for a reconsideration of the method of distributing its funds had now occurred. He was glad that the Council should make the suggestions contained in the memorial.

Mr. Russell Barrington moved the previous question. The whole subject of Charity pensions was essentially a vexed and disputed one, and he thought that the Council should not adopt any memorial respecting it. For a time it would perhaps be necessary to provide pensions to the old and infirm, but it was unadvisable to establish an endowment for the purpose; private charity alone should supply such assistance. Sir Charles Trevelyan had referred to the Tower Hamlets Pension Society; * a characteristic of that Society was, that it was to continue for a fixed period only.

Rev. R. J. Simpson said he believed the object of the Society was to raise the deserving poor. There were, in his experience, many aged people, men and women, whom misfortune had deprived of the means of providing for their old age, who were ashamed to beg or to take advantage of Poor Law relief. To assist them, endowments such as these were available. Personal charity was fluctuating; and though the benefits of almshouses were often abused, public opinion, which he believed was gradually becoming more and more favourable to wise and systematic almsgiving, would furnish a sufficient safeguard.

Mr. C. E. Maurice supported Mr. Russell Barrington's motion. He did not think that there was any reason for giving a preference to this use of charitable endowments. At a previous debate he had supported a proposal that District Committees should confer with the administrators of endowed charities, in order that, after due consultation between those most conversant with the wants of the locality, they might be better applied; but he was opposed to the Council giving preference to any one system.

After a few words from the Secretary, Mr. S. Fuller suggested that the opinion of the East End Committees in the memorial be specially invited; and he gave notice of the following amendment, viz.—

That the East End District Committees be requested to give their opinion as soon as possible on the memorial.

Dr. Daniel gave notice of the following amendment:—

That all expression of opinion on the much-disputed question of outdoor relief be withdrawn from the memorial, and that the words in the third paragraph, from 'guardians' to the 'funds of the charitable,' be omitted; also that the words in the fifth paragraph, after the word 'London,' be omitted.

The motion for the previous question having been put and lost, Mr. Fuller's amendment was seconded, and after a few words from the Rev. R. J. Simpson, put and lost, 4 voting for it and 10 against it.

Dr. Daniel then moved the amendment of which he had given

comprehensive of the great objects for which it was designed, and more considerate of the claims of that portion of the Metropolis in which it was originally situated.

On behalf of the Memorialists,

JOSEPH BARDSLEY.
EDMUND HAY CURRIE.
RICHARD FOSTER.
W. P. INSLEY.

HARRY JONES.
C. F. LOWDER.
EDWARD S. NORRIS.
ROBERT WIGRAM.

May 19, 1877.

Further information may be found in Ducarel's *History of St. Katharine's Hospital*, 1782; the Report of the Stepney Deanery, 1865; the Report of Mr. Skirrow, Charity Commissioner, printed by order of the House of Lords, June 1866; the Report of the Royal Commission (C 321) 1871, published by Eyre & Spottiswoode; an Article in *Fraser*, January 1867; Articles in the *Saturday Review*, July 15, 1871; February 13, 1875; April 28, May 12 and 19, 1877.

* Reporter, No. 210, p. 48.

notice, and which was seconded by Mr. W. M. Venning. He hoped the Council would consent to the omission of the words relating to outdoor relief. That question had already been discussed, and the Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on Charity and Out-relief, which had not been adopted by the Council, contained expressions almost precisely similar to those used in the parts of the memorial to which he objected. He did not believe that the withdrawal of such small sums as had been given to the poor in outdoor relief could tend to produce such good results as the memorial stated. Replying to a paper by Mr. A. G. Crowder, a guardian of St. George's in the East, published in *Reporter* No. 222, he said that it was there stated that private charity to the amount of about £200 a-year had in that district met the wants of the cases which were unsuitable for indoor relief and could not obtain, under a strict administration of the Poor Law, outdoor relief; and in the Report on Charity and Out-relief it was affirmed that there had been no destitution consequent on the reduction of outdoor relief. While approving therefore of the system of pensions which was proposed, he could not approve the reasons on which the proposal was made, or understand on what ground those who supported the motion supported also the recent report to which he had alluded.

A letter from Major Prendergast having been read, Sir Charles Trevelyan said that the proposed appropriation would be especially beneficial at the present time; and in reference to what Mr. Barrington had said, he was of opinion that the specific appropriation now suggested was in itself a protest against an endowment, unless proved really serviceable, being used in perpetuity for this or any other purpose. An opportunity for increasing the usefulness of the charity had occurred, and this proposal was entirely in accordance with the original aims of the endowment. The memorial was a simple statement of facts.

The amendment was then put and lost, 5 voting for it, 8 against it; and the motion for the adoption of the memorial was then carried, 12 voting for it, and 2 against it.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, July 7, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
'A. C. H.'	5	0	0	Broke, Horace, Esq.	2	2	0
Cameron, Lady Vere	1	0	0	Dionis Backchurch, St., Churchwardens of, per			
Leigh, Miss	1	0	0	J. Townsend, Esq.	2	2	0
Mowbray, Right Hon. J. R., M.P.	10	0	0	Fisher & Son, Messrs.	0	10	6
Murray, Hon. Sir C., K.C.B.	10	0	0	Fuller, S., Esq.	5	0	0
North, Mrs. Arabella	10	0	0	Fuller, W., Esq.	2	2	0
Sperling, H. G. M., Esq.	20	0	0	Moysey, H. G., Esq.	2	2	0
Stainton, T., Esq.	1	0	0	Peto, H., Esq.	1	0	0
Todd, R. J. S., Esq.	1	0	0	Steward, Capt.	3	0	0
Westminster, The Duke of, K.G.	200	0	0	Stewart, Dr. A. P.	1	1	0
Annual:—				Swinton, Hon. Mrs.	1	0	0
Barrow, A. M., Esq.	1	1	0	District Committee Aid Fund:—			
				Webster, R. E., Esq.	5	5	0

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of June 1877 was 35,903, and 42,300 received outdoor relief, making a total of 78,203. This was a decrease of 535 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 266, 6,378, and 15,483 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 600. This was a decrease of 39 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 29 on the corresponding day of last year.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.*—Major FitzRoy writes that he had said, at the debate at Council on this subject on the 20th instant, that he had understood from one of the guardians of St. George's, Hanover Square, that applications for boots and shoes to enable children to attend school would be treated precisely in the same way as applications for any other description of outdoor relief. He did not say that the practice of the guardians in that district was the same as that in force at Camberwell.

Vide Reporter, No. 223, p. 111.

'THE AMPLE FIELD OF PRIVATE CHARITY.'

The Right Hon. George Rose, M.P., in a pamphlet entitled 'Observations on the Poor Laws and on the Management of the Poor,' published by him in 1805, after comparing the compulsory contributions in aid of the State charity of the Poor Law with a compulsory assessment towards the national defence, writes: 'But is there not reason to apprehend that the utmost exertions of the charitable would be insufficient, and that there is in truth an ample field for the exercise of private charity in relieving respectable poverty which shrinks from the eye of the public? It should also be remembered that, in the donations of private charity, there is frequently a great misapplication of its bounty, and not always a good selection of its objects, arising from frauds and impositions which many individuals have neither leisure nor opportunity for detecting; but which well-regulated public charity can easily guard against.'

It is questionable whether State or public charity can claim the immunity from fraud which is here stated to be one of its advantages; but without doubt there is a well-defined division between the State charity and private charity; and those who have thoroughly inquired into cases of serious distress will be aware that the disregard of this division, while it lessens the 'usefulness of private charity,' enhances the difficulties of those who are labourers in that ample field, and sometimes, by the unjust measure meted out in consequence, makes charity appear to be synonymous with luck, and deprives the industrious poor of the assistance which is no less practically valuable to them because they are entitled to the proverbial reward of virtue.

It is almost an axiom of State charity that, excepting the afflicted classes, it is for the *relief* of the *destitute*. The Poor Law is not in itself preventive, remedial, or palliative. It has to provide to the destitute actual necessities; its relief is a *pis aller*, an alternative. The first condition of State relief is that 'the situation of the recipient should not on the whole be made really or apparently so eligible as the situation of the independent labourer of the lowest class.*' The Poor Law is bound to withdraw its aid if sufficient charitable relief is forthcoming. And as, against this simple strictness of the Poor Law, charity has ample scope, and can quickly turn to meet the most various wants in the most various ways, should she not keep the boundary line, and not, as at present, leave undone much that lies in her province, while she spends a large portion of her funds on those who, owing to her refusal to co-operate with the Poor Law, she chooses to consider her clients?

Many of the best-intentioned charities have a tendency to diminish the just responsibilities of State charity; and the unconscious attempt to do the work of the Poor Law entails an expensive and most difficult administration on those who have at heart the real interests of the poor.

There are many other charities, dealing with large numbers of children and in receipt of large funds from the public, which we may hereafter refer to, but the circumstances of a large and well-conducted charity such as the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum, the useful character of which is thoroughly well established, may be taken as illustrative of our remarks.

The Royal Albert Orphan Asylum is a large asylum situated near Bagshot. It was instituted in 1804 'to perpetuate the memory of the late Prince Consort,' and last year it accommodated 197 children. The management is certified by the 'Lancet Sanitary Commission' to be entirely satisfactory. There are two marked features in the constitution of the charity: that it makes provision for 'thoroughly destitute children,' and that it 'provides a means of rescuing from destitution some of those orphans whose friends and relatives are unable to support the canvass necessary to ensure election at the London Orphan Asylum, or similar institutions.' No canvassing is allowed, but subscribers have one vote for each half-guinea.

Before considering the former of these two points, it may be worth while to state what legal provisions have been made for the children of the poor—more especially since 1864. The Poor Law Amendment Act (7 & 8 Vic. c. 101), as amended by subsequent Acts, provides, amongst other things, for 'the combination of unions or parishes in school districts for the management of any class or classes of infant poor, not above the age of sixteen years, being chargeable to any such parish or union, who are orphans, or are deserted by their parents, or whose parents or surviving parent or guardians are consenting to the placing of such children in the school of the district.' In parishes or unions not combined in any school district, the guardians may send such children to a district school elsewhere, and pay the cost of their 'maintenance, employment, and instruction.'

Guardians may also (25 and 26 Vic. c. 43) send any poor child (as defined above) to any 'certified' school, supported wholly or partially by voluntary subscriptions, and may, out of the funds in their possession, pay the expenses incurred in the maintenance, clothing, and education of such child therein.

By the Poor Law Order of the 25th November 1870, guardians have power to 'board out' children who are orphans, or, being illegitimate, deserted by the mother or deserted by one parent, the other parent being dead, or under sentence of penal servitude, or suffering permanently from mental disease, or out of England. No child may be boarded out at an earlier age than two, or at a later age than ten years.

By the Elementary Education Acts of 1870 and 1876 further provision is made for the children of the poor. By the 17th section the school fees of any child whose parent is, in the opinion of the School Board, unable from poverty to pay the same, may be paid by the Board; and this payment is not deemed to be parochial relief. The 26th section further provides for the establishment of free schools, if such be considered necessary in any poor district, by the Education Department. The Elementary Education Act of 1870, by clause 10, provides that Boards of Guardians may, on application, pay threepence a week, or less, for the attendance at a public elementary school of any child whose parent, not being a pauper, is unable by reason of poverty to pay the ordinary fee, or part of the ordinary fee; and by clause 40 it amends the Elementary Education Act of 1873 as follows:—'When relief out of the workhouse is given by the Guardians or their order, by way of weekly or other continuing allowance to the parent of any child above the age of five years who has not reached the standard in reading &c., or who is prohibited by this Act from being taken into full-time employment, or is required under any bye-law under section 74 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870, as amended by this Act, to attend school, or to any such child, it shall be a condition for the continuance of such relief, that elementary education in reading, writing, and arithmetic shall be provided for such child, and the guardians shall give such further relief (if any) as may be necessary for that purpose.' The guardians may also, by the Metropolitan Poor Act of 1867, furnish ships for training boys for the sea service.

All the institutions provided by the State are under careful supervision and inspection.

It will be seen, therefore, without referring to the provisions for sending children to Industrial Schools under the Industrial School Act of 1866 and the Elementary Education Act of 1876, that Parliament has made ample provision for the education and maintenance of children whose parents are in receipt of parish relief, and has also done much to provide education for the children of those who are not in receipt of parish relief, in such a way as will, if possible, assist them to educate their children without being

* Report of Poor Law Commissioners, 1834, p. 228.

considered paupers. The Legislature therefore appears to have recognised the distinction which we urge, and to draw a line between cases suitable for Poor Law assistance and others; and it has thus recently placed, side by side with the provisions for the afflicted classes, provisions for the education of poor children, the assistance given in these cases not being considered pauper relief, though all other assistance from the rates continues to have that taint, which the deserving poor are always glad to have avoided.

At the election at the Royal Albert Asylum, Nov. 30, 1876, seven boys and seven girls were elected from a list sent to the subscribers containing the description of 92 boys and 40 girls, the cases of all of whom were, after investigation, found to be destitute. These are some of the cases:—

No. 1. A. W. A., aged 7 years. Father was an iron-welder; income £60 a year; five children unprovided for, aged 14, 12, 9, 7, 4, supported by mother, a needlewoman, assisted by the earnings of elder children, and receiving 5s. and 3 loaves weekly from the parish.

No. 3. C. J. H., aged 8 years. Father was a stoker in the Royal Navy; earned £4. 4s. a month. 4 children, aged 13, 8, 6, 3, supported by mother, who earns 7s. a week at a jute factory.

No. 10. R. J. E., aged 10 years. Father was a mechanic; earned 35s. a week. 2 children, aged 10, 8, supported by mother, a dress-maker in delicate health, receiving 2s. and 2 loaves a week from the parish.

No. 97. E. C., aged 8 years. Father was a tailor; earned about £50 a year. 4 children, aged 12, 8, 5, 3, supported by mother, a village schoolmistress, earning 5s. per week, and receiving 4s. 6d. parochial relief.

No. 106. E. M., aged 10 years. Father was a clicker; earned about 24s. a week. 5 children, aged 14, 12, 10, 8, 6. 3 unprovided for, supported by mother, a charwoman, earning about 5s. a week.

It is certainly well that these children, taken, some from the metropolis, some from the country, should, by a healthy industrial training, be placed in such a position as will enable them to begin the world with every prospect of remaining independent of State charity. But taking each case as a family, the question immediately suggests itself, whether some other principle of discrimination could not be introduced; whether those families, which from their circumstances appear likely to prove themselves 'above' applying to the parish, should not be assisted to preserve their status as 'poor,' and not 'pauper,' rather than that one more fortunate child should be elected to enjoy the advantages of a good institution while his parent still remains in receipt of parish relief. A careful consideration of the circumstances of one case will lead to the belief that in that case charitable help will only 'aid' the rates; a similar scrutiny of the facts of the history of another family will lead to a quite opposite conclusion.

There is no doubt that the bulk of charitable work on behalf of the deserving and industrious poor must always be done personally and privately, and those who have a large experience cannot but be aware of the difficulty of assisting wisely those families of which the principal breadwinner is dead, especially while woman's labour is so unremunerative. But yet a large number of these cases, which have been effectually dealt with, could not have been suitably aided without the help of orphanages and other similar institutions. It is obvious, therefore, if the charitable aim at 'raising the family,' that it is of very great importance that such assistance as charity can give should be carefully husbanded.

Close co-operation—the distribution of charitable labour—between such an institution as the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum and the charitable people in the locality from which the orphan received into the asylum, might happen to come would ensure that cases which there was no prospect of taking off the rates should, if assisted at all, be assisted last, and that, while one or more children were received by the asylum, efforts should be made to obtain for another child better work, to get, if possible, a better situation for the mother, and, by every means that investigation and kindly consideration could devise, to make the earnings of the family as large as possible, so that they may be made self-reliant and 'above applying to the rates.'

The following statement of the finances of the asylum will show how desirable it is that everything should be done to lessen the ex-

penses of the management of these institutions and of the machinery of admission.

In twelve years the donations and subscriptions amount to £71,333. The cost of the building was £20,000; maintenance of the children, £41,238; rent of London office, secretary, clerks, and collectors' poundage, £7,372; and printing, advertising, and postage, £11,554. These last two items of 'establishment charges' amount together to £18,926, which is more than 25 per cent. on the total receipts. This expense is described as being 'always unfortunately unavoidable in a charity which, so to speak, gets its own living. Undue economy in these items would be sure to result in a serious falling-off in an income which is already insufficient.'

The present annual income is about £5,500, and the average cost per head of each child for 1876 was £27. 17s. 8d., inclusive of rent & interest on the outlay for building.

The Charity Organisation Society is by its very *raison d'être* obliged to spend the bulk of its income in organisation. Many of its well-wishers are desirous that all the money received by it should be so spent, a gradually more and more comprehensive co-operation with the very numerous charitable institutions and individuals making its District Committees really serviceable centres of reference, through which such assistance as has been described may be procured. Would not the Society, if its members worked with a more genial liberality of spirit, be able to secure this vital co-operation, and thus supply to charitable institutions some of that machinery at least for which they have now to incur considerable expense? The relief and assistance which it is the duty of such useful institutions as the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum to afford would then be given to the recipients with as small a deduction as possible.

INDISCRIMINATE ALMSGIVING.

A FALLACY AND AN ARGUMENT.

'It is better to relieve 10 persons, without inquiry and at once, with what you have at your disposal, than to let one deserving person be passed by unheeded.'

This, which may be called the 10 to 1 fallacy, is frequently in the mouths of the opponents of Charity Organisation, the supporters of the prevalent system of almsgiving. But how is it a fallacy?

1. You have no opportunity for giving adequate and suitable help, unless you know the circumstances of each case; therefore, excepting the one case, which you hope may be deserving, you do not take any steps to do permanent good—that is to say, you prefer not to take steps to do permanent good, since possibly one case out of the 10 is deserving. If you do take steps to do permanent good in all cases, your one case comes in for a certain chance of help.

2. But do you give the right sort of help? You give a shilling, or half-a-crown, or whatever you find convenient, to each—that is, you give the thing most convenient to yourself, and not what you have reason to believe is best for the applicant. Or, to put it differently, you do a certain harm, or at least commit what may be a useless, and therefore wasteful act (as a sort of charity) in 9 cases, in order that you may do a possible good in one case. In 9 cases are you sure you are doing good; you allow that there is the probability that in 9 cases you are doing harm.

3. You do not know, you say, of any means of doing permanent good; but your shilling may be the means of giving the applicant another chance. True, it may be so. But you have no knowledge—you do not attempt to ensure—that it will be so. On the contrary, you allow that it may be 10 to 1 that it is not so.

4. But, you say, the money—*good* money—must get the wherewithal to fill the fellow's belly; it must do that amount of good. Not at all; it may do that amount of harm. The fellow cannot, as things are, get his own livelihood, and you give him a meal that he may feed to-day—and starve to-morrow. Unless, perhaps, trusting to his luck, he may get help to-morrow from another who shares your opinions. And do you approve of his living on *luck* charity instead of on his own earnings, that you fill his belly to his own destruction, making your

charity a reason for his thinking, 'to-morrow shall be as to-day; by hook or by crook I shall get enough?' The man wants the means of getting his livelihood, and you—give him a shilling that he may become an habitual mendicant. Could charity be more selfishly cruel?

5. But you say—'Shall he starve?' No, not if you can help it. But your shilling gives him a meal to-day that he may starve, possibly, to-morrow. If you think it best, give your shilling, friend, by all means. But does your shilling represent your charity to a man in distress? Go, learn all about him, and treat him like a man, and take trouble on his behalf; strengthen him in his weakness; aid him when he is tempted; give to him and his fifty things, if they will benefit him; and if you have any influence over him, and have friends who can help you, make him, from a beggar, a man; and make yourself from a charitable spendthrift a good physician. If you think it better to give money than to send the man to a lodging, or a refuge, or the workhouse, give money; to your 10 men give your 10 shillings—one apiece; but then, whatever you do, inquire what their circumstances are; learn what is the best way to help them, and, if you cannot help them, at least do not injure them by a thriftless—not charity—but fatal semblance of charity.

The Charity Organisation Society, if properly supported, will afford means of inquiring without injury or publicity; and, if the case is deserving, of helping it to the best advantage, suitably and adequately.

'RECKLESS GIVING MAKES RECKLESS LIVING.'

The following is an abstract read by Mr. E. Bond at a meeting convened by the Lambeth Committee in March last:—

If the Charity Organisation Society had been casting about for a motto at the time of its foundation, it could, perhaps, hardly have found a better than this—'Reckless giving makes reckless living.' Organised charity aimed at restoring the person relieved to a state of independence; unorganised charity aimed at palliation rather than cure, and deepened the weakness it professed to aid. Much of ordinary charity was reckless. To give to able-bodied people in the ordinary emergencies of existence was to adopt a despairing view of the possibilities of a labourer's life, and to encourage him to rely on the fitful help of the rich to tide him over ordinary difficulties. In this way the independence of the class was destroyed. Thought and knowledge were needed for really beneficial help, and such knowledge was of three kinds—of the facts of any given case, of the principles which should guide us in dealing with that case, and, finally, of a multitude of matters which might suggest ways and means of assistance. Very few people had either kind of knowledge in perfection. We were too apt to suppose we knew all about a case, because the face or name of the applicant was familiar. Very few had a steady grip of principles, or any sure sight of the remote consequences of ill-advised almsgiving. Very few, again, had that knowledge of local endowments, of the terms on which emigrants could be assisted, or poor London families transplanted to quiet manufacturing villages, which would often be useful in determining the best form of relief. He did not wish to be understood as condemning indiscriminately all forms of almsgiving. There were many cases in which all would agree that it would be beneficial to go on providing pensions for deserving poor who were past work; making loans or grants to provide outfits for service, or to assist emigration, or to provide expensive surgical instruments. But in all cases the main point to consider was whether the relief was likely to be of permanent use, and to lift the recipient out of a state of chronic mendicancy. Combination between all charitable agencies was required—between the guardians, the clergy, the district visitors, and the Charity Organisation Society. Relief had better not be given by district visitors at their own discretion, but all cases should be considered by a relief committee of experienced persons. It would be well to appoint a kind of captain of district visitors, whose business it should be to amass information, train the less experienced visitors, and attend the meetings of the Relief Committee, the Charity Organisation Society, and, if possible, the Board of Guardians. Such a scheme had been found to work well in other parts of London. Mr. Bond concluded by expressing a belief that if those who think and feel and work for the poor in each particular district could be brought into active and hearty co-operation, much might be done towards thinning the ranks of that ignoble army of paupers which crowd the workhouse wards and throng about the workhouse gates.

NON-PAUPER HOSPITALS.—Dr. Rygate, in a recent report to the Sanitary Committee of the St. George's Vestry, said that, in dealing with infectious diseases, the accommodation for the non-pauper class was both unsuitable and insufficient. Nine-tenths of those who had lately been sent to the Poor-law Asylums were truly non-paupers, and had been pauperised by receiving such relief.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE CASES.

[We propose publishing, in the monthly numbers of the REPORTER, short statements of some of the cases dealt with by the District Committees of the Society, which may be of interest as examples of the method of the Society's work, and of the practical application of its principles.]

The following cases have been forwarded by the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee:—

(1) J. D., No. 3311, a carman, aged 33, wife aged 33. Three children, aged 6, 4, and 2. J. D. earns 24s. a week. Applies for means to buy a spinal support for the child aged 6. J. D. belongs to the Foresters' Club, he is a steady, hard-working man, and good character. Ticket given to the Provident Surgical Appliance Society, with a letter asking what would be the whole cost of the instrument required. Answer received that it would be £4. 10s. A lady who was interested in the case gave one-half of this, and the Committee voted the remainder.

(2) John Donohue applied to the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee, on November 3, 1876. He stated that he was 43 years of age, had been born in India, his father had risen from the ranks and died as a Captain in the Royal Engineers in 1864. He had served in the Commissariat in India and in the Abyssinian Campaign, up to 1875, when he was struck with paralysis; from this he partially recovered and was employed on one of the Indian railways, but becoming worse was advised to come to England for treatment. His passage was paid by the Government, but he was not entitled to any retiring allowance. He arrived in England in July, destitute and without a relation. He had one friend in humble circumstances, but he was able to do but little for him. He produced letters and certificates in proof of the truth of his statements. Temporary assistance was granted him, and inquiries were made at the India Office. From these it appeared that his story was correct, and that he had applied for a pension, but that there was very little hope of his getting it. A little temporary work was obtained for him, but he was unable to do it, and on November 15 he went into King's College Hospital, the Committee paying the usual 2s. a week for washing, &c. He was discharged from King's College Hospital on December 1, and on the 2nd the Committee gave him a letter for the Hospital for Paralysis, Queen's Square, and he was admitted on the 5th December, the Committee as before paying the necessary 2s. a week. At first there appeared good hope of his recovery, but in May he had a relapse, and died on July 4, when the Committee made a final grant of £3. 16s. to pay for his funeral.

(3) E. B., No. 3313. A woman called at the office, producing a telegram from Brighton telling her that if she wished to see her daughter alive she must come at once. Her account of herself was that she had been a servant, but was now out of place, and had not the means to pay the railway fare. Her ticket was taken for her, and on subsequent inquiry at Brighton it was found that her story was perfectly true.

AN EXTRACT FROM MACAULAY'S LETTERS.

CHARITY AND GENTLE EMPLOYMENT.—My father is at me again to provide for P. What on earth have I to do with P.? The relationship is one which none but Scotchmen would recognise. The lad is such a fool that he would utterly disgrace my recommendation. And, as if to make the thing more provoking, his sisters say that he must be provided for in England, for that they cannot think of parting with him. This, to be sure, matters little, for there is at present just as little chance of getting anything in India as in England.

But what strange folly this is that meets me in every quarter, people wanting posts in the army, the navy, the public offices, and saying that if they cannot find such posts they must starve! How do all the rest of mankind live? If I had not happened to be engaged in politics, and if my father had not been connected, by very extraordinary circumstances, with public men, we should never have dreamed of having places. Why cannot P. be apprenticed to some hatter or tailor? He may do well in such a business; he will do detestably ill as a clerk in any office. He may come to make good coats; he will never, I am sure, write good despatches. There is nothing truer than Poor Richard's saw: 'We are taxed twice as heavily by our pride as by the State.' The curse of England is the obstinate determination of the middle classes to make their sons what they call gentlemen. So we are overrun by clergymen without livings; lawyers without briefs; physicians without patients; authors without readers; clerks soliciting employment who might have thriven and been above the world as bakers, watchmakers, or innkeepers. The next time my father speaks to me about P. I will offer to subscribe twenty guineas towards making a pastrycook of him. He had a sweet tooth when he was a child.—*Macaulay's Life and Letters*, vol. i., pp. 330, 331.

FOREIGN.

NEW YORK.—*Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.*—In their annual report for 1876—their thirty-third—the Committee state that during the thirty-four years of its existence the Association has expended \$1,728,475, and relieved 274,623 families. It has now a staff of 572 workers. The city 'is first divided by wards, which are subdivided into 371 sections, with a visitor for each; and each ward has, moreover, a select committee of five persons, 110 in all, men of ability and integrity, specially fitted for the service, whose duties are supervisory and executive.' With just pride the Association reviews the labours of the past. 'In 1845 it drew attention to the wretched sanitary state of the houses of working people, and laboured to bring about reform in this direction. In 1848 it elaborated plans for tenement houses, which were lithographed, and extensively distributed amongst capitalists and builders.' 'In 1857 it instituted further investigations in respect to defective dwellings, cellar-residences, sewerage, drainage, and filthy streets.' 'In 1855, the "Working-Men's Home" was erected under its auspices by a few of its philanthropic members, at an expense of \$90,000.' 'In 1849 it investigated the condition of the neglected children of the metropolis, and by co-operating in the foundation of the Juvenile Asylum in 1851, and the passage of the "Truant Act" in 1853, it helped greatly to benefit this suffering class.' 'Thus it will be seen that the labours of the Association have kept pace with the growth of the city and the demands upon its resources. Were it simply an eleemosynary organisation, conducted merely to distribute alms, neither this record nor the prospect of increased labour in the future, within its chosen field, would be cheering. But the work of the Association is preventive rather than palliative. It acts on the principle of good farming, which produces harvests out of poor soil by proper stimulants, without which the best seed would be wasted.'

TORONTO.—*Employment.*—The following is taken from a letter recently received: 'I herewith send you a copy of the report of our "Shelter for the Homeless" for the past winter. A Poor Law has become a great necessity in this country. There is still a great want of employment here, and it will really be a great mercy to poor people who follow the lighter employments, if you will do all you can to dissuade them from coming out. *Farmers with some means is the only class of immigrants needed here at present.*'

HOLLAND.—*Free Medical Relief and Provident Dispensaries.*—According to my promise, I write to give you some particulars about medical relief in Rotterdam. I have not been able to do so earlier, because I had to gather some information which I thought rather important to illustrate the relief in general.

Of course, medical relief is also connected with the chief Dutch charitable institutions, the Diaconies. Among these the largest are the Reformed Protestant and the Roman Catholic; the former with three physicians and two surgeons, the latter with three and three. The Diaconies give gratuitous medical assistance to the poor who are in receipt of outdoor relief (denominational), and I believe there is no danger of their giving it indiscriminately.

Besides the Diaconies, the Poor-law administration has a free dispensary. Anyone may apply at the offices in the morning; his case is attended to; the applicant gets the necessary relief, either for four days or for eight days, according to circumstances. In the meantime the case is inquired into, and if the patient belongs to a class who can afford to pay for medical treatment, the case is dismissed, and the patient has to join some provident dispensary. In order not to run the risk of neglecting a patient, it is thought important to assist any applicant during the first four days. The system of investigation being known, we seldom get applicants able to contribute to a provident society. As a rule, a weekly income under £1 for a married couple with children is considered such as to justify gratuitous relief. I subjoin a list of the last 30 cases.

As soon as the pecuniary means of the applicant appear to allow of a contribution to a provident society, the Poor-law administration urges him to enter it. I must remark that these provident societies are badly organised, with few exceptions. They are not co-operative; the persons constituting the board collect the weekly contributions, pay the doctors, and try to make a profit for themselves. So they want to get many members, and do not care for the social position of the contributors, the doctor being the sufferer. As a natural consequence, the doctor very often neglects his patients, and it is sometimes difficult to enlist good practitioners, the ablest generally refusing to accept such an appointment. In the rules of a large number of these institutions I met but once with a clause by which the better classes are excluded. The society where this stipulation is made is the best specimen, with a board of medical men, assisted by ten doctors and seven surgeons.

The highest weekly contribution is 10 cents (2d.), and for children under 16 years of age 4 cents.

I read in your paper that in London medical men are seriously affected by the free use of free dispensaries; here, they often have to be satisfied with the stipendium of the society, instead of receiving from certain members the professional fees they are entitled to.

If patients suffer from severe illnesses, or have to undergo operations, they can enter the City Hospital (with about 200 beds for gratuitous treatment). In this instance, again, every case is investigated, this mode having been adopted about six months ago. If the patient can pay for the relief, the hospital administration recovers the money afterwards. I find that improper applications are very rare.

I think I may infer from these statements that there is little to alter in the working of gratuitous medical relief; on the other hand, I must confess that provident societies are greatly in need of reorganisation. It seems difficult to prevent people from entering societies with low contributions and bad treatment. A minute investigation, and the publication of the abuses, might be useful.

I hope that these particulars will give you some idea of our medical relief. Should anything be wanting, I shall be very happy indeed to complete them, or to make further inquiries.

MEDICAL CHARITIES.

PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.—*Fulham.*—The Fifth Annual Report of the Fulham Sick Club—not the best title, we should have thought—shows a large increase of benefit members. 583 persons 'have joined the club during the year's course, making with their families an addition of nearly two thousand individuals admitted in the past year to the benefits of the Institution. This raises the total number of those who have been beneficially interested in the club since its commencement to nearly 6,000 persons.' £436. 9s. was paid by members, and £27. 8s. 6d. received from subscribers. Every member above 14 pays one penny, and under that age one halfpenny per week. Twopence per week is considered sufficient for a man and his wife and all their children under 14 years of age. Eligible servants pay five shillings a year, and arrangements are made for the attendance of a medical officer at confinements.

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.—*Report for 1876.*—The Report is a simple record of facts connected with the certified and probationer-nurses at St. Thomas's Hospital. 65 probationers attended during the year, making up to the end of 1876 a total of 431 who have been admitted into the school at the hospital, and of these 256 have been registered as certified nurses. During the year 12 probationer-nurses were admitted to be trained for the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association, with a view to their being employed in the work of nursing the poor at their own homes.

CONVALESCENT HOME.—*Hope Cottage, Hampton Court.*—Lady Bouchie receives four invalids. 'The inmates are to be women, from London, of good character—(or sometimes a child)—of the class of servants, needlewomen, or tradespeople. They defray their own journey, and pay (in advance) five shillings a week. A lady sending an invalid pays seven shillings and sixpence a week for her, but no entrance money.' No infectious cases and no cases of serious illness received.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct free 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 225.

THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 19, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, July 19	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 23	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, " 24	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
	3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Wednesday, " 25	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday, " 26	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

CONVALESCENT LETTERS.—Letters for seaside, and other convalescent homes, are much wanted.

THE 'REPORTER.'—The *Charity Organisation Reporter* is published weekly during the sittings of Council. The monthly number of the *Reporter* is published on the second Thursday in each month throughout the year. Contributors of £5 and upwards to the funds of the Council, or to those of any of the Committees of the Society, can have the *Reporter* free.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.—During the months of August and September the Administrative Committee will meet at 2 P.M. on Thursdays.

NORTH ST. PANCRA.—Mr. T. J. Maude has been appointed one of the representatives of this Committee.

NOTICE TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

GRANTS.—District Committees likely to require grants from the District Committee Aid Fund before the 30th September next, in accordance with their estimates for the year 1876-7, are requested to send in their applications to the Secretary not later than Tuesday, the 26th instant.

The following business stands for Monday, the 23rd inst.:

1. To adopt the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee:

That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants to the St. George-in-the-East Committee, at their discretion, to the amount of

£31, the remainder of the estimated deficit of that Committee for the current year.

2. To adopt the Report of the Sub-Committee on Personal Work among the Poor.

3. To consider and adopt the report of the Districts Sub-Committee on Adequate Relief.*

EMPLOYMENT.—Messrs. Griswold & Hamworth, 9 Denman Street, S.E., require one or two respectable young women as operators in the manufacture of hosiery (socks and stockings) by a patented machine.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, July 16, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Mr. A. H. Hill, and subsequently Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the Chair).

PADDINGTON:—G. Charles, J. R. Hollond.
CHERLSEA:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., R. A. Aspinall.

ST. JAMES'S and SOHO:—W. Bevan, H. Peto, W. Bousfield.

NORTH ST. PANCRA:—A. N. Butt.

SOUTH ST. PANCRA:—C. A. Reiss.

HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.

STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill.

HOLBORN:—W. Sheepshanks, G. B. Baker.

CITY:—Rev. W. H. Lyall.

SHOREDITCH:—Rev. H. G. Henderson.

BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. C. Kirton.

ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—J. Sapsford.

STEPNEY:—A. C. Mitchell.

MILE END:—Major E. D. Nares, H. N. Dowson.

POPLAR:—R. Ellis, A. D. Graham.

ST. SAVIOUR'S:—R. Barrington.

LANBETH:—W. M. Venning.

CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.

WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.

LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramly, R. V. Tidman.

VICE-PRESIDENT:—F. D. Mocatta.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, S. Fuller, Dr. Hawksley.

SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.

VISITOR:—Wallace Rogers.

TOTAL:—34.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, July 12. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the chair; Major Nares, Capt. Fortescue, Messrs. Bevan, Tidman, Venning, and Wood.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending June 30 the receipts had been £280. 0s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £5. 5s. 0d. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £350. 0s. 10d. and £40. 11s. 3d. respectively, £7. 19s. 5d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—That grants had been made to the following Committees:—Fulham, £15; Shoreditch, £20; the total amount granted since the 1st of October last, inclusive of the above sums, being £90 and £50 respectively. That a sum of £30 had also been lent to the Islington Committee.

ST. KATHARINE'S HOSPITAL.—The following signatures had been appended to the Memorial:—†

Duke of Westminster, K.G., The Earl Stanhope, Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., Lord Claud Hamilton, Lord Leigh, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Bart., K.C.B., Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., Sir U. J. Kay-Shuttleworth, Bart., M.P., Sir Douglas Forsyth, Cardinal Manning, Hon. T. F. Fremantle, M.P., Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Hon. R. C. Moreton, A. McArthur, M.P., W. McArthur, M.P., W. Forsyth, M.P., J. G. Talbot, M.P., H. B. Praed, M.P., Albert Pell, M.P., P. Ralli, M.P., A. Mills, M.P., H. Fawcett, M.P., Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Capt. Boyce, R.N., Rev. C. Kirton, Rev. W. H. Lyall, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Dr. Hawksley, Messrs. Baker, Ellis, Graham, Bousfield, H. H. Hill, Venning, Hollond, Wilkinson, Wood, Sheepshanks, Montgomerie, Holford, Smith, Lawrence, Bevan, Hooper, and Aspinall.

* *Reporter*, No. 218, p. 92.

† *Reporter*, No. 224, p. 116.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on July 10 there had been present :—

Mr. Bousfield, in the chair; Miss Howes, Messrs. Barrington, Crowder, and Edgcombe.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on July 10 there had been present :—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Capt. Gardner, and Miss Howes.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in the absence of members of the Sub-Committee, moved the adoption of the Report of the Sub-Committee, appointed by the Council on March 5, to re-consider the Report on House-to-House Visitation, adopted by the Council in July 1870. He said that the Committee, which reported in 1870, had made an excellent statement of the objects to be aimed at in visiting the poor. But their suggestions had not been sufficiently practical. The recommendations of the Sub-Committee were as follows :—

1. That, with a view to the greater efficiency and permanency of their work, the District Committees be recommended to enlist the services of volunteer visitors, who shall visit and, where desirable, keep up friendly intercourse with those persons whose cases may have been investigated at the District Office.

2. That in order to dissociate as far as possible the idea of almsgiving from this visiting, and to make it plain that they go amongst the poor 'simply as friends,' the visitors shall not, except under very special circumstances, act as almoners for the Committees.

3. That, for the reason indicated in the preceding recommendation, it shall not be considered necessary for the visitors to be members of the District Committee, but that they shall be cordially invited to attend its meetings.

4. That the visitors keep constantly before them the importance of establishing friendly relations between themselves and all those who may be working amongst the poor in connection with other agencies.

One important principle touched upon in the previous report was made prominent in this, viz. that poor persons should not be visited unless on some definite errand, or unless acquaintance had been previously made with them, or unless there was some special reason for believing that the visit would be acceptable. It was most necessary that friendly visits should take the place of visitation combined with almsgiving. The Society's work had shown that the help of visitors in looking after cases that had been assisted, so that when desirable further aid might be given them, was indispensable. It was most desirable to connect the visitors of a district with the District Committee.

Mr. J. Sapsford seconded the motion.

Mr. J. R. Hollond considered that the principle alluded to by Sir Charles Trevelyan was of the highest importance; but he disapproved the second recommendation of the Sub-Committee, and would prefer the following :—

That while it is very desirable that the responsibility of giving relief should be fully understood not to rest with the visitors, it may, in many cases, be expedient that the visitor should be the agency to convey the assistance which has been decided upon by the Committee.

One difficulty of linking a district visiting system to the Committees of the Society was the difficulty of arranging that the visitors should report to, and act under the supervision of, the Committee. He did not think this a fatal objection, but something would have to be done to secure supervision. In Paddington visitors dealt with specially difficult cases, cases in which loans were given, or in which personal aid was necessary. He objected to one or two expressions in the report, and would be glad to have it modified in the sense he suggested.

Mr. Bevan considered the report admirable, but feared lest the recommendations it contained would prove inoperative.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta said that the report appeared to be of a most useful and practical nature. The intercourse between the poor and the rich—the great mass of poor in the East End, and those who could not but appear rich by comparison—was most difficult; and yet such intercourse was often the only means of doing good.

Rev. R. J. Simpson hoped that the District Committees would, after the recess, spare no effort to carry out the suggestions contained in the report.

Mr. T. Copeman said that in visiting in Upper Clapton during the last four years, he had made it a rule never to give money, and his

visits were, he believed, acceptable to the poor—at least the reception he received was encouraging.

Mr. Russell Barrington feared lest the recommendations of the Committee would tend to the formation of district visiting societies in places in which such societies were already at work. It would be more in accordance with the Society's principle of gaining the co-operation of existing charitable institutions, and not establishing new agencies, to make use of these in the first instance.

Mr. A. D. Graham agreed generally with what Mr. Hollond had said. The difficulty of the intercourse between rich and poor would be almost insuperable if there were not 'an agency in reserve to which recourse might be had when the exceptional circumstances occurred in which it was right that the rich should come to the succour of the poor.' With regard to what Mr. Barrington had said, it would be a special instruction to the visitors acting in connection with the District Committees of the Society to co-operate with the visitors working among the poor. He believed that thus they would be the means of utilising existing agencies, as Mr. Barrington suggested.

Mr. Galabin said the Camberwell Committee was largely composed of members of district visiting societies. They were of great service in visiting and assisting cases, and though they would be inclined to give more than the report would recommend, they would, he thought, generally agree with it.

After a few words from the Secretary and a short reply from Sir Charles Trevelyan, it was decided to request the Sub-Committee to re-consider the report, with a view to modifying it in the manner suggested by Mr. Hollond; and to submit it to the Council for final settlement on the 23rd instant, Mr. S. Fuller giving notice that he would, on that day, move that the recommendation of the Sub-Committee be not sent to the District Committees till the beginning of the next session.

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The Secretary having read letters from the Kensington, Chelsea, Holborn, Hackney, Woolwich, St. Olave's, Stepney, and the St. James' Soho Committees on the Annual Report of the Districts Sub-Committee,* Mr. A. H. Hill moved:

That the Districts Sub-Committee be requested to report upon the present degree of uniformity of organisation attained by the District Committees of this Society, and to make any recommendations they may think necessary for the more effectually carrying out the work of the Society in all parts of the metropolis.

He alluded to the small number of replies from District Committees on the important issues raised by the report of the Districts Sub-Committee, and remarked that the defects dwelt upon in the report were not defects to which prominence was given by doctrinaire critics, but by a Sub-Committee composed of active members of District Committees. The Society had undertaken a great responsibility in attempting to institute a Charity organisation parallel to the Poor Law organisation, and the Council must be prepared to put such pressure on the Committees as would make that responsibility felt. This Charity organisation was the first work; and the Council should give its attention to it rather than to reports on various useful but somewhat miscellaneous subjects. More unity and uniformity were necessary—both in detail and in principle.

Mr. Bousfield seconded the motion. He agreed with much that Mr. Hill had said, and considered the Society, in attempting to deal with those cases for which no existing charitable agency appeared to be suitable, held a most responsible position. He feared, however, it would be impossible for the Sub-Committee to report till November.

Mr. J. R. Hollond said that the Districts Sub-Committee were doing all in their power to promote greater unity and efficiency in the District Committees, and he regretted that, their time being already fully occupied, they should be asked to draw up another report. He would move the previous question.

Mr. R. Barrington pointed out some of the leading difficulties of Charity organisation work; and Rev. R. J. Simpson, the Secretary, and Mr. H. H. Hill having spoken briefly, it was determined that the Secretary should draw the attention of the Districts Sub-Committee, at their next meeting, to Mr. A. H. Hill's motion, and to the discussion upon it.

The Council then adjourned.

* See Reporter, No. 209, p. 41.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, July 14, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Phillimore, Rt. Hon. Sir	£	s.	d.
Boyson, A. P., Esq.	10	10	0	R. J.	2	2	0
Hawkins, Caesar H., Esq.	3	0	0	Scames, Mrs.	5	0	0
'Leamington' (second donation)	50	0	0	Annual:—			
Malville, Major Whyte	50	0	0	Boyson, A. P., Esq.	2	2	0
Monro, Miss I. J.	1	13	6	Clothworkers' Company	21	0	0
Mount Edgcumbe, The Earl of	25	0	0	Dalton, J. B., Esq.	1	1	0
Paley, Miss	5	0	0	Leicester, The Earl of, K.G.	10	0	0

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of June, compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of May 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week May	4th week June	4th week May	4th week June
Kensington	1,008	968	382	369
Fulham	397	400	638	581
Paddington	781	778	976	963
Chelsea	881	834	412	324
St. George's	1,785	1,730	1,573	1,491
Westminster	753	742	296	292
St. Marylebone	2,394	2,262	2,003	1,953
Hampstead	178	162	89	87
St. Pancras	2,800	2,758	4,735	4,696
Islington	1,332	1,299	2,482	2,401
Hackney	861	832	2,011	1,906
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury	1,179	1,153	588	565
Strand	730	721	303	311
Holborn	2,543	2,503	3,802	3,654
City of London	2,054	1,934	2,968	2,860
Shoreditch	1,143	1,084	831	811
Bethnal Green	1,458	1,345	641	640
Whitechapel	1,116	1,022	148	152
St. George's, East	1,136	1,078	124	105
Stepney	879	871	219	190
Mile End Old Town	819	820	637	555
Poplar	1,113	1,080	1,724	1,708
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,400	2,309	2,737	2,701
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,438	1,391	2,424	2,256
Lambeth	1,628	1,571	3,096	3,024
Wandsworth and Clapham	922	909	1,508	1,516
Camberwell	1,136	1,115	1,332	1,303
Greenwich	1,303	1,279	2,079	2,072
Woolwich	748	679	2,305	2,275
Lewisham	293	274	566	539
Total	37,208	35,903	43,629	42,300

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of July 1877 was 35,789, and 41,780 received outdoor relief, making a total of 77,569. This was a decrease of 634 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876 this was an increase of 41, but a decrease of 5,903 and of 15,885 as compared with the years 1875 and 1874. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 451. This was a decrease of 149 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 15 on the corresponding day of last year.

RETURNS FOR JUNE.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the five weeks ending Saturday, June 30, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under-servicing	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise Ineligible	Class total	The Guardians or local institutions or agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total				
Kensington	27	22	21	70	..	7	7	14	30	7	26	63	147	11	3	7
Fulham	4	1	..	5	..	1	9	10	4	..	..	10	25	25	1	44
Paddington	8	4	16	28	10	2	12	27	27	6	17	60	102	77	23	5
Chelsea	2	1	16	19	5	5	3	10	7	3	3	20	49	46	16	5
St. George's: G. Committee	7	1	5	13	..	6	3	11	8	1	2	2	13	181	22	4
W. Committee	5	4	19	28	..	24	6	32	25	2	3	30	127	37	11	..
St. James's and Soho, Westminster	3	4	4	11	8	4	12	1	1	..	..	2	25	22	34	4
St. Marylebone	7	4	13	24	3	31	23	67	13	7	13	33	114	2	56	..
Hampstead	4	2	2	6	1	5	..	6	4	3	..	9	21	4	10	66
North St. Pancras	7	1	2	10	..	34	4	38	..	2	2	..	56	14	14	2
South St. Pancras	15	10	20	45	2	54	16	72	..	2	4	10	127	31	32	..
Salisbury	9	5	9	23	1	23	23	106	5	3	1	9	146	100	47	4
Hackney Union	..	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	17	14	..	17	32
St. Giles's & Blooms- bury	6	2	9	17	1	22	2	25	3	1	4	8	50	12	38	..
Strand	3	9	3	15	..	9	..	9	2	3	..	5	29	53	47	138
Holborn	4	3	11	18	1	63	4	68	2	1	..	3	80	18	51	7
City	3	1	2	6	..	14	5	19	7	2	..	9	34	25	165	226
Shoreditch	6	4	17	27	..	7	6	13	10	4	1	2	17	57	14	34
Bethnal Green	9	4	32	45	..	1	1	2	13	2	..	3	65	43	22	2
Whitechapel	11	4	19	34	3	10	4	17	8	2	..	12	63	46	50	..
St. George's-in-the- East	8	4	19	31	1	15	7	23	10	6	..	22	76	18	31	2
Stepney	11	3	16	30	..	7	4	11	..	2	1	3	44	39	33	..
Mile End Old Town	2	..	16	18	..	6	5	11	3	..	..	6	33	13	25	..
Poplar	12	2	17	31	1	10	6	17	5	2	2	12	60	31	22	..
St. Saviour's	3	5	12	20	..	1	4	5	14	7	1	..	23	48	16	16
Newington	8	1	9	18	..	3	3	6	1	4	4	9	33	16	15	1
St. Olave's	6	2	10	18	..	4	10	14	12	1	2	..	47	13	15	22
Lambeth	11	3	13	27	..	2	..	2	9	3	..	12	41	10	48	..
Brixton	4	..	..	4	..	..	1	1	3	..	..	5	10	2	10	2
Wandsworth and Put- ney	1	1	3	5	1	3	..	4	5	1	..	10	19	20	10	41
Battersea	5	3	9	17	1	4	2	7	5	5	1	11	35	14	5	68
Clapham	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	4	..	..	1	7	10	10	40
Camberwell	1	2	4	7	2	10	4	16	2	..	2	4	40	6	9	..
Grove Lane	..	1	5	6	3	3	2	5	1	..	1	2	10	2	13	7
Peckham	..	..	5	5	..	3	1	4	8	6	..	4	18	27	13	69
Greenwich	3	3	2	8	..	2	1	3	2	1	..	3	14	3	4	6
Deptford	2	4	5	11	..	1	2	3	1	3	3	4	11	25	23	12
Woolwich	1	1	2	4	..	2	..	2	2	1	7	4	14	30	11	116
Lewisham	2	1	2	4	..	2	..	2	2	1	3	4	11	22	11	109
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	3	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	5	9	1	3	32
Totals	221	119	375	715	22	472	174	665	259	96	67	115	547	1930	1079	999

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

MARYLEBONE.—*The Clergy and Charity Organisation.*—The Rev. Henry Geary, in his Annual Address to the Parishioners and Congregation of St. Thomas's, Portman Square, speaking of his 'Poor Relief Fund,' writes:—

'I spoke so fully last year upon the administration of this fund, that it will only be necessary now to say that its rules continue to be in all respects the same. The Relief Committee still meets every Monday at 5.30 p.m., in the Vestry of the Church, and with the exception of urgent cases arising during the week, no money or tickets are given away until voted by the Committee—after a thorough consideration of all the bearings of each case—thus removing from the shoulders of the District Visitors a most onerous responsibility, and enabling them to act more as the visiting friends of the poor than merely distributors of alms. Each fresh case is thoroughly investigated by the agency of the Charity Organisation Society.

'I cannot speak too strongly of the immense assistance received by us from this admirable Society; and it seems almost a duty to lose no opportunity of clearing away some of the misconceptions which so many have of its work. The Society, I am persuaded, could have no enemies if it were really understood. It does not attempt to interfere in any way whatever with the management of any charity or fund. It simply offers itself as an inquiring machinery and medium of communication. As such it gratuitously investigates every single case brought to its notice, whether by societies, private individuals, or the applicants themselves. If such investigation prove the case to be eligible for help, the Society endeavours to bring it under the notice of any persons or institutions able to give such aid, or in the last resort, and only if there is no one else able or willing to relieve, it relieves the case by gifts or loan. Its great object is to

become a medium of communication between the many persons and bodies engaged in relief, thus helping them to avoid 'overlapping' in their work, and above all things to direct charity into such channels that it shall be the means of effecting *permanent good* for those relieved, instead of offering a premium to idleness and undermining the independence of the honest and industrious poor.

Hence it is not *primarily* a relieving society at all. When complaints are made of its large outlay on expenses compared with the small sum given in relief, such complaints arise from an entire misconception of its aim. If its ideal were realised it would not be spending one penny in actual relief. Its object is to inquire for those whose business it is to relieve, and to hand over deserving objects to their care. It is only because of the imperfect communication hitherto established between it and these other relieving bodies that it is so often compelled itself to give the relief when none others can be found to bestow it.

If you saw half as much as we clergy are compelled to see of the characters of a large proportion of those who apply for relief (especially the most plausible), and the immense good that may sometimes be done by help judiciously given with a full knowledge of the cases relieved, I should not have again and again to entreat that you will in no case relieve those not *thoroughly known* to you, but will, in every case that seems deserving, send either to us or to the Charity Organisation Society, 115 Marylebone Road, for inquiry before giving relief. I may mention that our Marylebone branch of this Society, which is thus so helpful to our work, stands in need of a considerable accession to its subscription list, and any money sent to its Secretaries will be well and wisely bestowed.

PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES IN BIRMINGHAM.—An influential meeting was held in Birmingham on the 11th inst., at which it was resolved to establish Provident Dispensaries on a large scale, as has been done in Manchester. It was in contemplation to include West Bromwich in the scheme, and a committee of thirty was appointed to carry out the project.

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, June 30, 1877:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Eton	Glasgow	Horsham	*Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbledon	Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	2	6	..	..	25	1	..	4	3	2	1	..
2. Undeserving	15	15	6	..	146	..	..	4	6	7	2	..
3. Cases for Poor Law, or otherwise ineligible	17	22	8	1	10	..	..	4	4	21	1	2
	34	43	14	2	131	1	..	8	12	30	4	2
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	8	3	1	1	2	..	..	2	1	..	..	..
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	10	6	..	4	10	..	..	6	..	..	..	..
3. Private Persons	26	13	2	1	122	..	..	8	..	..	..	..
	44	22	3	6	134	..	..	11	1	..	..	..
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	51	27	26	4	4	2	..	10	6	41	2	2
2. Loans	..	..	1	5	3	2	..	23	1	1	..	..
3. Employment	12	..	7	5	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
4. Letters for Hospitals &c.	3	5	..	2	6	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
	66	32	34	16	16	6	..	35	8	42	2	2
TOTALS	143	97	51	24	331	7	..	54	21	72	6	4
Reports sent out	80	67	30	..	145	2	..	27	2	..	7	..
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	16	21	..	..	..	..	..	8	5	..	..	..
Vagrants dealt with	7	764	17	818	..	184	..	182	14	56	784	..

* No return received from this Association at the time of going to press.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

TEMPERANCE AND MEDICAL RELIEF.

SIR,—Something is being done to mitigate the violent contrast between the Gin Palace and Free Dispensary alluded to by Sir William Gull, in his statesmanlike speech at the Society of Arts. Never was a subject more fully set forth at a single meeting than at the Conference in the Garden at Grosvenor House. All agreed that the offer of a better alternative for the refreshment and social enjoyment of the public-house was an indispensable

condition of progress in temperance, and that this alternative could only be provided to the necessary extent by its being worked out by active influential persons, each in his own locality, on the self-supporting remunerative, commercial principle. Several papers were read illustrative of the causes of success or failure, and a committee was appointed to gather up the various experiences on the subject, so that all who assist in this great enterprise may enter upon it with a confidence which cannot belong to isolated efforts.

The Reform of Medical Relief has reached a more advanced stage. The result of seven years' work was summed up at a second Conference at the Society of Arts, at which we were assisted by some of the most eminent members of the medical profession; and the fresh impulse now given is not likely to subside until the object has been attained. The discussion is being actively prosecuted at Manchester, Birmingham, and Liverpool, as well as in London; and owing to the increase of population in many towns of the second class in various parts of England, the local 'Infirmary and Dispensary' is quite unequal to the demands upon it. Both in the metropolis and the provinces the remedy proposed under various forms is, medically, that the out-patient departments should be decentralised, and, financially, that the burden should be extended over a much wider surface. In other words, that a subsidiary system of provident dispensaries should be established on the mutual assurance principle, whereby the hospitals and infirmaries would be relieved of all which are not properly hospital cases.

Meanwhile a movement has commenced for self-supporting hospitals for the upper and middle classes. This principle has long been established in every other civilised community. When the present Registrar to the Admiralty was a young man, he was sent on a public mission to French Guiana, and falling sick of the prevailing fever, he was told that he 'ought at once to go into hospital.' There he found a clean, cheerful, airy apartment, and a skilled Sister of Charity to nurse him; and he got well much sooner than he could have done in his lodgings. When the General Hospital at Madras was rebuilt, a wing overlooking the river was appropriated to civil and military officers, and other persons of the upper or middle class who require medical treatment and nursing. There is an obvious economy in connecting such arrangements with existing hospitals, instead of providing separate buildings, with their ancillary establishments, expressly for the purpose. In practical New England this principle is consistently carried out; for, except a few endowed 'free beds' for delicate cases, everybody pays according to his means, from the lady or gentleman who has a separate room to the artisan in the common ward.

This is evidently a case for revising our insular institutions by the light of the larger experience of the civilised world. The proposition enunciated at the meeting at the Mansion House was that there ought to be hospitals for the upper and middle classes. This is true, but it is comprehended in a wider truth—that all hospitals should be adapted to the wants of all classes of the community. This is demanded by the most obvious motive of the economy of money and time, including the precious time of medical men in high repute, and it is also recommended by ulterior considerations of a moral and social kind which will occur to every person who reflects upon the subject.

July 3.

C. E. TREVELYAN.

Just ready, price Sixpence.

ITALIAN CHILDREN: Report of the Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society appointed to inquire into the Employment of Italian Children for Mendicant and Immoral Purposes. Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Just published, in 8vo., price ONE SHILLING.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RELIEF, a Paper read by Sir C. E. TREVELYAN at a Conference convened by the Charity Organisation Society, presided over by Dr. Acland; with Remarks by Sir W. Gull, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Sir R. Alcock, Mr. T. Holmes, and others.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct free 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) 5 0

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coult & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.



THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 226.

THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 26, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, July 26 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, „ 30 ... 3 P.M., Council.
Thursday, Aug. 2 ... 2 P.M., Administrative Committee.

ST. SAVIOUR'S.—Mr. H. Hoper has resigned the Hon. Secretaryship of this Committee.

ST. OLAVE'S.—The Secretary of the Council would be glad to hear from any gentleman willing to assist in the duties of Hon. Secretaryship for this Committee.

NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

CONVALESCENT LETTERS.—The Hon. Secretary of the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee writes:—

We have a few Walton Letters which the Committee will be happy to give, on application, for deserving cases.

THE 'REPORTER.'—The *Charity Organisation Reporter* is published weekly during the sittings of Council. The monthly number of the *Reporter* is published on the second Thursday in each month throughout the year. Contributors of £5 and upwards to the funds of the Council, or to those of any of the Committees of the Society, can have the *Reporter* free.

THE COUNCIL.—The last meeting of Council during the present session will be held on Monday the 30th inst.

The meetings of Council will be resumed on the 8th of October next.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.—During the months of August and September the Administrative Committee will meet at 2 P.M. on Thursdays.

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.—During the recess, and until after the 8th of October next, there will be no meetings of the standing Sub-Committees.

ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1877-8.—The atten-

tion of District Committees is called to the following Resolution of Council of the 3rd July 1876.*

That, *within a month after the 30th September of each year*, ESTIMATES of the probable expenses of each Committee for the ENSUING YEAR, together with the BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE PAST YEAR, be sent to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee, in order that they may, *as soon as possible*, have the means of passing the estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

Forms for the Estimates and Balance Sheets will in due course be forwarded to District Committees.

LECTURES.—The Secretary of the Council will, in accordance with instructions from the Administrative Committee, be glad to make arrangements with District Committees for one or more popular lectures during the ensuing autumn and winter on general subjects connected with Charity and the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.

WEEKLY RETURNS.—District Committees are requested to send in their weekly returns, as usual, during the months of August and September.

The following business stands for Monday, the 30th inst.:

1. To adopt the following recommendations of the Administrative Committee:

That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants, at their discretion, to the Bethnal Green, Lambeth, Holborn, Whitechapel, and Fulham Committees to the amount of £47, £47, £49, £38, and £47 respectively, the remainder of the estimated deficit of those Committee for the current year.

2. To consider and adopt the report of the Districts Sub-Committee on Adequate Relief.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, July 23, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the Chair).

CHELSEA:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel, St. GEORGE'S:—Major FitzRoy.

ST. JAMES'S and SOHO:—W. Bevan, W. Bonfield.

NORTH ST. PANCRAS:—A. N. Butt.

ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare.

STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, W. W. Wood.

CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brookes, Rev. H. I. Cummins.

SHOREDITCH:—Rev. H. G. Henderson.

BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. C. Kirton.

WHITECHAPEL:—C. L. Corkran.

POPLAR:—A. D. Graham, B. Ellis.

LAMBETH:—W. M. Venning.

WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.

LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramly, B. V. Tidman.

VICE-PRESIDENT:—W. M. Wilkinson.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—S. Fuller, Sir C. E. Trevelyan.

TOTAL:—26.

SECRETARIES:—Messrs. Loch, Turner.

VISITORS:—Chevalier T. Catalan, R. G. Head.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, July 10. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, and subsequently Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Sir C. Trevelyan, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Barrington, Crowder, Hill, Mitchell, Tayler, Tidman, and Venning.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending July 14 the receipts had been £186. 8s. 6d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £438. 13s. and £24. 19s. 3d. respectively, £7. 19s. 5d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

* Vide *Reporter*, No. 184, p. 117.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on July 17 there had been present:—
Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Messrs. Barrington, Bousfield, Graham, and Lewes.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on July 17 there had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Major FitzRoy, Capt. Gardner, and Mr. W. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Committee on July 18 there had been present:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Messrs. J. R. Hollond, G. Charles, and A. H. Hill.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR.

Rev. H. I. Cummins, in moving the adoption of the revised Report* of the Sub-Committee appointed to reconsider the Report, adopted by the Council in July 1870, on House-to-House Visitation, regretted that, although Chairman of the Sub-Committee, he had been unable to attend the last meeting of Council. The Sub-Committee had discussed at length the reference from Council, but were so fully convinced of the importance of dissociating almsgiving from the visitation of the poor by the Visitors of District Committees of the Society, that they had ventured to withdraw from their second recommendation the words 'except under very exceptional circumstances.' It might be argued that the permission to *give* relief would be an inducement to lazy visitors to join the District Committees; and he could conceive of persons preferring in all cases their own personal judgment to the decision arrived at by a Committee, even though the Committee might have adequate means of assisting, in accordance with their decision; but he could not understand why persons anxious to have the decision of a Committee prior to giving relief, should insist on the privilege of handing the relief to the applicant. On the other hand, the right to give relief occasioned many difficulties. In one case relief might appear desirable, but was not really so: but practical advice would prove most useful. In another case money was required. Two persons acting on behalf of the same District Committee, one visiting the former, the other the latter case, would gain the reputation, the one of being a needlessly close handed visitor, the other of being considerate or at least agreeably indulgent. In fact, the concession that relief should be administered or transmitted by the visitor let in all the defects of the ordinary District Visiting system.

The Sub-Committee had not, therefore, been able to adopt, instead of their second recommendation, which was as follows:—

That the Visitors shall not act as almoners for the Committees.

Mr. Hollond's suggested amendment, viz.—

That while it is very desirable that the responsibility of giving relief should be fully understood not to rest with the Visitors, it may, in many cases, be expedient that the Visitor should be the agency to convey the assistance which has been decided upon by the Committee.

The remaining recommendations of the Sub-Committee were—

1. That the District Committees be recommended to enlist the services of volunteer Visitors, who shall visit and, where desirable, keep up friendly intercourse with those persons whose cases may have been investigated at the District Office.

2. That it be not considered necessary for the Visitors to be members of the District Committee, but that they be cordially invited to attend its meetings.

3. That the Visitors be instructed to keep constantly before them the importance of establishing friendly relations between themselves and all those who may be working amongst the poor in connection with other agencies.

The Report was divided into two parts; the first relating to District Visiting generally, the second, in connection with which these recommendations should be taken, relating to the position occupied by the Charity Organisation Society in reference to District Visiting and the system of visiting to be adopted in conjunction with it. It was evident therefore that the Report did not propose to place any restraints on members of existing relief and visiting societies, in their co-operation with *this* Society; but it laid down as a principle that, it being advisable in all district visiting to dissociate as far as possible relief from visitation, none of the visitors employed as the recognised Visitors to the District Committees should themselves give relief. Visitation in connection with the District Committees was not desired for the purpose of relieving only, or transmitting relief,

* Vide Reporter, No. 225, p. 124.

but in order that those who had been assisted, with good prospect of beneficial results, should not relapse into distress and helpless poverty, owing to their subsequent career being no longer under the notice of the Committee.

Sir Charles Trevelyan seconded the motion. The object of the Society was to substitute wise charity for almsgiving. He did not think the proposed restrictions on the action of persons visiting on behalf of the Committees would create difficulty; they certainly pointed to the introduction of a much sounder principle in the personal relations of the charitable and the poor.

Rev. Harvey Brookes referred to his experience in Dorsetshire. His vicar there made an arrangement by which visiting was entirely dissociated from relief; and it had been his duty to visit without relieving. The arrangement had proved most satisfactory to him and to the poor. He thought, however, there were 'exceptional circumstances,' in which the Visitor on behalf of a District Committee should give relief.

Mr. Bousfield thought the Sub-Committee were right—theoretically. Several Committees, however, made use of local visiting societies, and would naturally appoint members of these societies as their recognised visitors.

It was suggested that the words 'in their capacity of Visitors for the District Committees of the Society,' should be inserted in the second recommendation; so that it should run as follows, viz. :—

That the visitors, in their capacity of Visitors for the District Committees of the Society, shall not act as almoners for the Committees.

The suggestion was agreed to.

Mr. H. N. Hoare considered the report a most important and serviceable one. Mr. Hollond's suggestion, however, required special attention. He contended that it was sufficient to dissociate the decision as to giving or not giving relief, from the work of visiting. And unless this modification were introduced, it would be difficult to alter the practice of some Committees, and obtain the services of visitors of local experience, who would agree to becoming the Visitors for the Committee on these terms; it was also a question whether it was at present expedient to dissociate visitation and relief-giving entirely.

After a few words from Mr. Bevan, the Chairman, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Dr. Daniel, and the Rev. H. I. Cummins, the Report was adopted, nine voting for it, and one against it.

A rider, moved by Mr. S. Fuller, proposing that the recommendations be sent to the District Committees at the beginning of the next session, was then considered; but after a short debate, in which Dr. Daniel, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. Hoare, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. R. V. Tidman, Mr. A. D. Graham, Rev. H. I. Cummins, and Mr. A. H. Hill took part, it was decided that the Report should be forwarded to District Committees as usual, and that a circular letter should be transmitted to them after the recess, calling their special attention to its recommendations, and asking them to report in due course what steps they had taken to give practical effect to them.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, July 21, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
Dalton, Miss E.	2	2	0	FitzRoy, Major	2	2	0
Deacon, Miss Sophia	2	0	0	Gosling & Sharpe	10	10	0
Mercers' Company.	21	0	0	Westcombe, T., Esq.	0	10	0
Ormerod, Hanson, Esq. . . .	1	0	0				
Pritchett, John, Esq.	1	1	0	District Committee Aid			
Smith, Mrs. A.	5	0	0	Fund:—			
St. George's (Hanover				Baynes, C. W., Esq.	4	7	6
Square) Committee.	100	0	0				

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of July 1877 was 35,538, and 41,405 received outdoor relief, making a total of 76,943. This was a decrease of 626 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876 this was a decrease of 41, and a decrease of 6,351 and of 15,648 as compared with the years 1875 and 1874. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 636. This was an increase of 115 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 53 on the corresponding day of last year.

THE IMPORTATION OF ITALIAN CHILDREN.

A large deputation waited upon the Home Secretary on Thursday, the 19th, to present him with the report of an inquiry which has been held by the Charity Organisation Society into the importation into England of Italian children, and their employment for mendicant and immoral purposes. Among those present were Sir Charles Trevelyan, K.C.B., who introduced the deputation, Mr. Julian Goldsmid, M.P., Mr. W. H. James, M.P., Mr. S. Holland, M.P. Cavalier Buzzelgoli (representing the Italian Consul-General), Signor Ortell, Signor Luciano, Father Pius Melia (of the Italian Church, Hatton Garden), Dr. Guy, Mr. Ernest Hart, Mr. Hamilton Hoare, the Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. Thomas Hughes, Q.C., and numerous others.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said the deputation had come to lay before the Home Secretary what was really a case of slave trade and slavery in the midst of our English Christian civilisation. That this was the case was owing to two causes, one being the youthful, almost infantile age of the children, the other their total ignorance of our language—their own language, too, being unfortunately little known in England. The system of their importation had all the characteristics of slavery. They were obtained from their parents under a two years' lease by a class of professional persons who went by the name of 'padroni,' or 'patrons,'—a term not at all clear in its application in this case—and when the children were obtained they were sold from person to person in the same class for gain. Occasionally they were stolen by persons in the same class, the attractions of the children—their childish accomplishments—causing them to be thus stolen. Sometimes, too, the despairing children ran away. In both cases, when they ran away and when they were stolen, the children were advertised for as lost and stolen cattle were advertised for. In fact, as the report would show, the children were advertised just as was usual when the domestic slaves of West Indian proprietors in Liverpool and Bristol used to be lost in the olden time, before Lord Mansfield's famous judgment—such was now the shamelessness shown in regard to this traffic, and the security felt by the padroni that our laws would not be enforced against their infamous trade. The poor children earned large sums of money, but they did not get any wages—they merely had a bare subsistence of the poorest character. Then, too, they were coerced by harsh treatment and sharp punishment if they did not take to their owners as much money as they expected.

The Home Secretary asked if any estimate had been formed of the amount the children took to the padroni.

Mr. Ribton-Turner said it was estimated that each child took on the average about 4s. a day.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in continuation, said that use was also made of the girls for immoral purposes. Occasionally the padroni were brought before the magistrates and fined, or had a month's imprisonment; but this was ineffectual to stop the traffic, as was to be seen from facts stated by Signor Luciano, of the Italian Benevolent Society, and one of the secretaries of the Italian Consulate. He stated that upon certain Italian children being brought before the magistrate, and ordered to be sent to Industrial Schools, he found the London School Board 'had decided not to keep foreign children in the school.' With regard to the recommendation of the Society, that the English public should not give money to these children, Signor Luciano mentioned the following case:—On the 8th of May 1873, a padrone, named Giuseppe Ventre, 33 years of age, a native of Picinisco, appeared before the magistrate at Great Marlborough Street Police Court to claim two of his children and two of his relatives, charged with begging, stating that he was ready to take them back with him to Italy. It was eventually arranged that he should be allowed to have them on depositing £20 at the Italian Consulate, which he did, and which sum was to be returned to him if in one month's time he was able to prove that the children had arrived at their destination; otherwise the money would be forfeited. The names of the children as given were Anselmo Ventre, aged 11, Maria Ventre, aged 10, his sons; Carolina Rossi, aged 13, his niece; Gaetano Bona, aged 16, his nephew. Directly Giuseppe Ventre had again got the children into his clutches, instead of returning to Italy, he left for the provinces, and when he was informed that he would lose his £20 he smilingly answered, 'What is that to me? I shall more than make it in a couple of weeks.' Another case is that of a man who came to England some years ago with a dog trained to perform several tricks. He amassed a few pounds and then embarked in trade as an importer of Italian children and organ-grinders, and in a few years after when he died it was found he was worth more than £12,000. Sir Charles proceeded to urge that the system had flourished because it had hitherto only been dealt with before the magistrates in an ordinary way, by a month's imprisonment, a fine, or, worse than all, by the 'padroni' and children being sent on to the next town. The traffic had thus hardened into a deep-rooted comprehensive system, which could only be overcome by repressive measures equally as comprehensive as the system, and equal in organisation. The magistrates and police throughout the country ought to be directed to act against it in an uniform and simultaneous manner, so that the field of the

'padroni' would be entirely pre-occupied, and all the holes stopped. The cumulative penalties of the Vagrant Act, whipping and all, could be brought against the 'padroni,' and the Italian Government had done all it could to stop the traffic. The Italian Benevolent Society would send the children home if they were got out of the power of the 'padroni.' The British public, by giving money to the children, were acting as it were in confederacy with the 'padroni,' for the destruction of the children; but the Government could step in, and by its authority stop the trade at once.

Mr. Ribton-Turner read a letter from Sir James Ingham, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, who expressed himself as most desirous of aiding in every way in the protection of these children. He then went on to speak of the enormous difficulties in getting at the truth regarding these children and urged that the existing law could be enforced with great effect, both as regarded the punishment of the padroni as vagrants, and the bringing of the compulsory clauses of the Education Act to bear, especially the law of 1876. When out of the London area there was a difficulty about this, for there were not School Boards everywhere.

The Home Secretary said that the law could be everywhere enforced.

Mr. Ribton-Turner proceeded to say that the system of Italian girls being brought to this country for the purposes of prostitution was a great blot upon our civilization. It was a system carried on even under the shadow of that building, and it would be a mercy to have the children taken to the workhouses. He urged that representations might be made to the Swiss and French Governments to stop the passage of the children from Italy through those countries.

Cavalier Buzzelgoli, representing the Italian Consulate-General, referred to cases which had occurred at Glasgow, in which the children who were taken said that the padroni would kill them or kill their mothers, if the children told anything to the English police. It was thus that this condition of things was maintained; the children, it was calculated, collected about 7s. a day in many cases, and in others from 4s. to 5s. a day. The padroni said they had agreements with the parents of the children that the children were to serve for three years, the padroni to pay about 80 ducats in three instalments to the parents. The result was that each padrone cleared about £200 on each child in the term. The Italian Benevolent Society had in about 120 cases paid the expenses of the recovered children home, and was doing, in conjunction with the Italian Government, all that could be done to bring the power of the Continental Governments to bear in stopping this infamous traffic; but it did not seem to the Italians interested in the work that they had the support they looked for from the English Government. If the existing English law was strictly enforced—the Education Act and the London School Board regulation in regard to Italian children—if these children were only kept in school and out of the streets—no matter whether they understood or did not understand the English language—the padroni would not care to keep them long, and would send them back, for their trade would be gone. He knew that the padroni compelled the children to say that their masters were fathers and uncles, and these difficulties would all be got over by simply applying the Education Act to the case of Italian children.

The Home Secretary, in reply, said,—I have had great pleasure in receiving this deputation, and I have listened with interest to what you have had to say; but I have already been in communication with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, with the Education Department, and also with the police, about the question of how far the English law may be strong enough, or may be made stronger, to prevent what I agree with you is a most objectionable and abominable traffic; and all I can say is that anything the English law can do to put it down, so far as I have any power in the matter, shall be enforced. Further than that I cannot go. My impression is, a great deal may be done by the law as it stands at present, and if we come to put the law in force, and find it is not strong enough, we can try and obtain additional powers to enable us to do so. I heartily agree with everything that has been said about the abomination of the system of importing the children, and I am quite sure it cannot be too strongly condemned. I promise that everything that the English law can do to terminate such a scandal to the country shall be done without delay.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, in thanking the Minister, said his words gave them all the utmost satisfaction.

DIFFICULT CASES. No. IX.

The Kensington Committee write:—'We have been asked to see if anything can be done for a woman of the age of 36, now in the Kensington Workhouse Infirmary. The Guardians might, it seems, be able to pay for her at a Home, as she has no other prospect before her at present than a lifetime in the Infirmary. She is able to do most things for herself. We have applied without avail at the Cripples' Home in the Marylebone Road.'

The Committee would be glad to ascertain if there is any Cripples' Home for Women elsewhere, that would receive this case.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for the opinions of any of its Correspondents.]

OUT-RELIEF—PAUPERISM AND CHARITY.

SIR.—I should not venture to occupy space in your valuable journal unless I demurred to certain principles enunciated in the able letter of your correspondent, Mr. J. R. Hollond, and the paper contributed by Mr. A. G. Crowder, 'On the strict administration of the Poor Law.'

That it is not without some experience that I presume to differ from the opinions expressed by those gentlemen, or from the principles which actuate the Charity Organisation Society, I quote from a report of the Chelsea Relief Society of 1862, words which I wrote: 'Likewise it is always to be borne in mind that a great responsibility is attached to the administration of the contributions of the charitable. It is not charity to encourage the mendicant, the idle or the improvident pauper, but it is charity to lend a hand to failing spirits, to hasten the convalescence of the working man overtaken by sickness or unavoidable calamity, particularly such as have hitherto, by independent labour, supported themselves.' I continue to hold the same official position in the society at the present time, and can vouch for the action of the society on these principles.

There may be two modes of treatment adapted to the social disease of pauperism, as there are in bodily diseases—the one palliative, the other curative, and the special treatment to be adopted must be discovered by the careful investigation of each individual case. A general wholesale abolition of out-relief as advocated by the gentlemen whose views have been enunciated in your paper, does not seem to me likely either to palliate or to cure the evils of pauperism. Mr. A. G. Crowder says 'he is strongly of opinion that Poor Law reformers should not wait until charity is organised before they discontinue out-relief in new cases.' In other words, we are advised to cut off abruptly the pittance hitherto granted in aid of the destitute, and make the workhouse their only refuge. Whatever immediate consequences might follow such decisive action, we are invited to hope that the duty of poor relations to the poor themselves will be encouraged and stimulated by the bonds of natural affection, to supply means necessary to keep their relatives out of the workhouse.

In St. George's-in-the-East, Mr. Crowder tells us there has been an annual saving of £3,000, which has been compensated for by the Charity Organisation Society at a cost of £200, distributed among 50,000 poor, and that the society 'has never allowed a single case to go unrelieved or inefficiently relieved, whatever the cost.' After this testimony of Mr. Crowder, the miracle of the 'five loaves of the five thousand, and the seven loaves of the four thousand,' presents fewer difficulties to the sceptical mind.

It is possible to abolish out-relief without a fatal result, for at most it is a pittance in aid of voluntary assistance given by clerical or lay societies, or by relatives who partly assist the out-door pauper, frequently themselves almost as poor. The 2s. 6d. for an adult, or the 6d. a week for a child, granted temporarily in most cases, if withdrawn altogether, may in time be got over, particularly so if a pension fund be raised in each Poor Law district; the only drawback being the fear that those domestic and other virtues which we are told have followed the abolition of out-door relief, might be checked in their development by the substitution of pensions instead of pauper allowance. Mr. Crowder thus quotes with approbation from the letter written by Mr. J. Hollond: 'The thing that really pauperises (and it must be remembered that the spirit of pauperism is a moral evil), is what tends to make the poor think that others will provide for them, and that they need not provide for themselves. The less agreeable therefore, the form of relief is, the less temptation there is to rely upon it, the stronger are the motives to forethought and self-help.' What is meant by pauperism being a moral evil, unless poverty is to be considered a crime, is not very clear, nor am I inclined to believe that it is by any means the comfortable prospect of ending their days in a workhouse, or the hope of half-a-crown a week out-relief, which form so great a premium as to encourage the evils which Mr. Hollond is so anxious to see removed. The recipients of poor relief are not of the working classes solely, as many superior people are apt to suppose, but are in many cases recruited from all classes of society, who, for want of certain prudential motives, or from sickness, or unavoidable calamity, have been worsted in the battle of life. Mr. Crowder states 'that really exhaustive inquiry by relieving officers, and impartial discrimination by guardians, is practically unattainable.' To this I agree so far as to admit that the existing administration of the Poor Law is faulty to an extreme, but I cannot agree that a better administration is practically unattainable if better men could be had to act as guardians, and more extensive inquiries made by relieving officers. The evils of pauperism are not produced by the system of out-door relief so much as by the partial unsatisfactory, indiscriminate, and frequently capricious manner in which it is granted. This points to the only practical way of solving the question of poor relief without cruelty to the deserving poor, and without injustice to the ratepayers, viz.: a thorough and trustworthy investigation into the circumstances of each application for relief, and a just consideration of its

claim. Unless gentlemen of character and independence sufficiently disinterested to seek a reward only in a conscientious discharge of a duty which all owe to the poor, can be induced to take upon themselves the office of guardian, then it is to be feared that a proper administration of the Poor Law is practically unattainable. Now that the evils resulting from what I believe the maladministration of the Poor Law are becoming so evident, I am more inclined to trust that gentlemen of influence and leisure will take upon themselves the duties which are at present frequently performed by men actuated by other motives than either a just application of out-relief, or a disinterested application of rates, ostensibly collected on behalf of the poor, but frequently applied to very different purposes.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

17 Oakley Street, S.W.

B. DANIEL.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES. No. VIII.

CHRISTIANITY AND PAUPERISM.—What does Christianity say? St. Paul, speaking not of the rich but of the poor, declares, 'If any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.' Immediately after, he states to whom the voluntary contributions of the charitable ought to be distributed. 'Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, well reputed of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.' Then follow these good words: 'But the younger widows refuse; they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.' Whoever is conversant with pauperism will recognise in this last passage a very faithful description of it.—'Christianity and the Poor Laws,' Walker's Original.

ERRATUM IN MONTHLY RETURNS, KENSINGTON.—In the returns for June published in the last Reporter, the figures for 'Reports sent out' by the Kensington Committee should have been 55, instead of 11; 'Inquiries for other Committees,' 20, instead of 3; 'Vagrants dealt with,' 123, instead of 7.

Now ready, price 2s. 6d.; by post 2s. 8d.

A MAP OF LONDON divided into ECCLESIASTICAL DISTRICTS, corrected to date, with the Poor Law Divisions, and the Population of each Ecclesiastical District.

Apply to the Secretary, Metropolitan Association for Providing Trained Nurses, for the Sick Poor, 23 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., or to the Central Office of the Charity Organisation Society.

Just ready, price Sixpence.

ITALIAN CHILDREN: Report of the Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society appointed to inquire into the Employment of Italian Children for Mendicant and Immoral Purposes. Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Just published, in 8vo., price ONE SHILLING.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RELIEF, a Paper read by Sir C. E. TREVELYAN at a Conference convened by the Charity Organisation Society, presided over by Dr. Acland; with Remarks by Sir W. Gull, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Sir R. Alcock, Mr. T. Holmes, and others.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 227.

THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 2, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES TO DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

BANK HOLIDAY.—Monday, August 6, being a Bank Holiday, the Central Office will be closed for that day.

THE 'REPORTER.'—The publication of the weekly number of the *Reporter* will be discontinued during the recess. The monthly number of the *Reporter* will be published on the second Thursday in August and September.

THE COUNCIL.—The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, the 8th of October.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.—During the months of August and September the Administrative Committee will meet at 2 P.M. on Thursdays.

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.—During the recess, and until after the 8th of October next, there will be no meetings of the standing Sub-Committees.

ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1877-8.—The attention of District Committees is called to the following Resolution of Council of the 3rd of July 1876:—

That, within a month after the 30th September of each year, ESTIMATES of the probable expenses of each Committee for the ENSUING YEAR, together with the BALANCE-SHEET for the PAST YEAR, be sent to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee, in order that they may, as soon as possible, have the means of passing the estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

LECTURES.—The Secretary of the Council will, in accordance with instructions from the Administrative Committee, be glad to make arrangements with District Committees for one or more popular lectures during the ensuing autumn and winter on general subjects connected with Charity and the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.

WEEKLY RETURNS.—District Committees are requested to send in their weekly returns, as usual, during the months of August and September.

MAP OF LONDON.—A copy of the Map recently published by the Metropolitan Association for Providing Trained Nurses for the Sick Poor will be sent to each of the District Com-

mittees of the Society. The Map contains the Ecclesiastical Districts, with their population, and the Poor Law Divisions.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR.—Two copies of the Report of the Sub-Committee on this subject will be sent to District Committees. Committees are requested to apply for further copies, should they require them.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, July 30, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the Chair).

CHELSEA:—Capt. Boyce, R.N., Dr. Daniel.	POPLAR:—A. D. Graham, R. Ellis.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Lieut.-Col. Sanford.	ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. Montgomerie, W. F. Smith.
NORTH ST. PANCRA'S:—A. N. Butt.	
HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.	LAMBETH:—W. M. Venning.
ST. GILES:—W. F. Lawrence, H. M. Keary.	CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson.	LEWISHAM:—G. Parker, J. J. Bramly.
HOLBORN:—Captain Fortescue.	ELTHAM:—Capt. Gardner, R.N.
CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brooks.	VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.
SHOREDITCH:—Rev. H. G. Henderson.	TOTAL:—24.
WHITECHAPEL:—Hon. C. W. Fremantle.	SECRETARY:—C. S. Loch.
STEPNEY:—E. Peters.	VISITORS:—C. H. R. Gosset, Miss Courtenay.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, July 26. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the chair; Sir C. Trevelyan, Capt. Fortescue, Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, Peters, and Hill.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending July 21 the receipts had been £200. 19s. 0d. for the General Fund, and £4. 7s. 6d. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances of the two funds on that day had been £513. 2s. 6d. and £29. 6s. 9d. respectively, £7. 19s. 5d. of the latter sum being reserved to repay expenditure on School Board cases only.

GRANTS.—That, in accordance with a resolution of Council at their last meeting, a grant of £31 had been made to the St. George-in-the-East Committee; and that a grant of £23 had been made to the Poplar Committee.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on July 24 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; and Mr. Crowder.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on July 24 there had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Capt. Gardner, Major FitzRoy, and Mr. W. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At the meeting of this Committee on July 25 there had been present:—

Mr. W. M. Wilkinson, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Messrs. A. H. Hill, G. Charles, and J. R. Holland.

CONVALESCENT CASES.

The Secretary announced an anonymous donation of £25 for convalescent cases.

CO-OPERATION WITH GUARDIANS.

The following letter from the Clerk of the Whitechapel Board of Guardians to the Committee of that District was read:—

I am directed by the Board of Guardians to acknowledge the receipt of a list of cases which, during the year 1876, was referred to your District Committee of the Charity Organisation Society by officers of, or otherwise from, this Union, and which were accordingly dealt with by means of charitable relief or successful references to special charities or benevolent individuals.

I am directed to express the cordial appreciation of the Guardians of the efficient service rendered by your Committee in these and other cases in depauperising, or saving from pauperism, the deserving poor.

GRANTS.

The following recommendation of the Administrative Committee was moved by Mr. A. D. Graham, seconded by Captain Boyce, and adopted, viz. :—

That the Administrative Committee be authorised to make grants, at their discretion, to the Bethnal Green, Lambeth, Holborn, Whitechapel, and Fulham Committees to the amount of £47, £47, £49, £38, and £47 respectively, the remainder of the estimated deficit of those Committees for the current year.

WORK OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

A series of resolutions of a Sub-Committee on the arrangements of the Central Office having been sent up to the Council by the Administrative Committee as recommendations, were taken as urgent, and, after some discussion, in which Captain Fortescue, Rev. H. G. Henderson, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Mr. R. Barrington, and others took part, were adopted, on the motion of Mr. A. H. Hill, seconded by Dr. Daniel.

ADEQUATE RELIEF.

Mr. A. H. Hill, seconded by Mr. A. D. Graham, moved the following resolution, viz. :—

That the Report of the Districts Sub-Committee on Adequate Relief be received, but that the consideration of it be deferred to an early meeting next session, the attention of the Administrative Committee being called, in the interim, to the concluding paragraph of the Report.*

A discussion followed, in which Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. H. M. Keary, and others took part, and the resolution was subsequently adopted.

The Council then adjourned, on the motion of the Rev. H. G. Henderson, to the 8th of October.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending Saturday, July 28, 1877:—

Donations :—	£	s.	d.	Annual :—	£	s.	d.
Acland, Lady	5	5	0	Cleveland, The Duchess			
'A Lady'	0	10	0	of	2	0	0
Drapers' Company . .	21	0	0	Lloyd, W. H., Esq. . .	1	0	0
Johnston, General . .	5	0	0	Taylor, L., Esq. . . .	1	1	0
Scott, R., Esq.	10	0	0	District Committee Aid			
Seager, Miss	5	0	0	Fund :—			
				Lloyd, W. H., Esq. . .	1	0	0

DIFFICULT CASES.—No. IX.

We have received the following reply respecting the above difficult case †

There does not seem to be any other Cripples' Home mentioned in the classified list than that in Marylebone Road.

By the 'Metropolitan Poor Act, 1857,' sec. 5, the Metropolitan Asylum Board may, when directed by the Local Government Board, provide Asylums 'for reception and relief of the sick, insane, infirm, or other class or classes of the poor,' and charge the cost to the common fund.

No steps have yet been taken under the Act to provide specially for cripples, but the Board might be asked if any such are contemplated. Their answer might be brought to the notice of the Local Government Board, with the statistics of such unfortunate cases in the Metropolitan district.

W.

MEDICAL CHARITIES.

BIRMINGHAM.—The *British Medical Journal*, in an article on the address recently delivered by Mr. Sampson Gamgee at the annual meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, says :—

'All who are interested in this movement should read Mr. Gamgee's address carefully, and weigh the statistics which he has brought forward; they are very telling, for they show not only the extent of the present abuse of hospitals and dispensaries, but also the extraordinary rapidity with which this abuse is growing, even in a wealthy town like Birmingham, and during a period of unexampled prosperity.

* Your Sub-Committee would therefore recommend that steps be taken to give practical effect to the principle involved in the first recommendation of the Visit to Offices Sub-Committee, which was adopted by the Council on the 19th of January, 1876, by the appointment, at an early date, of competent paid secretaries in those Committees which appear most urgently to require support, and in which adequate volunteer assistance is not forthcoming.

† Vide *Reporter*, No. 226, p. 129.

'Mr. Gamgee bases his argument upon the experience of ten years.

"The number of persons attending the Birmingham medical charities was, in 1867, 66,671; in 1876, 104,048; showing an increase of 37,377, equal to 56 per cent. Reckoning the population of the borough of Birmingham for 1867 at 325,895, one person in every five in that year obtained relief from our medical charities; whereas the proportion rose to one in 3.5 in 1876, when the population was 371,839. In the ten years the borough population increased 13.8 per cent, and the number of persons relieved at the medical charities increased 56 per cent. In other words, in the past ten years the recipients of medical charity in Birmingham have increased more than four times as fast as the general population of the borough."

'But during this same period the wealth of the town has increased enormously. This is demonstrated not only by the palatial buildings which are rising on all sides, but by exact information derived from the rateable value of property, the income tax, the savings' bank returns, and the building societies. Are we then to conclude that this immense augmentation of wealth increases the number of those who are entitled to gratuitous medical relief? Does prosperity make beggars? In answer to this question Mr. Gamgee adduces the parochial returns for the same ten years, and shows that during the past decade pauperism has rather decreased in Birmingham. We are, therefore, shut up to the conclusion that those who make use of the hospitals and dispensaries in such rapidly increasing numbers are not poor people in needy circumstances, but well-to-do artisans, who have no claim upon medical charity.

'What is the remedy for this state of things? Some of Mr. Gamgee's neighbours, laying the whole blame upon the misuse of Governors' letters of recommendation, say: "Let the hospitals be free, and let a registration fee be required from all applicants alike." But this is obviously unfair, and is likely, in the long run, to lead to greater evils than the Governors' letters. We must look in some other direction for the true remedy, and it is interesting to observe that the Birmingham Charity Organisation Society has had its attention turned to this subject, and has arrived at precisely the same conclusion as its London prototype. The executive of the local organisation remark :—

"A very large proportion of this enormous number of out-patients could afford to pay the cost of their own doctoring, if that payment could be made in the form of a small weekly payment during times of health as well as of illness; while they would generally be unable, especially when ill, to meet the lump sum of a doctor's bill. The need here is the machinery for bringing the payment for doctoring within the reach of the poorer class, and this can be done by the establishment of Provident Dispensaries, as is shown by their success in many other towns. By small weekly contributions to these institutions, the working classes are enabled to pay the cost of their own medical attendance and medicine, and are thus able to avoid the humiliating position of becoming recipients of public charity whenever they are out of health. Any change in this direction seems to us to be hopeless until Provident Dispensaries are provided."

'That the development of the provident system is the proper mode of meeting the difficulty is a conviction which is gaining ground all over the country. A check must be put upon the abuse of charity, and as (to quote the words of a Quarterly Reviewer) "there is a limit to the liberality of the most liberal profession in the world," means must be found that will bring a great part of the present gratuitous service into a system that will offer a reasonable remuneration. Mr. Gamgee seems to think that we are rapidly tending towards rate-supported hospitals. Here we venture to differ from him. We believe that the medical profession would be as unwilling as the ratepayers to see such institutions established. What we desire is, that such inquiries should be made, with regard to both the social position and the maladies of the applicants, that those only shall receive our gratuitous assistance who have a claim to charity, and who, having such a claim, will be benefited and not degraded by the charitable relief they receive. For the rest, as Mr. Gamgee says: "On the principle of mutual assurance it is possible to make efficient provision for the health of the working classes, including the wives and children; and the object is one which deserves very thoughtful and earnest co-operation in the broadest and truest sense of the term."

BOARD OF GUARDIANS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE JEWISH POOR.

Annual Report for 1876.—It is not easy to do any justice to this Report in the short space that we can give. The very titles of the Sub-Committees will partly indicate the large work that is done :—the Executive Committee, the Medical Committee, the Investigating Committee (for the revision of the list of fixed and periodical allowances), the Loan Committee, the Committee for Legislative and Parochial Affairs, the Visiting Committee (presided over by one of our Vice-Presidents), the Industrial Committee, including a Committee for conducting the workrooms, and the Canvassing Committee. The Report commences by stating that 'the impression made by a long

Society I am always willing to receive for 3s. 6d. a week. The return ticket (available for eight weeks) is 6s. I have reason to believe that the Great Eastern Railway Company will make a considerable reduction in tickets for the ladies, and am making an application. I can receive only four ladies, and shall be glad to hear of any who would be benefited by the little Home. Burston is our station.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

PROGRESSIVE CHARITY ORGANISATION.

MY DEAR SIR.—I regret that through an accident I was not aware until too late of Mr. Hill's intention to ask a question* relative to a paragraph in the last Wandsworth Committee's Report on the subject of Pensions; but as I learn that the Chairman ruled that no discussion was admissible, it was, perhaps, of not much consequence. I cannot but regret the decision which he has given, because I feel it involves a much larger question than that immediately in dispute. It is this: Within what limits latitude is to be given to individual committees to work out the questions which come under their cognisance, unfettered by hard and fast rules?

I venture to think that this is a matter fraught with grave danger to the future of the Charity Organisation Society. That some common basis is requisite for united action I freely admit; but I submit it should be as broad and inclusive as possible. If I were asked to name what I consider the leading principles of our organisation, I should say they were—

1st. Investigation as precedent to relief.

2nd. Relief, where given, to be efficient; in other words, to be 'curative,' and not merely 'palliative.'

Within these main lines there is room for a vast difference in the method of the treatment of the individual cases which are brought before each Committee, and inasmuch as a great deal of the work that is being done is, it must be admitted, of a tentative nature, it is only by allowing free scope for individual treatment that the result of varied experience can be attained.

There is another point which, perhaps, lies at the root of the question, and on which, I apprehend, very different views are held by different members of the Charity Organisation Society, and that is: What do you propose as the ultimate aim of the Society?

Are you simply to influence public opinion so as to gradually bring about a better administration of charitable funds, and a more intelligent appreciation of the difficulties of dealing with pauperism, and the right principles that should guide your efforts in so doing?

Or, Are you to endeavour to make your Committee the focus into which you shall gradually absorb all the agencies which now occupy themselves directly with the administration of relief, and which, from its influence and intelligent action, shall be an educating force, first, on the charitable, and gradually on the public at large?

If the former, the Council is right in supplying a set of regulations in accordance with their varying experience for the guidance of Committees; but it appears to me that the Society will not long exist as a living entity, attracting to itself all the best workers and thinkers of the day in this particular field.

If the latter, then an almost boundless field of exertion offers, but large discretion must be given to individual committees to compass this end by the means which seem to them necessary to attain to it, and questionable experiments must, in some cases be allowed, as otherwise I fear the desired result may be indefinitely postponed.

Perhaps you will kindly bring this letter before the Administrative Committee. I have purposely foreborne to enter into the immediate question under discussion, but the larger one I have dealt with seems to me of such importance that I should be glad to know that it had been considered.

Yours truly,

ALAN LAMBERT.

4 Lombard Court, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

May 24, 1877.

C. S. Loch, Esq.

* Vide Reporter, No. 216, p. 77, and No. 217, p. 88.

METROPOLITAN PATTERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of July 1877 was 35,608, and 43,434 received outdoor relief, making a total of 79,042. This was a decrease of 11 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding week of the year 1876 this was an increase of 15, and a decrease of 6,338 and of 15,327 as compared with the years 1875 and 1874. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 565. This was a decrease of 1 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 144 on the corresponding day of last year.

PROVINCIAL.

WINCHESTER CHARITY ORGANISATION ASSOCIATION.—*Petitions.*—We have received the following letter from Mr. H. J. Wickham, the Hon. Sec. of the Association:—

'In the Reporter published June 21, on page 105, under "Winchester Charity Organisation Association," you say you would be glad to know the nature of the precautions taken by the Committee.

'1st. They sanction none but very well-authenticated cases.

'2nd. The petitions must issue from the Committee.

'3rd. The sum required is stated in the petition.

'4th. Each person who gives to it is particularly asked in the petition to put his full name and the sum given.

'5th. The Association does not pay the sum promised until the petition is brought back to them with the money and signatures.

'6th. The sum promised is paid *then*, and the petition *retained* by the Association.

'Though the scheme is not perfect, yet it is a considerable improvement on what used to go on in that way, and the Committee would be very glad to hear the criticisms of more experienced persons and to receive any suggestions.'

PENNY BANKS.—It was stated, at the meeting of the London School Board on June 6, that penny banks had been established in connection with 17 Board Schools, mostly in the Tower Hamlets, under a resolution of the Board of October 27, 1873. Last year there were 3,836 depositors, whose deposits amounted to £1,190. 19s., and at Christmas last there were deposits still remaining amounting to £174. 6s. 1d. The teachers were left perfectly free to collect this money how and when they pleased. The money was paid into the Government Savings' Bank; and no interest being paid to the children, the interest received from the Government was used to meet the cost of management, books, &c.

Now ready, price 3s.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—The bound volume of these Reports for the year 1875-6 may be had on application to the Secretary, Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

Now ready, price 3d.

REPORT ON SOUP KITCHENS. By the Co-operation Sub-Committee of the Charity Organisation Society.

Now ready, in 8vo., price 1s.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RELIEF, a Paper read by Sir C. E. TREVELYAN at a Conference convened by the Charity Organisation Society, presided over by Dr. Acland; with Remarks by Sir W. Gull, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Sir R. Alcock, Mr. T. Holmes, and others.

Also may now be had, in 8vo., price 1s.

REPORT of a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society on the Education and Care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics; with the Proceedings of the Committee and Report of a Deputation on the subject to the President of the Local Government Board, January and May 1877.

London: LONGMANS & Co.; and at the Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

WORK OF THE PAST SESSION.

At the meeting of Council of the 23rd ult. Sir Charles Trevelyan, in giving a short résumé of the work which the Society had undertaken during the session of the Council which would terminate on the 31st inst., said:—Last year we were almost entirely occupied in considering the merits of centralisation—working from one centre—as against local administration, or working from many different centres; and the question had been decided in favour of both principles—viz. that our system of government should be based on local administration with a strong central supervision. Since that we had done a great deal of real work, of which the following were some of the principal heads. The machinery at head-quarters had been greatly strengthened, first by placing each distinct branch of the Society's operations under a responsible Sub-Committee composed of Members of the Council, the suggestion of which was due to Mr. Alsager Hay Hill; and, secondly, by making a clearer apportionment of the work of the two Secretaries. The Secretary to the Council (Mr. C. S. Loch) was to be the General Secretary, and everything that was not expressly assigned to others was to belong to him. The other Secretary (Mr. C. J. Ribton-Turner) was to be the Secretary for the Repression of Mendicity; but he was also to be available for any special service for which his extensive acquaintance with the Society's work and his many valuable attainments might qualify him. Two meetings of the Charity Agents, and other Officers acting under the District Committees, had been held, at which Papers, followed by useful discussions, had been read. The Sub-Committee for District Committees had worked hard to strengthen the District Committees, which were the basis of our whole system; and they had succeeded to a considerable extent, although much remained to be done. Their first annual report* might be consulted with advantage, and their report upon 'Adequate Relief,' to be considered to-day, threw further light upon the subject. The Committee charged with the vital duty of devising suitable arrangements for collecting funds had finished their task, and all that remained to be done was to put the measures resolved upon into full and effective operation. The Co-operation Sub-Committee had reported upon soup kitchens, showing the progress which had been made since this subject was reported upon in February 1871,† and suggesting the substitution of coffee taverns for soup kitchens, the one tending to the elevation of the character of our people as much as the other educates them to dependence and pauperism.

Six years ago we had a conference on medical relief, and this year the threads had been gathered up at another conference presided over by Dr. Acland, supported by Sir William Gull, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Mr. Timothy Holmes, and other eminent men,‡ and there was every reason for believing that this fresh impulse would not subside until the work had been accomplished. A still longer period had elapsed since we reported upon personal work among the poor, or District Visiting. A conference was held in March last§ on this important branch of the subject, after which a Committee was appointed which carefully reconsidered it, with the advantage of the experience acquired during the intermediate seven years, and a second report had now been presented in which the question had been reproduced in a revised practical form suited to the circumstances of the present time. A Special Committee, composed of experienced county administrators and medical men, as well as of members of this Society, was appointed in June 1875, to consider the best means of making a comprehensive provision for idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics throughout England and Wales; and their Report|| was presented to the President of the Local Government Board in May last, and obtained his warm support, as well as the general approval of all who are interested in the subject, so that the whole subject is now in progress of satisfactory and lasting arrangement throughout the country. The report on Italian children had been so lately before the Council that it is needless to speak further of it. The Report of the Co-operation Sub-Committee on Charity and Out-Relief had led to an animated debate, and although no final resolution

was come to by the Council, the question was cropping up in all directions, and the tendency of the whole movement was towards the result recommended in that Report. The debate on charitable endowments* had satisfactorily opened that important subject, and a memorial was to be presented to the Lord Chancellor as to the application of the funds of the royal endowment of St. Katharine's Hospital. The interesting meeting held at the Working Men's St. James's and Soho Club in May last, on Charity and Poor Law, had helped to explain the objects and plans of the Society to the industrial classes, and the candour and goodwill exhibited on that occasion was eminently satisfactory. Considerable progress had been made in improving the *Charity Organisation Reporter*, and it might be hoped that in the ensuing year, with the experience already acquired, it would become of more general value as a means of diffusing correct information on this class of subjects. The work of repressing mendicity had steadily proceeded. A society, the great abuses of which had been proved, had been suppressed, and an investigation of unusual importance into the management of another was now in progress. Whether the old fallacy that the end justified the means still lurked under cover of the name of charity, or there was an actual perversion of the text that 'charity covereth a multitude of sins,' there could be no doubt that a lower standard was perceptible in many sensational appeals, and other transactions connected with charity, than would be tolerated in the ordinary affairs of life. Whatever the cause might be, there was no doubt of the fact, and one great end to be attained under the head of the repression of mendicity was to correct this state of feeling, and to get people to be as candid and exact in charitable matters as they are in all others. In conclusion, one word about the advance made in general public opinion. We were sometimes disappointed at seeing that we were subjected to unjust imputations. Notwithstanding this, we should work on through good report and evil report, with the conviction that while we did our duty to the best of our ability we should be supported by all well-informed and right-minded people. There were in fact clear indications that the best organs of public opinion recognised the useful position of the Society to which we have the honour to belong.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

HOLBORN.—*Co-operation with the Clergy.*—The Rev. Edward Canney, Vicar of St. Peter's, Saffron Hill, Holborn, in his annual report of Church work for 1876-7, in writing of the 'Poor Relief Fund' of his parish, says:—'This fund is very carefully administered, otherwise it would do more harm than good. The Vicar or Scripture reader attends at the vestry every Monday and Thursday morning from 10 to 11 to receive applications for relief. Each application is entered in a book, with particulars of the applicant's circumstances. If the case appears urgent, the applicant is at once visited and relief given; otherwise it stands over until Thursday evening, when the Relief Committee meets to consider cases, and determine how best to deal with them. If applicants are not known, inquiries are made in the interval, and should the result not be satisfactory, they are told to go to the Charity Organisation Society, that their cases may be thoroughly investigated. After investigation, if they prove not Poor Law cases and are deserving, the Charity Organisation Society send them back to St. Peter's Relief Committee, to be dealt with as it shall deem best. Most of the relief is given in pensions varying from 1s. to 3s. a week to poor, old, or infirm people, the design being to enable these to live a shade more comfortably than they would otherwise do. A little is given to aid people who have been unfortunate, and who are struggling to recover themselves; and the rest is expended on nourishment for the sick. Some coal is given in severe winter weather to widows with children and poor old people. Parishioners knowing or hearing of people in distress will oblige the Relief Committee by putting such in the way of obtaining assistance from them.'

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

In reply to circular sent by the Co-operation Sub-Committee, the following charities have kindly consented to co-operate with the Society in obtaining adequate relief for suitable cases. (I.) The Artists' General Benevolent Institution for the Relief of Decayed Artists of the United Kingdom, and for affording Assistance to their Widows and Orphans. The Treasurer is P. C. Hardwick, Esq. The offices are at 24 Old Bond Street, W. (II.) The London General Porters' Benevolent Institution, the Secretary of which is Mr. T. Rickwood. The offices are at 33 Cheapside, E.C. (III.) St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Almshouses, 26 Craven Street, Charing Cross, W.C. Applications should be made to J. Dangerfield, Esq. It is a con-

* Vide *Reporter*, No. 219, p. 95.

* Vide *Reporter*, No. 209, p. 42.

† 'Report on Soup Kitchens,' at the Office of the Society, price 3d.

‡ See the collection of Papers entitled 'Metropolitan Medical Relief,' price 1s. Longmans, and at the Office of the Society.

§ Vide *Reporter*, No. 208, p. 38.

|| 'Report on Idiots and Imbeciles,' price 1s. Longmans, and at the Office of the Society.

dition under which the charity is dispensed, that the recipients should be persons who have been householders, or who are the widows of householders in the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. (IV.) Huggen's College, Northfleet; Rev. M. M. Finch, Chaplain. The conditions for election to the benefits of this College, as inmates or as out-pensioners, are—(1) Candidates must be sixty years old at least; (2) candidates must be ladies and gentlemen in reduced circumstances; (3) they must not have an income of more than £20 a year; (4) they must be members of the Church of England. They are elected after very strict inquiry by the trustees, and are appointed for life, subject to good conduct.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS.—The following is taken from the last Report of this Society.

The almoners of the Society continue to co-operate satisfactorily with the Local Committees of the Charity Organisation Society, in most cases being members of these Local Committees, and using their machinery for investigation when necessary, at the same time relieving deserving cases in their district as far as their grants permit.

In districts where the Society for the Relief of Distress has no almoner, this Committee willingly receives direct applications for relief from the Local Committees of the Charity Organisation Society, in cases that have proved, after careful inquiry, to be deserving, and where timely help may furnish the means of earning a maintenance. . . . The receipts for the Society for the Relief of Distress for the past year have amounted to £1,837. 7s. 8d., and the grants made to £1,814. 19s. 3d.

NATIONAL HEALTH SOCIETY.—The fourth annual report indicates the many ways in which this Society is acting up to its motto, 'Prevention is better than cure.' Its one great object is to 'diffuse a sound knowledge of the laws of health, and of the measures likely to prevent the spread of disease, throughout all classes of the community.' Amongst the poorest and most ignorant the need of information and instruction appears most evident, and the want has been in a measure met by the delivery of familiar addresses, illustrated by good diagrams and simple experiments. At Whitechapel, e.g., four lectures or addresses were delivered by Miss F. Miller, on 'Food,' 'Air,' 'Clothing,' 'How to manage a Baby.' 'In many cases practical results have ensued from the teaching given: windows have been opened, stuffing taken from the chimneys, and on one occasion Miss Pearson was pleased to find fifty women had made cheap filters according to her receipt.' Lectures have also been delivered at the rooms of the Social Science Association and Society of Arts, and the Secretary appeals for assistance to 'those who, being competent, are willing to give gratuitous or paid lectures on subjects embraced by the Society to audiences of various kinds.' Early in the year the Society inaugurated a deputation to the Home Secretary on the water supply of London, and subsequently drew up a document setting forth facts and municipal precedents in favour of the course urged upon the Government. Reports of this paper may be obtained of the Society. During the summer a special fund, amounting to £15. 9s., was subscribed, and expended in taking parties of children 'into the parks and open places several times in the week.' A hope is expressed that the authorities may see fit to throw open Lincoln's Inn Square garden. Since the appearance of the report the London School Board has approved of the playgrounds being open to children during the weekdays.

'BRITISH WORKMAN' PUBLIC-HOUSES.—The 'Report of the Central London Committee of the "British Workman" Public-houses without the drink' states that 'experience has shown that a good manager, and a local Committee, or Secretaries, who will throw their whole energies into the work, are essential . . . ' and extracts are given of the success of the houses in different places. 'At Ealing,' the Hon. Secretary writes, 'we have from fifty to sixty men using the house; we have a good library, coal club, cricket club, and a "B. W." choir. We have succeeded in getting hold of a goodly number of dangerous lads of the village, and have got them into good order, so that now many of them are really respectable members of society.' Since the commencement of the movement at Leeds, about nine years ago, 'great good has resulted in the reformation of many men who were slaves to drink, and the Leeds example has been followed in many other towns, there being now perhaps about two hundred throughout England.' It would be interesting to know whether any of these are open on Sundays, and, if so, what have been the results. We have now before us the report of an East-end clergyman, who, referring to one of the Café Company's houses, says, 'It would, I think, be an improvement if it were opened on Sundays.'

MEDICAL CHARITIES.

Mr. Lawson Tait, in his recently published work on 'Hospital Mortality,' says—'To provide gratuitous attendance for married women seems to me a mere improvidence, and a method of charity which ought to be at once discontinued. Those who really want help most are those who, by our present

plan, have least chance of getting it. The women amongst whom puerperal mortality is always found to be highest are those we often send to be confined in our Workhouse wards. I think there is reason to believe that it would be better for all concerned if we had these cases treated by themselves, in buildings set apart for the purpose, at least in our large towns. I think it is a question worth considering whether the existence of institutions where unfortunate girls could be readily and at once admitted in the hour of their trial would not greatly diminish the number of those terrible child murders which occupy so much of the time of our coroners' juries. The objection that such institutions might have a tendency to encourage vice is no answer, unless it can be shown that our present neglect diminishes it—a supposition which is highly improbable.'

ARTISANS' DWELLINGS.

A report to the House of Commons, just issued, enables us to supplement the information we lately gave concerning the operation of the 'Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Improvement Act.' Twenty improvement schemes are stated in detail by the Metropolitan Board of Works, some of which are still under consideration. Those for Holborn, Strand, and St. George's, Hanover Square, have not been sanctioned. In the country nine provisional orders have been issued for Birmingham, Liverpool, Nottingham, Swansea, Norwich, and Walsall. No less than ninety-three acres are affected at Birmingham. Nottingham also and Wolverhampton have made application for provisional orders. At fifteen other towns the Act is under consideration, and the return closes with a list of fifty-nine towns, including Bradford, Bristol, Kingston-on-Hull, Leeds, Manchester, Portsmouth, each of which has a population exceeding 100,000, where no steps have been taken. Of the eight towns in Scotland affected by the Act no official action appears to have been taken at Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Perth. At Greenock an improvement scheme has been prepared, and there is one under consideration at Leith. Of the remaining two towns, Glasgow has a private Improvement Act and Paisley is promoting one. The return gives no information as to the cost of these schemes. The number of people displaced is likewise not stated.

PROVINCIAL.

DORKING MENDICITY SOCIETY.—At a Committee Meeting of the Dorking Mendicity Society, held on January 16, 1877, it was resolved that the following statement, accompanied by a financial statement, signed by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. W. Clark, be printed and circulated:—

'After a careful consideration of the working of the Dorking Mendicity Society during the past six years, the Committee are of opinion that the results hardly justify them in continuing to press its claims for public support.

'It is true that indiscriminate almsgiving is rendered unnecessary, and probably to a great extent prevented. It is also true that many a destitute traveller is provided with a meal of bread on his passage through Dorking; but a careful inspection of the persons who take advantage of this relief leads the Committee to believe that a very large percentage belong to a class who have no settled home, who do not care to work, and will never do so, so long as they can subsist without. The chief difficulty lies in discriminating between really needy and deserving travellers and habitual tramps, who throng our lodging-houses night by night, living on the credulity of the benevolent, and imposing upon charities such as this. The question has thus forced itself upon the Committee, whether the good done by this Society in preventing indiscriminate almsgiving and in providing relief for the destitute traveller is not more than counterbalanced by the evils it encourages, in perpetuating a system of imposture, and in fostering a taste for an idle and dissolute life. Balancing the *pros* and *cons* of this question, the Committee are of opinion that the net results of the society are more harmful than good, and they reluctantly relinquish an undertaking from which they had hoped better things. In presenting the appended financial statement, the Committee desire to express their thanks to those of their fellow-townsmen who have assisted them in their endeavours to deal with a question beset with difficulties which at present seem to be insurmountable.'

FOREIGN.

Boston.—*Medical Relief.*—Extract from a Letter from Dr. Putnam, June 1, 1877.—We have in Boston three general hospitals—the City Hospital, supported entirely by the Government, and having for officers a Board of Trustees, a Resident Superintendent (also Admitting Physician), and the usual staff of Visiting and Out-patient Physicians; the Massachusetts General Hospital, supported entirely by endowments and by the money derived from the patients, and officered in a similar manner to the City Hospital; and the Carney Hospital, entirely of Roman Catholic foundation and management.

The City Hospital has about 400 beds, all for patients who are the wards of the city, and are supposed to be unable to pay anything towards their support; and, in addition, a few rooms for private patients. I cannot say just how much the latter are charged, but probably at the same rate as at the Massachusetts General Hospital. The Visiting and Out-patient Physicians receive no salary at any of our hospitals in Boston. They have a large Out-patient Department, divided into Surgical, Male and Female Medical, Eye, Ear, and Skin Special Departments. No medicine is given, or only exceptionally. The Massachusetts General Hospital has between 200 and 300 beds. The cost of each patient is about \$11 a week, and all that can afford to do so pay from \$4 to \$7 towards their support. They are required to deposit, if possible, in advance, a good sum of money, and when they are discharged any part of it that may remain is paid back to them. There are pleasant rooms for about a dozen private patients, who pay from \$15 to \$35 or \$40 a week. Our Out-patient Department is not extremely large, but is constantly increasing in size. Perhaps the average attendance may be 150, divided among departments for surgical cases, male and female medical, diseases of the eye, skin, throat, and nervous system. No medicine is given, unless exceptionally at the request of the physicians, and the cost of that is certainly covered by the fees which the patients give from time to time, either voluntarily or at the suggestion of the physician, or in compliance with a notice which is posted up. As I told you, the Trustees of the hospital have felt that the Out-patient Department was growing too fast, and last winter (a year ago) called a meeting of the physicians to discuss the matter. It was almost the unanimous opinion of the latter, however, that the abuses were certainly not so great as to make the system a public evil of any magnitude, and that the opportunities for study and teaching would be much impaired if anything should be done to diminish the number of the patients. It should be said, at the same time, that these opinions were given with the facts in view that no plan of concerted action between the hospitals, and indeed no plan that seemed to promise any better results, had been proposed. Provident Dispensaries have been talked of with us, but I think nowhere tried, and I am not aware that the idea has been suggested that they should be numerous, and in the midst of communities forming as it were separate villages, within which the inhabitants and their means would be pretty well known to all concerned, as I believe is thought here should be the case. Besides the hospital relief, the whole city of Boston is districted up into wards, each of which has a physician attached to it who is paid \$200 a year by the so-called Boston Dispensary, also an entirely private and very useful institution. Advice and medicine are to be sure given gratuitously, but as the patients are visited in their own homes the physicians have a chance to judge of their means, and may refuse to treat them. The same dispensary has a central office where at least 200 patients must attend daily. The Carney Hospital has, I think, no Out-patient Department, and the only feature of interest in its management is that any respectable physician may send his private patients there, and treat them himself, payment being of course made both for the lodging and attendance.

ROTTERDAM.—*Soup Kitchens.*—A correspondent from Rotterdam writes:—‘I mentioned that the maximum contribution to provident dispensaries is 10 cents; I am told that in some of them the contribution was raised to 12½ a month ago.

‘I certainly hope I shall be able to arrive at true practical inductions, and for my own part I can but say that the correspondence is already beginning to have its effect. The report on soup kitchens you kindly sent me in March is found very interesting here. I sent it to the directors of the chief institution, and a change is seriously thought of now. One of them is quite convinced of the bad tendency of the whole system, and assures me that your arguments are all confirmed by his experience as regards Rotterdam.

‘One of the questions in charity which has much occupied me of late, but which I consider nearly incapable of a satisfactory solution for immediate application, is how to relieve widows. I don’t know if the attention of your Council has been actively directed to the matter. Here widows can get outdoor relief very easily. Most institutions may think relief to able-bodied men a thing not to begin with, but able-bodied women are in a more favourable position. One of the diaconies, with a capital of about 700,000 florins (£60,000), uses the interest chiefly in this way. Scarcely any harm is seen in the husband leaving a widow with children without a farthing to live upon. This relief must aggravate the evil by its consequences (improvidence and low wages). Wages of women are so low and work is so scarce, that they actually cannot get a decent living by their own exertions.

‘The only solution I see for the present is to get working men to establish a fund supported by their weekly contributions and administered by themselves, out of which their widows are provided for after their death. But how to find a definite plan by which working men may be gradually obliged or induced to use this foresight!’

PAUPERISM AND CHARITY ORGANISATION IN ROME.

It appears from a recent number of a Roman newspaper, *Il Dovere*, that the Municipality has proposed to the Town Council the appointment of a Special Commission, who should be directed to draw up a descriptive return of the number of cases of true and of spurious poverty which have occurred in the capital. The preface to this proposal of the Municipality draws attention to the proportions which the ‘pernicious plant’ of pauperism has attained, and how firmly its roots are fixed in the soil of Rome. It dwells on the importance of full and accurate statistics on the subject of pauperism, and points out that the *Congregazione di Carità*, a kind of union of charitable agencies, raises an annual amount of £155,166, of which £154,583 are administered by the Municipality. After quoting the passages to the above effect, the writer of the article states that other charitable institutions, having a further total income of above £11,875, distribute one-half of this amount in annual grants, so that the total annual amount expended in official charity in Rome must be £161,103. A large portion of this sum is, it appears, expended in fixed monthly allowances of indefinite number, but only amounting as a rule to 750 lire per month, a sum which cannot, says the writer, form any important part of the income of a family. The article concludes by approving, in the warmest terms, the proposed step, by expressing the hope that, in spite of the obstacles that must retard it, it may soon have practical results, and by alluding to a contemplated plan for amalgamating, under another *Congregazione*, the administration of the whole of the charitable institutions (*Opere Pie*) of Rome. An article in another issue of the same paper deals at greater length with this plan, and lays stress upon the importance of some concentration and organisation of the numerous charitable institutions of the town, having either the same or similar objects, acting, as they do, on no recognised principle, and guided by no acknowledged standard. It is shown, for instance, that by the concentration and organisation of certain institutions for the care and maintenance of the aged and of orphans, sixteen establishments could be dispensed with, and that, by properly utilising their sites, an income of £8,312 could be obtained, which, together with the present income of the institutions it is proposed to unite, would make a total revenue of £36,290.

PAUPERISM AND POOR RELIEF AT BRUSSELS.—Our Brussels correspondent writes:—The burgomaster of Brussels has made an important statement in the Communal Council with regard to the administration of the poor asylums and hospitals of Brussels. He pointed out that this administration is continually becoming richer, and that the properties which it accumulates never come again into circulation; that the application of the revenue from these properties encourages pauperism instead of preventing it; and that the hospitals do not render the services which might be expected from them. Since 1872 the property of the administration has increased at the rate of 500,000f. annually, and amounts now to 50,000,000f.; nevertheless the administration demands a subsidy of 311,000f. from the town. Twenty thousand paupers receive relief, but the administration neglects to pay for the schooling of the children of the poor, so as to render them able at once to earn a living. Permanent relief, as it is given now, keeps up misery, and prevents those receiving it from seeking healthy homes in the suburbs (which are independent communes, and where they would lose the right to relief from the Brussels administration), and perpetuates the insalubrity of many quarters of the town. In Brussels one of eight inhabitants receives relief, at Bruges one of three, and at Tournai even one of two. In these towns the patrimony of the poor is, of course, the most considerable, while there are localities where, owing to the insignificance of this patrimony, only one of 184 inhabitants is in the receipt of relief. The burgomaster expressed the hope that the Communal Council will be able to put an end to the evils of such a system of poor relief. In conclusion, the burgomaster criticised the present hospital administration, and said that the hospitals should be placed outside the inner town.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

POOR LAW CONFERENCE.

OUT-RELIEF.—At the Conference for the North Wales District, held at Rhyl, on March 23, the Rev. Bulkeley O. Jones, speaking of the Ruthin Union, said:—‘The expenditure of 1874-75 was £3,826 upon out-relief, and the out-paupers were 830. The expenditure in 76-77 was £2,963, showing a decrease of £863, and the out-paupers were 428. But, gentlemen, that does not represent the whole of the decrease, because we called upon the relatives of paupers to contribute in a much greater degree in 76-77 than we did in 74-75. The amount of contribution by relations in 74-75 only amounted to £80. The amount contributed by relations in 76-77 amounted to £196. And taking these figures into account, the decrease, as compared with 74-75, is £979, which is very nearly, as you see, at the rate of £1,000 per annum. . . . Then, gentlemen, considering that the reduction is something about £1,000 per annum, if we take the capitalised value, we at once see that the property in the union is more valuable in 76-77 by £30,000, than it was before in 1874.’

The Rev. Venables Williams stated in a paper read by him:—'It cannot, I fear, be denied that there is a vast amount of deceit and imposition among the applicants for relief; there is *some*, no doubt, but cannot be very much, among the *old*—they tell their own tale. It must be borne in mind that there is a large class in every union who think, and openly say, that the union funds are "common funds"—common property—and that they have a perfect right to them.'

Mr. W. Layton Lowndes said:—'It is obvious to those who have studied the history and progress of Poor Law Administration from its commencement, that the original principle of the Poor Law was the workhouse test. In proportion as that test has been applied, pauperism has diminished; in proportion as that test has been neglected, pauperism has flourished. That was the case all through the last century. It has been shown over and over again in this century, both before and since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. The main point is to make Boards of Guardians understand and see the advantage of the regulation that indoor relief should be the rule generally, and outdoor relief the exception; and that destitution, not poverty, gives the only claim to relief of any kind. Guardians have no right to carry out their own ideas as to poverty giving a claim to relief. Poverty appeals most strongly to private charity, but gives no claim to relief from rates compulsorily levied from a class—in many cases but little better off than the applicant for relief—and in no way partaking of the nature of a charitable fund. Relief, therefore, being only given to real cases of destitution, is most efficiently given in the workhouse, where those in need of relief are properly clothed, fed, and housed.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of July, compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of June 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week June	4th week July	4th week June	4th week July
Kensington	968	956	369	332
Fulham	400	393	581	632
Paddington	778	773	963	934
Chelsea	834	854	324	251
St. George's	1,730	1,722	1,491	1,464
Westminster	742	755	292	273
St. Marylebone	2,262	2,216	1,953	1,844
Hampstead	162	177	87	87
St. Pancras	2,758	2,752	4,696	4,405
Islington	1,299	1,333	2,401	2,362
Hackney	832	848	1,906	1,744
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury	1,153	1,140	565	592
Strand	721	722	311	266
Holborn	2,503	2,557	3,654	3,601
City of London	1,934	1,950	2,860	2,805
Shoreditch	1,084	1,109	811	787
Bethnal Green	1,345	1,346	640	639
Whitechapel	1,022	986	152	160
St. George's, East	1,078	1,087	105	112
Stepney	871	892	190	177
Mile End Old Town	820	820	555	493
Poplar	1,080	1,037	1,708	1,629
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,309	2,407	2,701	2,558
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,301	1,348	2,256	2,231
Lambeth	1,571	1,582	3,024	2,990
Wandsworth and Clapham	909	907	1,516	1,451
Camberwell	1,115	1,124	1,303	1,282
Greenwich	1,279	1,273	2,072	1,994
Woolwich	679	623	2,275	2,197
Lewisham	274	269	539	506
Total	35,903	35,958	42,300	40,888

RETURNS FOR JULY.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, July 28, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total				
Kensington	18	9	14	41	3	3	6	17	3	11	2	33	80	38	15	51
Fulham	1	4	1	6	1	3	4	11	2	6	8	17	25	7	7	20
Paddington	4	4	12	20	2	4	6	18	6	15	2	33	75	49	23	5
Chelsea	1	1	7	9	2	4	6	9	4	1	1	17	38	35	10	3
St. George's	5	2	11	18	1	5	6	14	2	2	2	18	42	100	16	3
G. Committee	5	1	21	27	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	5	60	11	13	..
St. James's and Soho	4	2	2	8	4	..	4	6	1	..	..	9	21	10	30	..
Westminster	11	2	14	27	1	31	8	40	14	1	..	61	88	17	43	..
St. Marylebone	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	1	2	4	..	..	2	..
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North St. Pancras	4	..	5	9	..	11	31	..	..	2	5	4	45	25	9	1
South St. Pancras	13	10	20	43	2	38	36	66	..	3	..	3	117	27	29	9
Islington	8	5	3	15	1	41	17	59	15	3	6	27	101	90	34	..
Hackney Union	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	17	..	..	..	17	20	..	3	15
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	2	..	7	9	1	17	3	21	11	..	..	11	41	20	19	..
Strand	3	1	4	8	..	15	3	18	4	..	1	6	37	68	39	97
Holborn	9	1	9	19	..	39	5	44	3	..	..	5	68	19	44	3
City	..	2	2	4	..	5	2	7	2	5	..	7	16	31	106	84
Shoreditch	8	3	..	10	..	5	2	7	6	5	..	13	30	10	16	..
Bethnal Green	4	..	12	16	..	2	1	3	7	3	..	10	29	9	11	..
Whitechapel	3	1	10	14	2	4	6	12	3	4	..	7	33	24	29	..
St. George's-in-the-East	3	2	8	13	..	3	4	7	2	1	4	8	28	3	8	..
Stepney	6	4	6	16	1	6	5	12	1	..	2	3	31	43	14	3
Mile End Old Town	2	..	9	11	..	3	4	7	2	..	1	3	21	12	7	..
Poplar	2	..	15	17	..	4	6	10	11	2	..	15	42	9	6	..
St. Saviour's	4	3	18	25	..	3	4	7	7	1	..	10	42	8	9	..
Newington	6	4	1	11	1	1	3	5	1	3	1	5	21	13	14	..
St. Olave's	2	2	3	7	..	3	6	9	6	2	..	6	14	30	7	10
Lambeth	2	..	6	8	..	2	2	4	5	4	..	11	29	6	25	..
Lewisham	2	..	..	2	..	3	3	2	1	..	1	4	9	..	2	..
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Battersea	3	3	5	11	..	3	3	13	4	..	1	18	32	10	1	46
Clapham	1	..	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	1	3	5	9	6	3	30
Camberwell	1	1	9	11	..	6	8	14	5	..	..	5	30	2	5	..
Grove Lane	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greenwich	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	4	4	..	5	15	7	1	48
Deptford	2	1	1	4	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	1	7	4	7	4
Woolwich	1	..	5	6	..	1	..	1	1	3	5	12	15	1	1	74
Lewisham	4	1	..	5	..	..	..	1	2	1	9	13	15	10	5	68
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	108
Sydenham	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	4	6	3	5	17
Totals	141	68	246	455	12	278	154	444	223	79	39	97	1337	714	615	602

* No returns received from this Committee during the month of July.

REFERENCES.

AN ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT IN GHENT.—A recent number of *Macmillan* contains the following information on this subject:—

'The Public Schools of the city fall into four classes. Those most numerously attended are the Free Primary Schools, maintained in great part at the expense of the communal Council. In these there are 4,315 boys and 3,674 girls, or 7,989 in all. Then there are the *Écoles payantes*, primary schools of the same educational character, but not gratuitous, designed for children of a higher social rank. In these there are 1,079 scholars. In the *Écoles Gardiennes*, or Free Infant Schools, there are 3,039 children; and in the Adult Schools, which are held in the evening or on the Sunday, there are 3,285 men and women under regular instruction. Out of this total of 15,392 pupils, no less than 13,032 are this year in possession of accounts in the savings bank. The uniformity and steadiness with which the system has taken root in the schools may be estimated from these figures:—

I. Number of Depositors.

	In 1867	In 1869	In 1871	In 1873	Number of Pupils in 1873
Free Primary Schools	4,182	6,995	7,229	7,583	7,989
Paying Schools	491	666	628	640	1,079
Infant Schools	—	1,075	1,572	1,920	3,039
Adult Schools	628	1,801	2,724	2,889	3,285
	5,301	10,537	12,153	13,032	15,392

II. Sums Deposited.

	1867	1869	1871	1873
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr. £
Free Primary Schools	23,014	55,685	172,643	274,602 or 10,984
Paying Schools . .	3,666	13,220	19,347	22,687 or 907
Infant Schools . .	—	4,880	37,803	66,523 or 2,661
Adult Schools . .	5,227	22,513	68,203	99,252 or 3,970
	31,907	96,298	297,996	463,064 or £18,522

'Thus, the average sum now standing to the credit of each depositor is about 35 francs. It will be seen that, relatively to the numbers, the largest success has been attained in the schools of the first class, the scholars in the ordinary juvenile schools being necessarily more amenable to influences of this kind than those of the second class, older and more thoughtful than those of the third, and with habits of extravagance which, if acquired at all, are less confirmed than those of the fourth. The work has been done without Government authority or pressure of any kind, but simply through the energetic initiative of one earnest man, aided by the sympathy of the teachers and local managers. The reports show that there is also a steady growth in the interest with which the parents regard the experiment. At first, the act of economy was mainly that of the child, who was induced to put by the halfpence he would otherwise have spent in fruit or sweetmeats. But besides this, children are often entrusted by their parents with small sums expressly for the purpose of being added to the store. And the general result, that in a simple town of moderate size, upwards of 10,000 children have opened separate accounts in the savings bank, and that nearly £15,000 are deposited in their names, is one which is full of encouragement to the thoughtful philanthropists who devised the plan, and which has already produced a very marked effect on the social and moral life of the working classes in Ghent. The experiment has created great interest throughout Belgium. In Antwerp, in Bruges, and in the rural districts, successful efforts have been made to secure the adoption of the same plan; and last year a new association for the special encouragement of saving has been formed, under distinguished auspices, with its head-quarters at Brussels, and designed to operate on all the communal and state schools of the country, in a systematic manner.'

INCIDENCE OF THE POOR LAW.

A correspondent writes:—'An aged woman, once a servant, whom I visit, who has by thrift provided for her old age by investing her savings in two cottages, lately had occasion to have two rooms repapered. The men employed neglecting the work, to the loss of her letting the rooms, she complained to their employer, who told her his inability to coerce them, adding that one of them, who appears to be a drinking man, could earn fifteen shillings a day. This poor woman, who has hardly more per week to live upon, pays poor rates, and is therefore compelled to contribute to the fund which the law gives the right to this drinking fellow to come upon for the subsistence of himself and family when his drinking and holiday-making career has run its course. Reform is assuredly needed.'

PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

On Saturday last a Conference, called by the Medical Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, was held at the Medical Society, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, under the presidency of Mr. Timothy Holmes. The Committee, in issuing their circular to the Provident Dispensaries of the Metropolis, said that they were of opinion that it was at present very desirable that efforts should be made to strengthen and consolidate the Provident Dispensary movement throughout London; and that they believed that at such a conference the most important points in connection with the present position of the question might be fully discussed by specially experienced persons, and suggestions made which might subsequently be considered by the committees and members of the Provident Dispensaries.

There were present Sir Charles Trevelyan, K.C.B., Mr. A. H. Hill, Mr. Jabez Hogg, Captain Fortescue, of the Nursing Association, Dr. Joseph Rogers, Dr. Nankivell, Mr. George Brown, of the Islington and North London Provident Dispensaries, and others.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said it would be as well to commence with mentioning the points for discussion. These were '1. What steps should be taken to increase the number of efficient Provident Dispensaries in London? 2. What should be the relations of the Provident Dispensaries to the Hospitals? 3. Is it possible to secure a correspondence between the different Provident Dispensaries in London,

so that a member of a Provident Dispensary, when he removes to another district, can, without delay and without entrance fee, immediately obtain medical relief in the Provident Dispensary nearest his new residence?' Opinion upon the general subject, he said, was tolerably settled, and the attention of the meeting would be directed mainly to what had been done, and what could be done in regard to the establishment of Provident Dispensaries. These were questions of importance to our hospital system, and had been long under consideration. The discussion, in which Sir William Fergusson had taken a leading part, commenced some seven or eight years ago, and it commenced with the medical staffs of the hospitals. They then felt that, though the general administration of hospitals was satisfactory, the unsatisfactory features of the out-relief had been growing instead of diminishing. The faults in that system were not to be attributed to the staffs of the hospitals. The Out-patients Department had been thrown open to every person who might choose to apply, and the only limitation which had been placed upon the relief was the inconvenience of obtaining it owing to the overwhelming numbers who applied for it; for as the numbers applying were very great, it became necessary to keep the applicants a very long time, and this became the only check upon hospital out-relief. It was unnecessary to speak about the vices of the system, because they had been spoken of before, and so indubitably proved by Sir Charles Trevelyan, that no one doubted that the present system was bad, both medically and socially. The only thing remaining was to know how to limit the out-relief without injury to the poor, who were the legitimate objects of medical charity, and without hardship to the sick and diseased. As to the question of the social condition of the applicants for medical relief, it was easy to make inquiry into that matter, through the Charity Organisation Society, and to ascertain what were the earnings of the applicants, and by this means to limit the relief given to the really poor. But then there came the question of the medical reason for the relief of patients at hospitals; and the point which needed attention was that the case to be treated at the hospital should be one of a somewhat serious character. That point had been kept in the background. He thought that those who applied to the out-departments of hospitals—always excepting such cases as accidents and cases arising from circumstances of emergency—should be persons who had been previously to the Poor Law Dispensary, or a Provident Dispensary, or to a private practitioner; but these were points of detail which could be otherwise dealt with. Those who desired to see hospital authorities adopt principles which would give hope of life to the provident institutions would have to convince the governors of hospitals like those of St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, and St. Thomas's, of the necessity of limiting the out-relief, for no provident institutions could be set up while the present system remained. The free hospitals would stifle the provident dispensaries. Before, therefore, anything could be done, the governors of those free hospitals must be got to act in co-operation with the promoters of the Provident Dispensaries, and this would not be unless those governors were convinced that the work was necessary. He was there as a hospital surgeon. A large part of his life had been given to hospitals. Hence, naturally, he should be sorry to join in any movement which would limit the benefits derived from the great hospitals in London, or should appear to reflect upon them. They had done their duty, and had been pressed to do what they had done by the public; and in the steps to be taken the means must be found, while limiting the numbers which unnecessarily filled up the rooms of the hospital, to give the physicians and surgeons the cases from which were derived the materials for teaching. At present the physician and the surgeon could not attend to cases properly when he had to see rooms filled with patients. He warned the promoters of this movement that they would have to encounter many difficulties in their endeavour to change the present system; but he hoped that they would be able to persuade hospital governors that a change was necessary.

Mr. C. S. Loch read several letters.

The Hon. Secretary of the Manchester and Salford Provident Dispensaries Association wrote:—

'With reference to the first point on your Agenda, I am unable to say more than that, when it was decided here that a number of provident dispensaries should be established, the sum of £1,000 a year for three years was guaranteed by a few gentlemen, in order to defray the cost of establishing them and the loss on their working during that period. Seven dispensaries were then commenced. The above-named sum was found to be insufficient, and donations amounting to £1,000 were given, and a second guarantee fund of £200 a year for three years formed.

'With regard to your second point, you will find our mode of operation described in page 9 of the Report for 1875. This plan has worked exceedingly well.

'I do not think that the permanent success of a provident dispensary depends in any very great degree on the adoption of a system of rigid investigation by the neighbouring free hospitals or dispensaries. Those who may require immediate medical attendance may be driven in for a time, but unless the dispensary is conducted as I shall indicate, they will with-

draw as soon as restored to health. This opinion is based upon the experience of all our dispensaries.

'It does not appear to us that provident dispensaries can become successful—that is, self-supporting—unless a large proportion of the members are healthy ones; unless the members continue to pay during health as well as during sickness. Our experience has taught us this very clearly, that the members will not do this unless they feel that it is to their interest to remain; and this feeling will not exist unless they know by experience that in their times of sickness they will be treated as well and as willingly as if they were private patients. The first condition of success, therefore, is not the co-operation of the medical charities, but the hearty co-operation of the medical staff.

'Given a dispensary in a suitable district (very poor people—hawkers, and people of uncertain employment—will not remain as members in time of health), the support of a medical staff whose numbers bear a strict proportion to the number of members; an efficient committee, with a zealous hon. secretary (who will devote at least one evening a week to the affairs of the dispensary); rigid economy as regards drugs; and a good collector, and it is only a work of time for the dispensary to become self-supporting. But without all these conditions success will be difficult, if not impossible.'

Dr. Shapcott, writing from Devonport, said:—

'The establishment of the Provident Dispensary in connection with the Royal Albert Hospital was caused by the fact of the resources of the hospital being gradually crippled from the large sum in proportion to the income which was spent in affording gratuitous out-patient relief.

'The fact that by the connection of the Provident Dispensary with this hospital, and the consequent inability of persons of the class who would apply for out-patient relief to obtain it without payment of the small subscription to the dispensary, having resulted not only in the removal of the burden on our funds, but enabled a payment, however small in proportion to the work done, to be made to the medical officers who have the care of the Provident Dispensary patients, I think shows that, at any rate in a town of this description (population, including East Stonehouse, about 65,000), the better plan is to affiliate the Provident Dispensary with any existing hospital, making it take the place of all other out-patient relief; as, should it be established independently, and the hospital still continue to afford such relief gratuitously, it could not possibly flourish, as persons would undoubtedly resort to the hospital for advice and medicine, instead of becoming members of the dispensary.

'How far these remarks will apply to Provident Dispensaries in London residents there will be able to form a much better opinion than I should.'

Dr. Lawson Tait wrote from Birmingham:—

'As to the relations which Provident Dispensaries ought to have to hospitals, I have no hesitation whatever in saying that they ought to take the place entirely of the present out-patient departments. As a rule the out-patient departments of our large hospitals are mere shams, the amount of investigation and care given in the average to each case being wholly inadequate; and under existing circumstances I do not see how this can be remedied. It is the natural outcome of the keen competition which exists between the various hospitals and the equally keen competition for hospital appointments when vacant. Let this work be distributed over a larger number of men in a fashion which will be remunerative, and the evils will at once cease. The provident dispensary will supply the machinery for this in all cases, save those which are fit subjects for State aid.

'The hospitals would then be confined to their legitimate work as the consulting institutions for the poor, and their officers would be able to give a scientific attention to a limited number of cases, which would serve materially to advance scientific medicine. At present, members of a hospital staff are obliged, during that part of their lives in which their enthusiasm and their powers are best fitted for original work, to exhaust themselves with the profitless routine of the out-patient room—a kind of drudgery which differs only in name from the labour of a parish practice, whilst it has the additional disadvantages that it is more irksome and is entirely gratuitous.

'Hospitals should therefore, in my opinion, be limited entirely to in-patient work; and if they are dependent on voluntary contributions, or in other ways charitable, they should admit all cases requiring special skill and appliances when the patients are unable to maintain themselves and pay for what is needed. This should be extended even to paupers; for though at present the rule which excludes persons in receipt of State relief from so many of our hospitals is a good one, if hospitals were conducted as they should be, it would be a hardship to exclude a pauper having a cataract or an ovarian tumour from the benefits of the highest obtainable skill.

Further, the members of the hospital staffs should be chosen exclusively from members of the profession who have taken some of the highest degrees, and who are not on the staff of the Provident Dispensaries. This I mention as offering a distinct remedy for a state of matters which exists in the provinces to a large extent, and forms a marked hindrance to the

advance of the profession of medicine. We constantly find men holding hospital appointments in large towns who have only the most ordinary titles to practice, and who may be found called in to give a second opinion in one street, and attending club patients in the next. Hospital appointments under such circumstances are a bar to legitimate competition, and their holders stand in the way of that division of labour without which progress has never yet been made.'

Letters from Dr. Maunsell, Liverpool; Mr. J. Watts, Manchester; Dr. Russell and Dr. Black, Glasgow; Sir Rutherford Alcock, Mr. W. H. Alger, Mr. T. J. Fisher, and others, were reported or read in part.

Dr. Morton, of the Kilburn Provident Dispensary, wrote: 'I don't think there would be much practical difficulty in carrying out the plan suggested for discussion as No. 3. We have no entrance fee, but a member does not become free until the second monthly payment is made. I do not think the Committee would object to allow persons bringing evidence of having cleared the books of some sister institution to become free of ours at the first payment. Such persons we find make capital steady members, having already learned to appreciate the advantages of the system.'

Dr. Ford Anderson thought that the meeting should start with these two propositions as a basis: '1. That the out-patient departments of our large hospitals and free dispensaries, as they are at present constituted, are demoralising to the patients, and are unprofitable both to the patients and to the medical officers. 2. That in order to remedy these abuses there should be, on the one hand, a further development of the Poor Law Dispensary system in London, and, on the other, a large increase in the number of Provident Dispensaries.' The last, he said, was the chief remedy for the out-patient abuses which the meeting had met to consider. The two propositions he had mentioned had been laid down by every Association which had approached the question of Metropolitan medical relief since 1870, notably by the professional committees under the presidency of the late Sir Wm. Fergusson, and by the two conferences called by the Charity Organisation Society, one in 1871 and the other in April last, when Sir Charles Trevelyan read his complete paper on the subject of Metropolitan Medical Relief. Dr. Anderson reviewed the action taken last April, and stated that collaterally with these meetings and conferences active practical work had been going on in London and in the country, and so far as it had gone proved the wisdom of Sir William Gull's resolution. He then showed the progress of the Provident Dispensary system in Manchester, and the decrease of applicants at hospitals which investigated the circumstances of the applicants, and the vast increase at the same time at the Southern Hospital, where no investigation was made. He urged that to make inquiry respecting the condition of patients operative there must be Provident Dispensaries to which the patients unsuitable for gratuitous medical treatment could be referred, and on many other points he invited the practical suggestions of the delegates, in the hope that the conferences might inaugurate practical work.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said, the way to establish provident dispensaries as a national institution was to weed out abuses from the system. The great danger attending anything beneficial was, that the moment it became popular, a host of imitations followed. In this way sham dispensaries had been established in London to a considerable extent, and had placarded themselves as 'Provident Dispensaries,' and obtained the benefit of that name. These places, however, had no basis of mutual assurance; and Sir Charles read an account of an inquest upon a child who had been attended from one of these 'provident dispensaries,' the result of the inquest showing that the so-called 'provident dispensary' was a private speculation by unqualified persons, and that the child, if properly attended, would most probably have lived. The Coroner in the case said that the Provident Dispensary, when properly conducted, was a great boon to the poor, but in the hands of unqualified persons was a source of great danger. The fact that these mushroom dispensaries had sprung up in different parts of London was in itself evidence of the want—a real want—on the part of the population, and it was a remarkable fact that some of them were to be found in the midst of the populations surrounding the great free hospitals and free dispensaries. He took the pains to test this class of mushroom provident dispensaries by visiting them, and he asked them how they got their custom in the midst of so many free hospitals and institutions. The one answer was that the people could not bear the long waiting required at the free places, and that they would rather pay for immediate attendance than waste their time and aggravate their maladies by waiting in the out-patient departments of hospitals. Another sham 'provident' institution was that which existed merely as bait to attract the subscriptions of the charitable—another of the large class of eleemosynary institutions—and he mentioned one in the City whose programme, he said, was drawn up on the approved sensational plan, in order to tout for subscriptions, having, too, the most objectionable feature of 'governors' cards' in place of 'governors' letters.' The real provident system and the mendicant system could not go hand in hand, for where people had the choice of paying or of not paying, of course they would choose not to pay, and would go touting for governors'

letters. The remedy for this state of things was to have a real Provident Dispensary system, each dispensary established under a strong committee, including medical officers—a committee representing the people themselves. A conference on the subject had been convened by the Hospital Saturday Fund, and one of the charges that had been made against the provident dispensary system was that the dispensaries established were not really 'provident,' as they were supported by charitable subscriptions. Considerable success had attended the establishment of the Provident Dispensaries in the great towns, and to carry on a successful propaganda of the principle in London, those who knew the necessity of this work must have the courage of their opinions. The work was now supported by the highest authorities, lay and medical, and would, he hoped, be carried to a successful issue.

Dr. Rogers spoke of the demoralising and pauperising effects of the present system of hospital out-relief, and narrated an instance in which, he said, a tradesman, with two houses at the West-end of London, and keeping a 'trap,' compelled his wife to take their sick child to the hospital, and to seek hospital assistance for herself in her confinements.

Mr. George Brown, of the Islington and North London Provident Dispensary, said he was sure that many persons got hospital relief who were able to pay. He raised the question whether provident dispensaries could pay their way on the subscriptions alone.

Mr. Pitman, of the Provident Surgical Appliance Society, Mr. A. H. Hill, Captain Fortescue, of the Nursing Association, Bloomsbury Square, Dr. Nankivell, Mr. Jabez Hogg, Dr. A. P. Stewart, and Mr. S. M. Caffyn, addressed the meeting; Dr. Nankivell describing the work done in different towns in successfully establishing provident dispensaries; Dr. A. P. Stewart urging that the evils of the present indiscriminate system should be brought before every hospital board at every quarterly court; and Mr. Caffyn pressing that to make the dispensary system a really 'provident' one, and acceptable to the working classes, it must be shorn of the honorary subscription system, and urging that the members of the large friendly and benefit societies should be invited to give their co-operation. Finally, the following resolution, moved by Dr. Nankivell, and seconded by Mr. Jabez Hogg, was adopted:—

'That a Committee be appointed to report upon the best means of giving effect to the views expressed at this meeting. That the Committee be composed as follows—

'1. Representatives of free hospitals and dispensaries, and other cognate institutions in the metropolis.

'2. Representatives of the Metropolitan Provident Dispensaries.

'3. The members of the Medical Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, and that Mr. Timothy Holmes be asked to act as Chairman of the Committee.'

A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

Just published, price 5s.

HOSPITAL MORTALITY, being a Statistical Examination of the Returns of the Hospitals of Great Britain for Fifteen Years. By LAWSON TAIT, F.R.C.S., Fellow of the Statistical Society, &c. &c.

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'We commend to the careful perusal of *all* connected with charitable institutions, whether lay or professional members, the honest *exposé* of the pitiable makeshifts adopted to enhance the utility of a charity in the eyes of the public. The hearty thanks of the profession are due to the author for the mass of information he has collected, and for the able manner in which he has elucidated important facts affecting the welfare of our empire and the progress of our science.'—*Medical Examiner*, August 2, 1877.

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ANNUAL REPORTS.—A few Sets of the Annual Reports of District Committees for 1876, bound up with the Eighth Annual Report of the Council, will shortly be published.

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PERSONAL VISITATION OF THE POOR. Report of the Sub-Committee of the Council of the Charity Organisation Society on the Visitation of the Poor. (Adopted by the Council, July 23, 1877.)

Central Office:—15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

RETURNS OF SCHOOL BOARD CASES FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 1877.

Four District Committees had no cases:—

Lewisham | Clapham | Eltham | Hampstead.

Two District Committees expended no money on the relief of cases:—

Stepney | Wandsworth.

Thirty-two District Committees expended money on the relief of cases:

No money expended	Money expended	Total number of cases		Amount expended £ s. d.
4	3	7	Kensington	6 10
2	17	19	Fulham	51 16
2	3	5	Chelsea	7 7
7	5	12	St. George's (Hanover Square)	3 4
8	4	12	St. James's and Soho	3 15
1	1	2	St. Marylebone	0 10
2	1	3	Paddington	0 4
2	3	5	North St. Pancras	3 11
5	11	16	South St. Pancras	23 14
7	7	14	Islington	9 11
4	7	11	Hackney	6 8
2	2	4	St. Giles and Bloomsbury	2 0
9	6	15	Strand	4 6
6	8	14	Holborn	5 12
4	12	16	City	18 15
12	14	26	Shoreditch	8 10
43	23	66	Bethnal Green	17 12
8	1	9	Whitechapel	0 10
2	2	4	St. George's (East)	4 6
4	5	9	Mile End	5 4
14	4	18	Poplar	6 11
14	6	20	St. Saviour's	4 18
10	5	15	Newington	2 9
6	15	21	St. Olave's	12 8
11	6	17	Lambeth	5 17
1	1	2	Brixton	0 16
4	4	8	Battersea	2 16
8	8	16	Camberwell (Grove Lane)	4 9
3	2	5	Do. (Peckham)	1 10
0	6	6	Greenwich	2 11
17	6	23	Deptford	1 18
10	7	17	Woolwich	6 4 1
2	1	3	Sydenham	0 10
234*	206	440	Total	£236 12

July 31, 1877.

C. S. LOCH, Secretary.

* Of these:—

45 were dismissed, or unfavourably reported on as 'Not requiring relief.'
 50 do. do. do. 'Undeserving.'
 130 do. do. do. 'Ineligible.'
 3 were recommended to the Guardians.
 6 were do. Institutions or Local Agencies.

Total 284, being the number of cases upon which no money was expended.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct to 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

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CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED BY THE
SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 229.

THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 13, 1877.

MONTHLY NUMBER.

PRICE 2d.

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The ‘CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER’ is published weekly during the Sittings of Council; on the second Thursday in each month throughout the year a Double Number is published.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. LOCH, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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NOTICES.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, the 8th of October.

District Committees are informed that a man, respectable in appearance and giving the names of Chapman and Thompson, has been calling upon the Clergy in Paddington, and has obtained money in more than one instance. To excite sympathy he tells a story of distress and privation, and makes use of religious expressions and quotations.

BETHNAL GREEN.—Mr. J. F. Sapsford having resigned the Hon. Secretaryship, Mr. J. Barber has been elected in his place.

STEPNEY.—The Rev. S. A. Thompson Yates has been elected Chairman of this Committee, in the place of the Rev. H. F. H. Burchell-Herne, who has resigned.

CONVALESCENT CASES.—A letter for the admission of a suitable case into the Limpsfield Convalescent Home can probably be obtained for one of the Committees, on application to the Secretary, at the Central Office.*

Committees who, for want of funds available for suitable cases, are unable to secure their admission into convalescent homes are informed that a small balance of the grant of £25, sent for this purpose to the Council in July, can be had on application to the Secretary.

RETURNS FOR AUGUST.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, August 25, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as			Class II. Recommended to			Class III. Assisted by			Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Under-servicing	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total				
Kensington	12	7	13	22	1	4	2	7	11	1	4	16	55
Fulham	2	11	1	1	3	6	10	4	11	16	37	17	18
Paddington	12	2	10	14	1	7	15	13	4	11	24	55	18
Chelsea	3	4	7	14	3	5	8	2	6	18	40	21	29
St. George's	1	3	13	17	1	1	2	10	5	15	87	40	15
G. Committee	1	1	19	23	10	10	11	5	20	11	11	1	1
W. Committee	6	2	8	16	7	2	9	4	21	10	20	30	30
St. James's and Soho	7	2	15	24	13	8	24	8	4	19	31	18	28
Westminster Union	1	1	3	5	3	2	3	1	1	4	12	8	5
St. Marylebone	6	2	14	22	22	7	29	3	3	39	16	8	4
Hampstead	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
North St. Pancras	11	6	14	31	29	9	38	3	2	4	9	22	1
South St. Pancras	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Islington	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Hackney Union	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Strand	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Holborn	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
City	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Shoreditch	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Bethnal Green	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Whitechapel	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
St. George's-in-the-East	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Stepney	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Mile End Old Town	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Poplar	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Newington	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
St. Olave's	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Lambeth	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Brixton	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Wandsworth & Putney	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Battersea	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Clapham	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Camberwell	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Grove Lane	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Peckham	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Greenwich	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Deptford	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Woolwich	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Lewisham	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Eltham	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Sydenham	11	5	8	24	1	54	11	66	3	2	4	99	62
Totals	124	72	247	443	10	581	98	389	165	44	16	110	335

* See Reporter, Vol. V., p. 48.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of August, compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of July 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week July	4th week August	4th week July	4th week August
Kensington	956	1,067	332	381
Fulham	393	423	632	606
Paddington	773	814	934	893
Chelsea	854	885	251	311
St. George's	1,722	1,722	1,464	1,474
Westminster	755	761	273	295
St. Marylebone	2,216	2,290	1,844	1,829
Hampstead	177	168	87	85
St. Pancras	2,752	2,781	4,405	4,504
Islington	1,333	1,302	2,362	2,283
Hackney	848	838	1,744	1,681
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury	1,140	1,141	592	644
Strand	722	724	266	273
Holborn	2,557	2,547	3,601	3,555
City of London	1,950	1,050	2,805	2,790
Shoreditch	1,109	1,119	787	781
Bethnal Green	1,346	1,375	639	657
Whitechapel	986	980	160	178
St. George's, East	1,087	1,071	112	104
Stepney	892	867	177	171
Mile End Old Town	820	826	493	401
Poplar	1,037	1,063	1,629	1,631
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,407	2,443	2,558	2,468
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,348	1,357	2,231	2,207
Lambeth	1,582	1,609	2,990	3,043
Wandsworth and Clapham	907	917	1,451	1,383
Camberwell	1,124	1,142	1,282	1,244
Greenwich	1,273	1,311	1,994	1,962
Woolwich	623	625	2,197	2,263
Lewisham	269	278	596	571
Total	35,968	36,386	40,888	40,643

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

THE STRICT ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR LAW.

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

SIR,—One point only in Dr. Daniel's letter, which appeared in your issue of the 28th July, seems to require some explanation from me. Dr. Daniel is not quite clear what is meant by pauperism being a moral evil, unless poverty is to be considered a crime. As I should be sorry to be supposed to have confounded pauperism with poverty, I shall be glad if you will allow me space to make my meaning clear.

A moral evil is one affecting character or arising from a defect in character, and when I applied the term to the pauper spirit (not to pauperism) I simply meant to say that it was something wrong in the character—e.g., a want of thrift and power of self-help—which had most to do with swelling our pauper roll. I do not, of course, mean to say that all who have to come upon the parish are in that position by their own fault—the case of orphans alone, without mentioning others, would be sufficient to negative such a proposition—but that the systematic dependence upon the rates of whole categories of our population does arise from causes the consequences of which they can in a great measure control. Sickness, slackness of work, and old age, which are generally the immediate causes of distress, are all sure to come at some time or another, and it is possible, by means of the principle of association and mutual help—through the agency of benefit clubs, provident dispensaries, Post Office Savings Banks, &c.—for all classes to make some preparation to meet these the inevitable

contingencies of life. Those, therefore, who have been too much engrossed with the immediate wants of the present to make any effort of the kind, but have been content to allow themselves in times of adversity to become a burden to their neighbours, have surely done their duty neither to themselves nor to others, and it is no misnomer to call the temper which such carelessness indicates a moral evil. But if this be so, the remedy must also be a moral one. All that tends to raise the character, that helps people to a true idea of life, and trains them to the forethought necessary to meet its difficulties—all the agencies which are summed up in the word education—tend to reduce pauperism. Is the Poor Law, and more particularly the out-relief part of it, one of these agencies? Does it tend to raise the individual and stimulate his power of self-help? In answering this question we must look not only to those who are actually in receipt of the supposed benefits of out-relief, but to the whole class of those who hope some day to receive them. The question therefore is, What is the educational influence of this system on the ordinary man in full activity and strength? Is he to provide for sickness by joining a club or provident dispensary? There is no apparent reason for doing so; for if he is ill he will get relief from the parish at his own home, and how is his neighbour, who belongs to a club, better off? Is he to provide for old age? He asks why he should, for when past work he will get his half-crown from the parish at his own home. Is he to insure his life, so that his wife and family may not be left totally unprovided for? Well, that too is of doubtful utility, for the all-paternal parish will step in and look after all them at their own home. And so it goes on. So far from teaching the man forethought, the out-relief system is an elaborately devised arrangement for teaching him that he can do without it, and be apparently not much the worse off. Its educational influence is, therefore, unmitigatedly bad. It makes easy the path of the unthrift, and taxes the provident for the improvident.

One word in conclusion on the question, Who is to blame? for those who denounce the system of out-relief are often charged with what is termed 'being hard on the poor,' and setting up a standard of virtue too high for the mass of the people to attain to. Even if it is a utopian idea to imagine a state of things in which thrift was general, a system of relief which positively discourages it, and so fosters the distress it was meant to relieve, would stand condemned. It is certainly true that it is impossible to discuss this question at all without saying strongly to the working classes (and for that matter to all classes), that they are not thrifty enough, and that they cannot be better off until they form the habit of providing for the future; but when the educational influence of out-relief, as well as that of the mass of unreflecting charity, is taken into account, it cannot be said that the fault lies wholly at their door. The system, and those who support it, are doing the mischief and must share the blame. When a change in the right direction is made, we may still indeed see poverty, but the poverty which has been unprovided for, and which is a burden to others, the poverty, in fact, which we call pauperism, we shall see very much less of.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN R. HOLLOND.

August 28.

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

SIR,—It is impossible to refute a sneer, and in answer to Dr. Daniels' remarks on my paper (read at the Liberal Social Union, and afterwards printed in the *Charity Organisation Reporter*) I have simply to repeat what I previously said, on mature reflection, in my paper, viz. 'That, in St. George's-in-the-East, where out-relief is virtually abolished for new cases, and where a saving of upwards of £3,000 a year has been effected in that department alone, not more, I estimate, than about £200 a year has been given in additional charity, through the Charity Organisation Committee, among our 50,000 very poor population. Yet either the relieving officers or the Guardians themselves send every exceptional case to the Charity Organisation Committee, and that Committee has never allowed, to my knowledge, a single approved case to go unrelieved or inefficiently relieved, whatever the cost. Its office is situated in the main thoroughfare of the district, and must be known to everybody.' My point, of course, is that a thorough sifting of applications for relief outside the Workhouse results in the discovery, which to the inexperienced may appear marvellous, that very few ought to be granted.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. G. CROWDER.

HELPING BOTH SIDES IN WAR.

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

SIR,—The plan of assisting the sick and wounded of still contending armies is just now undergoing a curious but interesting discussion, which may furnish the means of considering anew, by its light, how far the original idea of this assistance is, from any point of view, a right one.

Of course the motives which prompt such action are of the purest Christian benevolence, and are prompted by the kindest feelings of the human heart. They were extended towards all the sufferers without distinction in the late Franco-German war, and they succeeded in relieving some of its necessary horrors. Large sums of money were sent, and many

of our most kind and skilful nurses and surgeons were freely helping both sides equally. Those whom we so assisted were our good friends the French and the Germans.

The next case of war was between different combatants, not equally our friends, nor perhaps equally deserving to be so, though, if the original feeling of humanity only were to govern us, they were equally entitled as sufferers to our sympathy and assistance.

They did not, however, get it, for England did not like the Turks, and would assist only the Servians. The important element was introduced of helping only those we liked.

The inconsistency of this was seen by some and was attempted to be rectified by the Duke of Sutherland and the Stafford House Committee, who sent clothes and blankets and medical aid to the suffering Turks. So the grand principle of charity or love became separated by the prism through which it saw its objects.

The present discussion as to whether or not it is right to help the Turks is a very curious outcome of this divergence. Some are saying, 'Do you think I would have subscribed money to help the Turks?' Others say, 'In suffering I know no sides.' Under these circumstances a national society would be impossible. The benevolent givers should consider this question afresh for themselves.

There is, however, besides this, another view which requires consideration, and that is, whether it is better to help both sides in war or only one side, or to keep out of it and help neither.

The new area of charitable action was invented during the late war between France and Germany, and so-called neutral nations then showed their pity by taking on themselves to assist largely in the duty of relieving the combatants of their sick and wounded. In the extent to which it was found impossible for us to carry it out, its immediate effect was to prevent the lessening of the number of effective fighting men, and to leave them free at once for continuing the fight and for killing and wounding another crop at the earliest possible moment. The greater advantage in this rapidity of movement would probably be on the side of the victorious army, and, if it could be carried out on a scale large enough for any occasion, it would enable the victorious general to push on with the greatest quickness, taking no care of sick or wounded, or of the hospital comforts or food. It has not been found possible as yet to act to this extent. But, even with our smaller operations, there were many occasions when it was found impossible to adjust the assistance with anything like fairness on both sides, and the intervention was really, in its effect, far from being neutral: the French had considerably the best of it. The work, however, was done by apprentices to the new trade; but, if it be decided that it is right in principle, it will be possible to organise it in future so as to cover a much larger portion of the whole ground equally on both sides, and in the most effective way.

Are we prepared for this, and to say that the original conception of the idea is right in principle? This may well be doubted, and even denied, with much show of argument. A true neutrality would leave the combatants alone to fight out their own battle, without helping either of them with anything, or in any way assisting them to continue the strife.

It will be seen at once that to help one army with its sick and wounded and not the other would not be proper in a neutral; how then is it right to help both sides? For neutrality means helping neither, and clearly not helping both. It becomes, on the contrary, rather a decided abetting of both, and anyone assisting in the same way at a prize fight in England would make himself an abettor in the eye of the law. It would be difficult to show why, if assistance be proper for the sick and wounded, it might not be extended to help the commissariat of an army, or to supply clothing to the ragged soldiers.

It was said that, by the improved hospital methods and comforts to which we largely contributed, about 60 per cent. of the earlier wounded in the late Franco-German war were enabled to return to their regiments. Is this what we subscribed our money for? And has it come to be the business of the neutral red cross knights to be bottle-holders to this extent to the savage combatants, helping them to their mutual slaughter, and to leave us to pay the butcher's bill? Add to this the very opposite principles of the combatants themselves, and on which they act during their bloody fight. They understand instinctively and quite truly how desirable it is to prevent any aid or comfort coming to the other. When Bazaine sent a flag of truce out of Metz to the Germans to ask for lint and medicines and a few doctors, the answer was a distinct refusal, on the ground that the want of these would help to make the fortress surrender the sooner. At Rouen the French would not allow the passage of medical stores and comforts to the Germans, but themselves took possession of the whole cargo, and applied it to their own purposes.

When Colonel Loyd-Lindsay had given his £20,000 to the Germans at Versailles, and wanted a pass to enable him to take a similar sum to the French, there was very considerable demur before he could get it through. Colonel Lindsay told us, in extolling the usefulness of the fund, that, had it not been for English charity, the sick in hospital would in some cases have

actually starved, as no provision of food had been made for them. Our interference and well-meant help, therefore, were soon found to be bearing their own fruit by encouraging the combatants to leave all to us, while they went on to make another crop of miseries for us to feed and cure. And all this was done by charitable neutrals, and was called neutrality.

I hope our British givers will ponder these things, and consider whether they are not doing more harm than good by meddling between fighting men, especially when there is such a division of the principle of charity as that separate societies have to be got up by Philo-Turks and Philo-Russians to help the particular friends of each.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

W.

SERMON AT ST. PAUL'S, HAMMERSMITH.

On Sunday evening, August 12, a sermon, from the text 'Cain said unto the Lord, Am I my brother's keeper?' was preached by the Rev. H. Wilson at the above church, in aid of the funds of the Fulham and Hammersmith Committee. In commencing his discourse Mr. Wilson said he did not intend to dwell on the circumstances under which those words were first spoken, as they were probably familiar to all; but rather to take them as a natural utterance of man's mind, which expressed a feeling which had been influential in the world's history, and one which was present, perhaps, in the hearts of those he was addressing. In the course of the sermon, the great selfishness of such a line of thought was dwelt upon, and the congregation were asked, What were the facts with which they had to deal? They were living in a country the richest in the world, and yet in which there was more pauperism than in any other. In the City of London alone, no statistics could show the misery and want there was at the present moment, the relief of which was no simple thing. It was not enough for those who were not themselves in want to be anxious to help their fellows who were, but they must find out how to do it wisely. The problem was a very difficult one, and those who were most earnest in their efforts to solve it best knew its difficulty. A mere desire to do right was not enough, nor generosity in giving wherever there seemed to be misery, as this would not unfrequently do more harm than good. Those who had earnestly taken up the problem how to help and raise those who have gone down in life's struggle must be aware how much harm is done by unwise efforts, by seeing the complicity of social life—the difficulties on all sides—so clearly, that—almost in despair—they were tempted to stand aside from the whole matter—to say, not so much in selfishness as in hopelessness, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' There were some, of course, who, full of charitable emotion, refused to recognise the difficulties, refused to see that there was responsibility in giving, as well as in withholding. Such persons would say that it was right to give alms indiscriminately, and quote the words of our Lord to support their opinions, 'Give to him that asketh of thee.' That was a weighty saying, but could not be made to support their views, unless taken in a literal sense; and it would not be right to take them in such sense any more than our Lord's saying that a man must hate his father and mother if he would be a Christian. Other words also might be quoted to prove this; for instance, 'If a man will not work neither let him eat.' Sentimental almsgiving was indiscriminate, and without inquiry might possibly, in a few instances, do good, but would undoubtedly do an immense amount of harm. Still, it was very little trouble, and gratified the giver, even if it injured the receiver. The old plan of giving alms at the gate of the monastery to all who asked for it was a simple one, and some might have an impression that if this sort of charity were universal, want would be at an end. But those who seriously tried to face the question saw that there was a responsibility in pauperising their neighbours. They had a far harder duty. Much difficulty was met with, and much discouragement experienced. There was therefore great need for untiring patience and courage. After some further observations to the same effect, the rev. gentleman said he had that night to place before them the claims of the Charity Organisation Society, and ask them to help it. A branch of the Society had been doing good work in the parish for some years past, and so should be considered as having special claims on them; but the Society was much cramped and hindered in its work by want of funds. Its claims had been met with indifference and coldness where other things might fairly have been expected. He would therefore ask them to assist the good work with money, but still more especially by interesting themselves in those objects and principles which the Society had been formed to carry out. He then touched on some of those principles, first saying that it was a rule of the Committees of the Society, when trying to relieve want, to aim at helping in some permanent way; in fact, to act as a physician would in dealing with a disease, not merely with its symptoms. And he proceeded to illustrate and describe at some length the mode of working of the Society. After alluding to the action of the Society with reference to Italian children, the rev. gentleman said that the main work of the Society was sometimes misunderstood. Its first and main object was not the giving of relief directly, but (as its name implied) organising existing charities. It was said, by those who knew, that there was already given, in England, more than enough to relieve existing want if it were all wisely applied, but there was so little system, and so much overlapping of

different societies, and this showed the need of such a society as the one he was speaking of. It, indeed, gave relief liberally and wisely, as many poor persons in that very parish could testify with gratitude, but its first aim was to utilise the various charitable agencies already existing so far as they were available. It supplemented such in cases where they could not help, but this fact did not appear to be understood by some of those who had spoken of the Society. They were asked to help it in its local claims. It was working in their midst, and was in great need of funds. And there was yet a wider claim. The Society was the result of a growing feeling of responsibility in the minds of many. Two things should be kept in view in efforts to help others. One was, personal intercourse, and help and interest. At the end of the sermon a collection was made, which was, it is believed, satisfactory in its results. The church was full.

WORK AND PROGRESS IN THE EAST END.

In his annual report to the London Domestic Mission, Mr. C. L. Corkran, whose mission station is in Spicer Street, Spitalfields, and who has worked in the district for more than twenty-nine years, bears testimony to the 'social, educational, moral, and religious progress' of the district. 'Notwithstanding,' he says, 'all that has been spoken and written of late, and the alarm so widely expressed touching the spread of intemperance—and few know better than I do the evils wrought by that terrible vice—I am decidedly of opinion that *drinking*, as we popularly understand the term, rather than *drunkenness*, has increased of late years, owing in large measure to the greater commercial prosperity of the country, and the consequent better employment and higher wages of the people generally. I do not believe, for instance, that skilled artisans drink much more than they used to do in less prosperous times. The classes who chiefly carry drinking to excess are precisely those who have not had, in past years, the benefits of the improved elementary education now being so widely diffused; but I am not a little confident that in a few years' time, when the masses of children now under instruction issue forth to become citizens of the world, they will be less inclined than their parents to mere sensual indulgence, and more disposed, while better fitted, for enjoyments of a higher and purer kind. The facts, I am aware, would seem to point to an opposite conclusion. When a single public-house, one of the largest and most "prosperous" in Bethnal Green, sold not long since for nearly £21,000—its takings being, as advertised, £920 per month; and when it is borne in mind what a large number of such houses may be found in the district, my belief and expectation of increased sobriety would seem to be at once baseless and hopeless. But I meet even these formidable facts with another, namely, that the vast majority of the many families whose children have been trained in our schools, and have many of them since become parents, may be fairly ranked among the temperate; and I aver my belief that if these masses of the people who are addicted to ruinous drinking habits were raised to the same level of sobriety, there would be but little need for special restrictive legislation directed against intemperance. It will be thus seen that my hopes for improvement in this respect rest upon the slower, but ultimately surer, grounds of educational culture, embracing of course that which is moral and religious.'

He then refers to the 'progress made in the spirit and practice of self-help, as well as in the repression of mendicancy,' and after attributing it partly 'to the wiser views that prevail amongst the ministers and almoners of all denominations as to the mischief that ever results from merely impulsive almsgiving,' bears his testimony to the good work done by two of our Committees—Bethnal Green and Whitechapel—of both of which he himself is an active member.

With regard to over-crowding—'one festering cause of intemperance and social and moral degradation'—he says: 'The scarcity of anything like adequate house accommodation for a dense and ever-increasing population continues, so that the rents of small houses and single or double apartments have risen 25 or 30 per cent. in market value of late years. Such enhanced rents compel numerous families, often including six, seven, and eight individual members, to occupy a single room, in which all the needful usages of domestic life go on monotonously, in which birth and death take place alike. In such a room I lately saw a dying child, afflicted with an attack of bronchitis, which proved fatal, surrounded on every side with damp clothes hung up to dry.'

Mr. Corkran's lending library, from which 2,750 volumes were taken during the year, numbers over 180 subscribers, and 540 contributors deposited nearly £700 in his savings banks.

While yielding 'a somewhat reluctant assent' to the action of the Bethnal Green and Whitechapel Unions as regards outdoor relief, the withdrawal of which, 'always with the option of admission to the house, is often accompanied with circumstances of severe individual hardship and suffering,' Mr. Corkran comes to the conclusion that 'the benefits on the whole are so many and so desirable from a social and economical point of view, that I am fully satisfied the real poor will ultimately be the gainers by the reversal of the former system, when outdoor relief was the rule, as it is now in Hackney, for example, and not the exception, as in the instance just stated.'

S. F.

EXTRACTS FROM A PAPER ON 'HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT REFORM: ITS HELPERS, ITS HINDERERS, AND ITS PASSERS-BY.'

By H. NELSON HARDY, F.R.C.S. Ed.

Read in the Public Health Section of the British Medical Association, at the Annual Meeting, held at Manchester, August 9, 1877.

1. *Helpers.*—The subject of out-patient reform has now been prominently before the profession for the last seven years; it has been much discussed in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and elsewhere; it therefore seems suitable that we should, at the present meeting of the Association, define its position, sketch its past history, and point out its helpers and hinderers, as well as indicate those who take apparently no interest whatever in the matter. In doing so, it will be my earnest endeavour to 'nought extenuate, nor set down aught in malice.' Before proceeding further, it may be well, for the sake of those who have not closely followed the discussion of this subject in the press, to define what is meant and what is not meant by the demand for out-patient reform; and, 1. Negatively, it is not meant or desired to deprive one single necessitous person in England of the benefits of gratuitous medical attendance in time of sickness, but only to restrict the use of the out-patient departments to the really poor; 2. It is not meant to cast blame upon our medical brethren engaged in treating out-patients for doing only what is possible under the circumstances in which they are placed, but to denounce and seek to reform a system which renders it possible for any physician or surgeon to be required to see sixty or eighty patients per hour; 3. Where the abuse has become so great that crowds of sick and suffering persons are kept waiting for hours in stifling out-patient rooms, and are after all dismissed without even the hasty glance of any qualified medical man, carrying with them a bottle of medicine ordered by some second or third year's student, an urgent demand for the reform of such a system can hardly be wondered at. Having referred to the proceedings of the Committee of 1871 on out-patient departments, of the Hospital Out-patient Reform Association, and of the Medical Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, as likewise to the presentation of the memorial, signed by three hundred members of the profession, to the Committee of Council of the British Medical Association, the paper proceeded:—Amongst the individual helpers in the cause of out-patient reform besides those already alluded to (viz. Dr. Meadows, Mr. Timothy Holmes, Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Dr. Joseph Rogers, Dr. Ford Anderson, etc.), I may mention Mr. Erichsen, who, in his lectures on Hospitalism, points to the out-patient department as one of the sources of those septic influences which surround patients in our large hospitals, and render their recovery after operations so much more difficult than when treated at home or in small cottage hospitals; Sir Charles Trevelyan, whose wonderful energy and enthusiasm in the cause have brought him into contact or correspondence with nearly all the workers on the subject all over the kingdom; Mr. T. J. Phillips Jodrell, whose munificent donations to institutions connected with our profession have culminated in the establishment of the Jodrell Chair of Physiology in University College, London, and to whose efforts to obtain a reform of the out-patient department of St. George's Hospital I shall presently refer; Mr. Sampson Gamgee, whose excellent address on 'Our Medical Charities' at the annual meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch you have all probably read with pleasure; Sir William Gull, Dr. Robert J. Lee, and last, but not least, the writer of those very striking letters in the *British Medical Journal*, which, recapitulating with great ability the most salient features in the whole discussion of the subject, are simply signed 'A Member of the Charity Organisation Society.' Amongst the periodicals and journals which have given their powerful support to the movement may be mentioned the *Westminster* and *Edinburgh Reviews*, the *Quarterly*, *Macmillan's*, and *Fraser's Magazines*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and our own *Journal*.

2. *Hinderers.*—In approaching the consideration of this part of the subject, I am forcibly reminded of the *Adventures of Philip on his Way through the World*, as narrated by Thackeray, in the course of which, as you will remember, poor Philip finds that the very person who of all others should have protected him from being robbed and deceived, namely, his own father, is the one who gambles away his inheritance and afterwards robs him of his earnings; for I have reluctantly arrived at the conclusion that the principal hinderers of all necessary reforms in the administration of our hospitals are to be found in the governing bodies, whether called Committees of Management, House Committees, or Boards of Governors, whose first aim ought naturally to be to render their institutions as efficient as possible. Having referred to the treatment of Dr. Mayo by the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of Dr. Chapman by the Metropolitan Free Hospital, and of Mr. T. J. Phillips Jodrell by the governors of St. George's Hospital, Mr. Hardy proceeded:—The moral to be drawn from these examples and from the experience of the Hospital Out-patient Reform Association appears to me to be that, in future efforts for the reform of hospitals, we must endeavour to get beyond the immediate governing

bodies to those from whom they receive their authority: in the case of the voluntary hospitals to the subscribers, and in the case of endowed hospitals, such as St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's, to the Corporation of London, and, if necessary, to Parliament. There seems, indeed, no reason that I can discover why charities which are being so misused should not all be placed by Parliament under the direct supervision of the Charity Commissioners.

3. *Passers-by.*—First among these I name those great medical bodies—the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons—which, standing at the head of their respective branches of the profession, might, if they would, exercise a most beneficial influence on questions such as this, but which have of late years apparently retreated from the honourable position they once occupied in the van of progress, and left to others the discussion and settlement of many questions of general interest to the profession. If anyone will take the trouble to look back over the old records, he will find that the College of Physicians, for instance, once took a deep interest in such questions as medical education, the prosecution of quacks, and even the outdoor treatment of the sick poor. In 1875 I contributed to *Fraser's Magazine* a paper containing a detailed account of the establishment of the first London dispensaries by the College on its own premises; and there can be very little doubt that the step thus taken by the College stimulated, of course indirectly and quite unintentionally, the development of out-patient departments at hospitals; for we find in Mr. (now Professor) Erasmus Wilson's *History of the Middlesex Hospital* that, at a quarterly council of the governors of that hospital, held on May 1, 1788, it was resolved that certain governors 'be a committee to take into consideration the several publications relative to the medical dispensaries, and do communicate with the governors of other hospitals whether any and what mode can be adopted by the hospital to prevent the increase of such dispensaries, which are very prejudicial to the regular established hospitals; and do consider whether all the relief held out for poor persons under the dispensary establishments cannot be administered by the hospitals as they now stand; and, if not, whether such improvements may not be made as shall fully answer all the purposes of charity proffered by the institution of such dispensaries, and be the means to encourage all persons inclined to subscribe to such charitable institutions to pay their money to a regular established hospital in preference to a dispensary.' The Committee thus appointed resolved:

'1st. That it may be an advantage to the Middlesex Hospital to extend its plan to a more general visitation of out-patients, and that it may be done by a small amendment of its rules and orders.

'2nd. That it is the opinion of this Committee that such a plan might be more effectually carried into execution if the governors of St. George's and the Westminster Hospitals should concur in the measure proposed.

'3rd. That the governors of this hospital, being governors of one or both these hospitals, be requested to procure a meeting of some of the governors from each of these hospitals to consider the proposition hereinbefore mentioned.' (*History of Middlesex Hospital*, pp. 50, 51. By Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S. London: John Churchill, 1845.)

The plot, as it stands in the pages of the historian of the hospital, is a very pretty one, and it is quite in accordance with what we find in the present day, that while thus ready to spend money freely on out-patients, with a view to possible subscriptions being diverted from the dispensaries, the governors of the hospital were so pinched in resources for their proper work of in-patient accommodation, that 'the number of patients applying for relief was greater than the house could accommodate,' and that the wards were described by the philanthropist Howard as 'close and dirty,' and the hospital as 'having, on the whole, an air of poverty.' The governors being fully alive to the injury to their subscription list which might follow from Mr. Howard's description of the condition of the hospital, resolved boldly to deny its truth, and invite another visit from that gentleman, and their historian naïvely adds that 'in anticipation of such a visit, conjoined, possibly, with the still small voice of conscience, great activity, in the shape of patching, mending, and washing prevailed, and quite sufficient was ordered to be done by the Board on that very day to prove that Mr. Howard's strictures were not without foundation.'

It would be interesting, had we time, to pursue this matter further, but my present purpose is rather with the College which established, than with hospitals which so jealously opposed the dispensaries, and I cite this instance of vigorous action to show that the present position of the College is widely different from what it once was, and that a true regard to its best traditions would lead to its interference now as actively as a century and a half ago. Among other passers by, I might refer to the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund, which at first seemed disposed in its report to dwell very fully upon the abuses of out-patient relief in the metropolis, but which, having looked upon the subject and seen the evils of it, has apparently made up its mind to pass by on the other side; to the Medical Society of London, which two or three years ago refused to discuss some cases brought before it as having been badly treated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on

the grounds (as stated by its secretaries) that it could not allow itself to be made the medium of bringing accusations against the authorities of a recognised hospital; to the General Medical Council, whose interest in the matter, however, is confined to its bearing on medical education. But enough; it only remains to ask in which of these categories shall we place the great Association in connexion with which we are met to-day? And that is a question I prefer to leave to be answered by those who hear and read my words. There are, as a celebrated statesman used to say, three courses open to you: you may, if you like, shut your eyes to the facts which are constantly accumulating in your own Journal, and which go to prove that, owing to the improved condition of the working classes, the impossibility of seeing with advantage anything like the numbers that apply at out-patient departments, and the injustice which is being done alike to our profession and to the sick poor by the present system, great changes must shortly be made in that system; or you may even think it your duty to oppose all change, however strong the reasons given for proposing it; but I do not attempt to conceal my hope that you will take neither of these courses, but that the whole weight of the influence of our Association will be thrown into the scale in favour of this movement for reform, which has underlying it those eternal principles of justice, mercy, and truth that ensure its ultimate success.

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES RECENTLY DEALT WITH BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

CLASS I.—'DISMISSED.'

Sydenham.—W. M., late coachman to a medical man, applied for assistance at the office. His wife stated that her husband was employed as a porter at the Crystal Palace, and that his wages were only 12s. a week, with food, but on inquiry being made it was ascertained that, for the last three weeks, he had been receiving 18s. per week, and that he was previously employed as a painters' labourer at 30s. per week. The medical man, in whose service applicant had been for seven years, was obliged to discharge him on account of drunkenness. Applicant had also absconded, deserting his wife and children, who were obliged to enter the workhouse, but he was subsequently apprehended and imprisoned.

Newington.—T. H., sawdust dealer, aged 60, handed a subscription list to the magistrate at the Lambeth Police Court, asking him for a contribution towards the purchase of a donkey, his own having died. The magistrate sent the case to the Committee for investigation. On inquiry it appeared that applicant was a noted drunkard, and that his donkey was not dead, and when the inquiry officer called at his house, he was informed that applicant was out at work with his donkey and cart. It was found that some five weeks previously he had borrowed £2 from a tradesman, for the ostensible purpose of purchasing a donkey. This he did not do, and was drunk for some days afterwards. The person from whom he borrowed the money has sued him in the County Court. About seven names were attached to the subscription list, which was detained and, with a full report, sent to the magistrate, who has placed the matter in the hands of the police.

CLASS II.—RECOMMENDED.

Fulham.—S. A. H., a widow, aged 37, was referred to the office by a clergyman, and asked that some of her children, aged respectively 9, 8, 6, and 3 years, might be placed in a home. Her husband and one child had died from small-pox two months previously. Applicant owed no rent, had not pawned anything, and was not in receipt of any relief. Inquiries at addresses of employers and of other persons corroborated her statement, and showed her character to be good, while the school attendance of the children was regular and the home clean and tidy. With applicant's consent the Committee recommended the case to the Guardians, who took three of the children into the district schools.

G. S.—The wife, having five children aged respectively 15, 5, 3, and 2 years, was referred to the office by the School Board authorities, and applied for assistance to obtain for her eldest child, a cripple boy, an artificial foot, and for herself temporary assistance to enable her to take a wardrobe shop and commence the business. Her husband, a smith, aged 65, had injured his back six months previously, and could scarcely move, and the doctor had stated that he would never be able to resume hard work. The rent was five weeks in arrear, and articles had been pawned to the amount of £1. 4s. The characters of the family were found, upon thorough inquiry, to be very satisfactory, and a gentleman who knew the people well having agreed to give £2. 10s., the Committee added a grant of £5 from Mr. Peek's fund, and also obtained sufficient letters of the Surgical Aid Society to purchase a cork foot for the boy, who was thus enabled to obtain employment in a gentleman's house.

Chelsea.—A. B. and her sister applied for assistance to return to Canada. One of them was the widow of a pensioner of the 16th Foot, who

died suddenly in August 1876. The two sisters then came to England, but very soon found that they could earn a better livelihood in Canada where they could obtain employment as domestic servants. After the usual inquiries by the agent they were visited several times by a member of the Committee, and it was found that for a very moderate sum they could be provided, by an emigration agent, with a passage and outfit. The Committee were unanimous in thinking that the applicants had no claim on the funds, inasmuch as they did not belong to Chelsea, and were very anxious to leave it; but, through the agency of the Committee, funds were procured from private sources and from two corresponding societies, and the sisters were enabled to start for Canada in the beginning of June last.

E. R. had very recently lost her husband, and had six children, of whom four were dependent on her, the two others being able to earn a little. The widow had had parish relief for a short time, and her late husband had belonged to a club from which she had obtained money to pay the expense of his funeral; but his illness and death had left her in debt to the landlord. The result of inquiries was satisfactory, but it being the principle of the Committee not to assist from their funds in the payment of arrears of rent, the sum of £3 was procured from a private source, and entrusted to a member of the Committee, who saw her landlady and effected a satisfactory arrangement of a good portion of her debts. The applicant is in good health, and in a fair way of supporting herself.

St. Marylebone.—A lady, once in opulent circumstances, had for many years been reduced, through no fault of her own, to extreme distress. Her old friends were continually asked for and repeatedly gave liberal assistance, but without concert, and without a prescribed aim in view. Wary, not of giving, but of giving in a fashion which seemed to result in no permanent benefit to the receiver, they referred the case to the Committee. It being decided, after inquiry and due consideration, that a permanent yearly allowance of not less than £40 was the only way to meet the requirements of the case, the names of those who had already evinced a kindly interest by giving liberally from time to time were ascertained, and an appeal was made to them, which has resulted in a promise, from a number of friends, of periodical contributions sufficient to make up the proposed annuity. This case is noteworthy as presenting the Society purely in its *organising* aspect, and as an example of the grateful alacrity shown by the charitable to utilise its machinery. One of the contributors expresses himself very warmly on this point.

Whitechapel.—M. G., a widow of 71, is afflicted with rheumatic gout; can hardly walk, but works at a sewing class. She is mainly supported by her daughter, aged 25, who earns about 10s. a week, and their characters are excellent. A pair of crutches was supplied by a member of the Committee who happened to have a pair at hand, and not in use. A warm letter of thanks was received from the woman, saying that the crutches suited her perfectly.

Newington.—M. N., a mangler, with three children, her husband being a labourer, earning 20s. a week, had purchased a second-hand mangle, and being an industrious woman, had got a good connection, but the mangle broke, and eventually became quite useless. She applied to the Committee for assistance to purchase a new one, and was granted a loan of £1. 15s. Two members of the Committee, almoners of the Society for the Relief of Distress, granted £1 each. The Committee recommended the case to the magistrates at the Lambeth Police-court, who granted her £3. Another mangle was bought, and the woman is now doing a good trade.

Lambeth.—Three unmarried sisters, from 49 to 53 years of age, lineal descendants of Daniel De Foe, had maintained themselves in respectability by teaching and needlework until the oldest of them became quite disabled by rheumatism. The case was brought to the notice of the Committee by a distant relative, who gave a little temporary aid, which was supplemented by the Committee. The investigation into their case showed the genuineness of their pedigree, and that they had striven to maintain themselves, and were unable to do so any longer. Letters were written to the newspapers on their behalf, with a view to raise sufficient funds to purchase small annuities for them. In consequence of the action of the Committee in the matter her Majesty has graciously conferred a pension of £7 5s. a year on each of them.

A railway porter, with a wife and two children, had received serious injury at his work. The Company gave him light employment, till his health quite broke down; the wife then supported the family by work at a sewing machine, but in consequence of illness it had to be pawned. As they were a very deserving striving couple, a loan of 30s. was granted to redeem the machine; the loan was repaid very punctually, and they went on very comfortably for some time. Another illness of the wife, and the man's utter inability for work, again brought them to distress, when 25s. was expended by the Committee in redeeming their bedding, and 10s. for maintenance, pending a reply to a letter to the Railway Company on their case, while 30s. was obtained from a friend, and eventually the man and his wife obtained an easy situation near Bath. £2 was then obtained for

them from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to pay their expenses to Bath. The wife now writes that they are very comfortable, and her husband's health much improved.

Wandsworth.—A laundress, a widow, aged 40, with a son, aged 13, who was in St. George's Hospital, and with two other children attending school, applied for assistance. Applicant had been very ill, and a gentleman would lend her £5 on the recommendation of the Committee. It was found that she was sober, industrious, and honest, and had the promise of more work. On the recommendation of the Committee the loan of £5 was made to her, and, during her convalescence, 10s. a week was granted for two weeks. When her son came out of the hospital he was apprenticed, through the action of the Committee, with a premium of £10, obtained from local funds for such purposes.

CLASS III.—ASSISTED.

Strand.—H. L., a young man, aged 18, 'homeless,' applied at the offices for employment and assistance. He stated that he was born at Bangalore, of European parents, who had since died; that his father served in the Royal Artillery; that he left Bombay on the 26th March last in the Peninsular and Oriental steamship 'Mongolia,' working his passage, as waiter, to England, and arrived at the East and West India Docks in May, when he was discharged; that since then he had been wandering about the country, working at different farmhouses, and at night had sometimes taken shelter in workhouses. The lad was very deaf. He applied to the magistrate at Bow Street, and was sent to the office by him. The Committee, perceiving that applicant had had a fair education, and that he was quite destitute, gave him a suit of clothes, with changes of linen, got him a bath, and procured him food and lodgings, pending inquiry into the truth of his statement. The Secretary of the Peninsular and Oriental Company confirmed the lad's statement as to his coming home in the 'Mongolia,' and a Lieut.-Colonel of the Royal Artillery reported that a man of the same name as applicant enlisted in Her Majesty's Indian Military Forces in 1860, and volunteered for the British Army, joining the Royal Artillery in 1865; that he came home with the 17th Brigade, and died at Dover Castle in 1873. A member of the Committee took the lad on the 29th June to a large papier-maché manufacturer, and got him a situation as porter, the Committee paying all his expenses up to the day of drawing his full week's wages.

Shoreditch.—J. H., a widow, aged 37 years, of no occupation, and having seven children, was referred to the office by the relieving officer, in the hope that the Committee would be able to send her to her native place in Bedfordshire, where her mother and her late husband's mother were both living, and where she hoped to receive assistance from these relations, and to maintain her family by her old work of straw-plaiting. Her husband, an ostler, who had been in the same situation 13½ years, was killed five weeks previously by a fall from a loft, and at the date of application 6s. and his dinners, earned by the eldest child, were, with 4s. 6d. in out-relief, the total earnings of the family. The Committee, finding the case to be a very deserving one, granted £1, and the husband's employer also gave some assistance, so as to enable applicant to reach her destination with a pound or two in hand.

Bethnal Green.—The Committee had before them the case of a man with a wife and three children. The man was a painter, and dangerously ill, but the doctor gave hopes of his recovery, which he thought would take two months. The family were found to bear an excellent character, and the clergyman of the district was helping the case, and the Committee gave boots for the children and 10s. a week for nourishment. After a few weeks the man was sent to a convalescent home, and the 10s. a week was continued towards the maintenance of the wife and family. The man is now well and at work again.

In another case, a lad, aged 12 years, attending the National Schools, was pushed down in the street and broke his leg, which was afterwards amputated. The parents paid 25s. for a wooden leg. Then, when well and on crutches, he was again pushed down, and had an arm broken. The arm was set, but the wooden leg had now worn out, and the lad could not go to school. The schoolmaster and clergyman gave him a good character. The father was a weaver, with a wife and seven children, and was paying the school fees for five of the children. The Committee gave £1 and the clergyman 10s. for a new leg. The boy now goes to school regularly.

A man and his wife—the former recovering from a severe illness—had been assisted by the clergyman of the district, who had not, however, been able to do enough. The man had been to a convalescent home, but became very weak again after he had been home for a short time. Inquiry proved both husband and wife to be of good character, sober, and industrious, and 5s. per week was given by the Committee for two months, and nourishment was obtained from a private source. The man is now well; £2 was given to him for stock and tools, and he is at work.

Lambeth.—A late captain in the army, aged 44, left a widower with

four children, had commuted his half-pay and, with the proceeds, entered into business, whereby he lost the whole of his property; he had had a little temporary employment as a clerk, but had been quite out of work for two months, and was in great distress. He wrote to the Central Office, and was referred to the Committee. Some temporary aid was granted while employment was sought for him, and eventually, in response to an advertisement inserted in the *Times* by the Committee, an appointment was obtained for him as assistant secretary to an asylum, at a salary commencing at £50 a year.

A widow, aged 37, with ten children—nine of them under 13 years of age and one aged 16, in service, and unable to help her mother—was earning 8s. a week at army clothing work and received from the guardians about 12s. weekly in money and food. The Committee granted £5, and, from private sources, obtained £8 to pay for the maintenance of one of the girls at an orphanage for one year. They will also endeavour to provide for her support there till she can be maintained free of cost. Communications were also opened with the Guardians, and, at the request of the Committee, two of the other children have been received into the district schools at Norwood. The woman's earnings have also been increased to 10s. a week.

Greenwich.—J. G., a carpenter, with wife and one child dependent upon him, was a long time unable to get work, and was compelled to pledge his tools to obtain food, and could not therefore accept an offer of regular employment which he had received. His application for a loan was acceded to; he redeemed his tools, went to work, and is repaying the loan.

W. C., a costermonger, with a wife and four children, could not, in consequence of the high prices of goods at the markets, purchase sufficient stock to enable him to get a living. He was granted a loan, is now doing well, and has nearly repaid the amount.

Wandsworth.—A bill-sticker and carrier, aged 50, with a wife of the same age, and having twelve children, the youngest of whom was 1½ years old, applied for a loan of £10 to buy a horse. The three eldest children were off his hands, the three next contributed to their own support, and others were at school. Investigation showed that applicant was a very steady, hard working, honest man; that his own earnings were about 35s. a week, and that he had to pay a good deal for horse hire. The Committee made him a loan of £8 on the security of one of his sons, another of whom advanced the remaining £2. The loan was being punctually repaid until, in consequence of an accident to his horse, he begged for an extension of time, which the Committee granted him.

Sydenham.—W. S., a signalman on the Mid-Kent Railway, with a wife and three children, applied for assistance in consequence of illness, and the Committee, finding he was a respectable man of good character, allowed him 8 lbs. of bread, 6 lbs. of meat, ¼ lb. of tea, and 1 lb. of sugar per week for four weeks. His wages when in work were 20s., and he receives 10s. per week when on the sick list, which sum was insufficient for the maintenance of his family.

WEALTHY PAUPERS.

Lambeth.—Dr. Lloyd, the medical officer of the infirmary, reported (says the *Metropolitan*) that on the 25th May, John Corfield, admitted to the infirmary on the 18th May, expired. This was the man upon whom was found bank-books showing £180 to his credit.—The Chairman stated that, after 8s. had been deducted for his maintenance, the remainder of the cash was given over to his widow.

Nottingham.—The Hon. Secretary of the Nottingham Charity Organisation Society writes to a local paper, saying, with reference to letters from other correspondents respecting two blind mendicants: 'The committee investigated this case about a year ago, and found that the two (brother and sister) were half-crazy, and deliberately preferred begging in the streets (the hurdy-gurdy is a recent investment) to living in decent lodgings at the expense of a kind-hearted relative, who, although not legally bound to do so, has several times provided for them. In the winter they generally go into the workhouse, and the annexed extract from a letter which we received from the master of one of the workhouses in which they had been will show that a beggar with a banking account is not an impossibility.'

'Part of the money they had was doubtless saved out of what their relation allowed them, but some must have been obtained by begging. This case shows that impulsive "charity" does harm, even when its recipients are in the pitiable condition of this poor blind man and his sister.'

'If well-meaning kindly people could only be shown the harm that is done by that self-indulgence which is mistaken for charity, they would be appalled at the evil they have worked.'

'Let almsgiving be done wisely and not from a mere passing sentiment, but with charity in its true sense of love (*caritas*), and there will be no need for a society like ours. There will be fewer impostors and less silent sufferings in unvisited streets; lower poor-rates; better wages; and more self-respect among the lower classes.'

The extract from the letter of the Workhouse Master is as follows:—

'Your information about John and Frances Smith is correct; they had a balance of upwards of £50 to their credit at the savings bank when they were first admitted here, since which time they have been twice discharged. On their last admission they had upwards of £27 in their possession, and after paying a portion of the cost of their maintenance, were discharged on the 30th May with upwards of £17 in their possession.'

A COUNTY MEDICAL CLUB.

An interesting experiment is about to be tried in Suffolk. It is due, in part, to the success of a similar experiment made some time ago at Eye, in that county. Within a year and a half 4,000 members joined the Eye Medical Club, almost without solicitation, the working men in that district appreciating the advantages held out to them by such an institution, and being independent enough to desire to provide medical aid for themselves through its means rather than rely on gratuitous advice or the parish doctor. It is now proposed to extend the operations of the Club to the whole of Suffolk. The benefits are restricted to persons 'whose earnings do not exceed 20s. a week, or maid-servants whose wages do not exceed £8 a year'; and this restriction marks the Club as one not for mechanics, most of whom would earn higher wages, but mainly for agricultural labourers. The payment for a man or woman is 5s. a year; for a man and his wife, 9s.; and for each child, 1s. with a *maximum* payment of 5s. for children, no matter how large the family. A member of any Benefit Club may claim an abatement of 4s. from these rates. Women in their confinements will be attended for 10s.; the remaining fees payable to a medical man being supplemented by the honorary fund. One of the rules allows any member a choice of doctors, living within a specified distance, who have agreed to work with the Club, and we learn that most of the principal doctors in the county have consented to the scale of fees embodied in the rules and certified by the Registrar. The club is to be managed by stewards chosen in each parish to receive the payments of members; and these stewards will communicate, through a secretary appointed in every Union district, with the central organisation at Ipswich. Small meetings will be held in the towns and villages throughout the county to explain the rules. These rules and the rates of membership have been so framed that the Club will be self-supporting except as to cost of management, surgical provision for accidents, and extra payments for confinements. Thus honorary members are necessary; but with a wide field for appeal and an excellent object in view, this should present no great difficulty. At the request of the Provisional Committee that has been formed, Sir Edward Kerrison has drawn up a statement in which he thus explains the work it is proposed to do:—

'The object of this Club is to enable benefit members to provide themselves and their families with medical attendance and medicine during sickness. Benefit clubs provide medical attendance for men only, but it is well known that women and children are more liable to illness than men. This Club is intended to remedy this omission, and not in any way to interfere with established benefit societies. The first stepping-stone to pauperism is an application for the doctor. It is now not so often granted by Boards of Guardians as it used to be, but when it is granted, in nine cases out of ten, meat and porter or wine are ordered by the medical man, and the rates are burdened not only with the ordinary maintenance of the families, but with the extras which the doctor considers right to order, and thus one family after another become paupers. It is not to be wondered at that an honest labouring man should seek to obtain the services of a doctor free of cost, when his wages will not enable him to pay a doctor's bill. It can only be by numbers collected together in a club of this description that the charges made by medical men can be brought within the means of the people. It is not an unusual thing for operations or fractures to cost from three to five guineas, a sum which no poor man is able to pay. By belonging to this Club, such payments will be avoided, and a man can look with certainty to the fact, that however large his family, all ordinary doctor's expenses, except for confinements, will never exceed 14s. a year.'

This Medical Club, when started, will be the first county club of the kind in existence, and its working in the almost purely agricultural districts of Suffolk will be watched with interest. Too many families of the labourers in rural districts in the Eastern Counties, as elsewhere in the South of England, are disposed to accept Poor Law relief, especially when it takes the form of medical aid, as a matter of course, without feeling that they are sacrificing much independence or that much effort is required from them to help themselves. One of the happiest results of this Club, if it succeeds, will be the healthier feeling which it will arouse among this class, and the strong probability that they will gradually be stimulated by the example of others in the same condition of life to pay their own doctors. The Labourers' Union delegates, who pride themselves upon the manly independence which their association calls forth, ought in consistency to urge their members to join the new Club, but in any case its effect in encouraging self-help and directly and indirectly in diminishing pauperism may be looked to hopefully.—'The Times' of September 3.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES.—No. X.

ALMSGIVING.—Give no alms to vicious persons, if such alms will support their sin, as if they will continue in idleness; 'if they will not work, neither let them eat' (2 Thess. iii. 10); or if they will spend it in drunkenness, or wantonness, such persons, when they are reduced to very great want, must be relieved in such proportions as may not relieve their dying lust, but may refresh their faint or dying bodies.—JEREMY TAYLOR'S *Rules and Exercises of Holy Living*, 'Of Alms,' par. 9.

The best objects of charity are poor housekeepers that labour hard, and are burdened with many children; or gentlemen fallen into sad poverty, especially if by innocent misfortune (and if their crimes brought them into it, yet they are to be relieved according to the former rule); persecuted persons, widows, and fatherless children, putting them to honest trades or schools of learning. And search into the needs of numerous and meaner families, for there are many persons that have nothing left them but misery and modesty; and towards such we must add two circumstances of charity: 1. To enquire them out; 2. To convey our relief unto them so as we do not make them ashamed.—JEREMY TAYLOR'S *Holy Living*, 'Rules for Giving Alms,' 10.

THE ZETLAND ORPHANAGE.—The Countess of Zetland has established, at Saltburn-by-the-Sea, a Home for Protestant Female Orphans, between the ages of four and fourteen, who have lost both parents. The prospectus states that 'no child is to be under four or above the age of six at the time of admission. Each child must be provided with two complete suits of clothing, and a payment of one pound each quarter will be required towards their maintenance. The expense of the journey to and from the orphanage must be paid by the person who sends the child. A copy of the baptismal certificate will be required, and also a doctor's certificate of general good health, in every case. The orphans will be taught to read and write, and trained to do useful work; and, if possible, employment will be procured for them when they reach the age of fourteen, after which they cannot be retained in the orphanage. The number of children will not exceed ten. All letters and applications must be addressed to "The Countess of Zetland, Aske, Richmond, Yorkshire."'

ERRATUM.—In our last issue, No. 228, p. 138, column 2, line 18, for 750 lire read 4s. 11d.

Just published, price 5s.

HOSPITAL MORTALITY, being a Statistical Examination of the Returns of the Hospitals of Great Britain for Fifteen Years. By LAWSON TAIT, F.R.C.S., Fellow of the Statistical Society, &c. &c. CHURCHILL, 11 New Burlington Street.

'We commend to the careful perusal of all connected with charitable institutions, whether lay or professional members, the honest *exposit* of the pitiable makeshifts adopted to enhance the utility of a charity in the eyes of the public. The hearty thanks of the profession are due to the author for the mass of information he has collected, and for the able manner in which he has elucidated important facts affecting the welfare of our empire and the progress of our science.'—*Medical Examiner*, August 2, 1877.

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The 'CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' is published weekly during the Sittings of Council; on the second Thursday in each month throughout the year a Double Number is published.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Oct. 11	...	2.30 P.M., Finance Sub-Committee.
		3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, ,, 15	...	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, ,, 16	...	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
		3.30 P.M., District Sub-Committee.
Wednesday ,, 17	...	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday, ,, 18	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

SHOREDITCH.—A general meeting of the Shoreditch Committee will be held at the offices of the Committee on Friday, 12th inst., at 5 P.M.

GREENWICH.—The weekly meeting of this Committee will, in future, be held at 11 A.M. on Saturdays.

POPLAR.—The office of this Committee is now open in the morning from 10 A.M. to 12.

BETHNAL GREEN.—Mr. J. Barber has been elected Hon. Secretary of this Committee, *vice* Mr. J. F. Sapsford, resigned.

NEWINGTON.—Mr. H. R. Brand has been elected one of the representatives of this Committee, and the Hon A. Grosvenor has been elected Hon. Secretary.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, the 15th instant :

1. The Rev. R. J. Simpson to move :—
'That this Council approves of the course taken by the Administrative Committee in issuing the circular of September 15 last with reference to Dr. Barnardo's Homes.'
2. Mr. A. H. Hill to move :—
'That the present relations of the Central Office to the District Committees of this Society be considered, and that arrangements be made at once to secure a more effective uniformity in the Society's work throughout the metropolis.'

HOSPITAL LETTERS.

Letters of recommendation to the following hospitals and institutions can be obtained from the Secretary of the Council by the Honorary Secretary of any District Committee having suitable cases before it :—

<i>In-patients :</i>		
Charing Cross King's College London Middlesex North London St. George's Sussex County Westminster City of London for Dis- eases of the Chest Queen Charlotte's Lying- in Hospital New Hospital for Wo- men, Marylebone Road Hospital for Women and Sick Children, Vincent Square, Westminster	Hospital for Diseases of Women and Children Hospital for Sick Chil- dren, Great Ormond Street Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Chelsea North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road Royal Infirmary for Wo- men and Children East London Hospital for Sick Children, and Dispensary for Women	National Hospital for Paralysed and Epilep- tic, Queen's Square Royal London Ophthal- mic, Moorfields Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars St. John's Hospital for Skin Diseases, Leices- ter Square London Homoeopathic Royal Sea Bathing In- firmmary, Margate
<i>Out-patients :</i>		
Charing Cross King's College London Middlesex, Lying-in Hos- pital North London Westminster Hospital for Consump- tion, Brompton City of London, for Diseases of the Chest North London Consump- tion Royal Hospital for Dis- eases of the Chest, City Road Ear Hospital New Hospital for Women	Royal Infirmary for Wo- men and Children British Lying-in Hospi- tal Royal Maternity Charity Queen Charlotte's Lying- in Hospital City of London Truss Society Provident Surgical Ap- pliance Society Hospital for Sick Chil- dren, Great Ormond Street North-Eastern Hospital for Sick Children Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis	Royal South London Ophthalmic Royal Westminster Oph- thalmic Royal Orthopaedic, Hat- ton Garden London Homoeopathic Dental Hospital Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Dispensary Queen Adelaide's Dis- pensary Royal Fimlico Dispen- sary Royal Sea Bathing In- firmmary, Margate

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Bick-
ingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, October 8, at 3 P.M.

Present :—A. H. Hill, Esq. (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON :—F. J. S. Edgcombe, J. W. Probyn.	ST. SAVIOUR'S :—R. Barrington, Lev. W. A. Richmond.
PADDINGTON :—J. R. Holland.	ST. OLAVE'S :—W. F. Beauford.
CHELSEA :—Dr. Daniel.	CLAPHAM :—S. Etches.
ST. GEORGE'S :—Major Fitz-Roy.	CAMBERWELL :—T. Galabin, E. Hyde.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS :—A. N. Butt.	DEPTFORD :—Capt. Cassan.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS :—Miss Gibson.	LEWISHAM :—J. J. Bramly, G. Parker.
ST. GILES :—H. N. Houre.	ELTHAM :—Rear-Admiral Gardner.
STRAND :—Rev. R. J. Simpson.	VICE-PRESIDENT :—W. M. Wilkinson.
CITY :—Rev. Harvey Brooks, Rev. H. I. Cummins.	ADDITIONAL MEMBER :—S. Fuller.
BETHNAL GREEN :—Rev. C. Kirton.	TOTAL :—24.
STEPNEY :—E. Peters.	ORGANISING SECRETARY :—C. J. Bitton-Turner.
	VISITOR :—Wallace Rodger.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Minutes of the Administrative Committee during the vacation were read.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending September 29 the receipts had been £179. 7s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £223. 14s. 6d., and £31. 0s. 9d. respectively, £18. 12s. 5d. of the latter sum being reserved to pay expenditure on School Board cases only, and £1 for Convalescent cases.

GRANTS.—That the following grants had been made during August and September :—Fulham, £20; North St. Pancras, £15; Islington, £25; Holborn, £20; Shoreditch, £40; Bethnal Green, £40; Whitechapel, £20; Stepney, £30; St. Saviour's, £30; Newington, £20; Lambeth, £10.

[The following are the total amounts granted to these Committees during the year ending September 30, 1877 :—Fulham, £130; North St. Pancras, £55; Islington, £130; Holborn, £160; Shoreditch, £130; Bethnal Green, £205; Whitechapel, £134; Stepney, £233; St. Saviour's, £197; Islington, £160; and Lambeth, £135.]

ANNUAL REPORTS OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

Major Fitz-Roy asked the following question :—

Should copies of a Committee's Annual Report be sent to strangers living out of the district?

In reply, several members of the Council advocated copies being thus sent, in order that the fullest publicity should be given to the proceedings of the Society.

INCREASE OF VAGRANCY.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins informed the Council that the number of tramps asking for bread had largely increased in the City, and asked if the increase had been observed in other districts.

Rear-Admiral Gardner said the same thing was observable at Eltham.

Mr. Galabin believed that in Camberwell they formerly gave away a great deal of bread, but some time ago they had referred all applicants to the Poor Law, which had materially diminished the number.

Mr. Edgcombe said that there had been a large increase in the number of tramps at Kensington during the past week.

Mr. A. H. Hill said that the experience of the Strand Committee was analogous to that of the Kensington Committee.

The Organising Secretary mentioned that in Fulham, when a great increase of tramps took place, the Agent made a practice of taking down the statement of every fourth or fifth applicant on an application form, at the same time informing the applicant that if his statements proved false he would be prosecuted. This had the effect of largely diminishing the number.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council from July 30 to October 6, 1877, inclusive :—

<i>Donations :—</i>	£	s.	d.	
Adams, H. J., Esq.	1	1	0	Brown & Wingrove, Messrs. 1 1 0
Baker, E. F., Esq.	0	1	0	Brydone, H. G., Esq. 0 10 6
Bosanquet, C. B. P., Esq.	5	0	0	Buxton, S. C., Esq. 5 0 0
Briggs, Sir Graham, Bart.	5	0	0	Cappellaine, J. C. Le, Esq. 5 5 0
				Causton, Rev. C. 1 1 0

* An advance of £300 was obtained from Messrs. Coutts & Co. during the recess.

Donations—continued.			Annual—continued.				
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Clive, A. A., Esq.	5	0	0	Erskine, Capt.	1	1	0
D. E. E.	1	1	0	Fellows, C. F., Esq.	1	0	0
Field, Osgood, Esq.	2	2	0	Forbes, Lady Harriet	3	0	0
Fishmongers' Company	25	0	0	Fremantle, Col. Lyon	3	0	0
Fox, E., Esq.	1	1	0	Hill, Lewin, Esq.	0	10	6
Fox, R., Esq.	5	0	0	Hilton, E., Esq.	0	10	6
George's, St., Committee	150	0	0	Holland, J. R., Esq.	5	0	0
Hawthornthwaite, Rev. R.	2	2	0	Ingilby, Sir H. D., Bart.	2	2	0
Helmut, Schwartz, & Co.	2	2	0	Ingram, Rev. H. M.	1	1	0
Holland, R., Esq.	10	0	0	Little, Mrs. L. A.	1	0	0
Hulburt, Rt. Hon. G. J., M.P.	10	0	0	Lyell, Mrs.	1	1	0
H. M. (1876)	1	0	0	Lyell, Miss Rosamond	1	0	0
" (1877)	1	0	0	Mackeson, C., Esq.	1	1	0
Ingram, Rev. H. M.	1	0	0	Manfred, Miss	0	5	0
Irby, Hon. Mrs. J. A.	10	0	0	Mather, S., Esq.	2	2	0
Keating, Rt. Hon. Sir H. S.	10	0	0	Morris, W., Esq.	1	1	0
Lush, Miss	0	2	6	Neale, H. J. V., Esq.	1	1	0
Milman, Col.	5	0	0	Oakes, A., Esq.	1	1	0
Noble, J., Esq.	2	0	0	'P.'	1	1	0
Paget, J., Esq.	5	0	0	Phillips, T. Spencer, Esq.	1	1	0
Scott, S., Esq.	10	5	0	Rothschild, Miss H. de (1876)	10	10	0
Somervell, R., Esq.	0	10	0	" (1877)	10	10	0
Stern, Baron de	3	3	0	Salter, W. H. G., Esq.	1	1	0
Annual:—							
Baker, Sir G.	1	1	0	Sebag, J., Esq.	5	0	0
Balfour, Sir G.	1	1	0	Sharpe, J. C., Esq.	2	2	0
Barlow, Dr.	1	0	0	Simons, H. M., Esq.	1	1	0
Barnett, Hoare, & Co., Messrs	10	10	0	Smith, Col.	1	1	0
Bell, G. W., Esq.	1	1	0	Smith, Dr. Pye	1	1	0
Bevan, W., Esq.	2	2	0	Smith, Fleming, & Co.	2	2	0
Bland, R. M., Esq.	1	1	0	Smithies, T. B., Esq.	1	1	0
Blenkinsop, B., Esq.	1	1	0	Sommerlat, Mrs.	1	1	0
Blomfield, J., Esq.	1	0	0	Trevelyan, A., Esq.	1	0	0
Brandreth, Mrs.	1	1	0	Uppley, Lieut. J. G.	1	1	0
Carter, H. Bonham, Esq.	3	0	0	Winton, Miss de	1	1	0
Carter, H. Bonham, Mrs.	2	0	0	Worsfold & Hayward, Messrs.	1	1	0
Cartwright, Mrs. M.	1	0	0	Wynyard, W., Esq.	1	1	0
Class, Messrs. F. & C., & Co.	1	1	0	District Committee Aid Fund:—			
Cohen, L., & Co.	10	10	0	'Anonymous' (for Convalescent cases)	25	0	0
Colvin, J. C., Esq.	1	1	0	Hicks, G. M., Esq.	25	0	0
Duncan, J., Esq.	5	5	0	Mowatt, Mrs. (a)	2	0	0
East Sussex, Chief Constable of	2	2	0	Peck, Francis, Esq. (8th instalment of £3,000)	250	0	0
				Salter, W. H. G., Esq. (a)	1	1	0

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

WHITECHAPEL.—*The Clergy and Charity Organisation.*—The Rev. S. A. Barnett, Vicar of St. Jude's, Whitechapel, in his pastoral address and report for the year 1876-7, in dealing with the subject of Poor Relief, says:—"The amount spent has been greater than usual, but does not represent greater distress. I was entrusted with £105 for the use of the poor, and I have therefore felt called on to assist cases which have been brought under my notice through the agency of the Charity Organisation Society. Such cases have been those of people whose characters or circumstances have been such, that a gift has been both a permanent benefit to themselves and to the community. A large sum, too, has been spent in assisting those young girls of whose condition I told you last year. Forty-eight have been taken from amid the most degrading surroundings, and placed in homes or families. Most of those who have been so taken are doing well."

"The plan of assisting the able-bodied women to leave the workhouse has been carried on by Mrs. Barnett and some ladies associated with her. Ninety have been seen, fifty-nine have been placed out, of whom twenty-seven are known to be doing well. The result is, I think, very satisfactory; the women are those who, perhaps of all in the country, have had fewest chances of learning to love the right. Brought up in the streets, with no education beyond that picked up in chance attendance at some ragged school, surrounded by every bad influence, they soon begin to lead careless, sometimes vicious lives, and periodically drift into the workhouses. The time has been well given which has resulted in giving to some a start which they have followed up by better lives. To fully describe what is being done would lead me too far."

"The system of relief in our parish has been carried on with unbroken regularity. As it becomes known that applicants are referred to the Charity Organisation Society, 194 Commercial Road, and that only those

get relief whose characters and circumstances are such as give fair hope that such relief will be a permanent benefit, the number of those who make a living by seeking charity decreases. It is a cause for rejoicing that the relief of poverty is gaining such attention; careless gifts have been a source both of suffering and of sin. If, as some think, we are to have a hard winter this year, I hope that many of you will assist us, not only as visitors, but as advisers as to the best means of helping without pauperising. The Charity Organisation Society Committee meets weekly, on Wednesday, at 3 p.m."

"The Society for Relief of Distress has appointed an almoner for this district, Mr. Hulton; he has been most ready in visiting those whom it has been thought wise to assist in their sickness or difficulties. The appointment will be an additional strength if a time of pressure is at hand."

PROVINCIAL.

MANCHESTER.—*Boarding Out, Chorlton Union.*—The children boarded out within the union are under the supervision of a Visiting Committee, consisting of eight ladies and two gentlemen, one formerly a member of the Board of Guardians. They are all visited monthly, when the allowances are paid, by a special officer of the Board.

The Visiting Committee* continue their supervision of the children after their term of dependence upon the Guardians has ceased: knowing that the most critical and difficult period of the children's life commences when a feeling of self-importance, as bread-winners, has arisen in their minds, in a greater or less degree, and with it a desire for more independence; requiring more tact and judgment on the part of the foster-parents in their management, and affording frequent occasions to the visitors for the exercise of kindly influence both with the children and the foster-parents.

The Guardians have placed in private homes 107 children, chiefly girls. Of these children, 41 remain at the cost of the Union; 37 leaving at the age of 13, have either gone to service in situations found by their foster-parents, or else continue to live with their foster-parents while learning a trade, taking their share in the family work and interests, and remaining, in all respects, on the footing of adopted children. There have been returned to the workhouse 12, viz., one incurably diseased, since dead; three owing to defects in the homes and not again boarded out; and eight for persistent misconduct. Two absconded, of whom one returned to the workhouse, and one stayed with relations. There were applied for or sent to relations, 8. Sent to orphanages, at request of friends, 4. Found unmanageable in their homes, 3. Total, 107.—*Fourth Report on Boarding-out*, by Miss Preusser, Lady President of the Boarding-out Committee of Windermere and Troutbeck.

Southampton.†—We have received the following returns for the year ending September 30, 1877, from the Southampton Charity Organisation Society. Under Class I., dismissed or unfavourably reported on, is a total of 131 cases: 24 not requiring relief; 67 undeserving; 40 suitable for the Poor Law, or otherwise ineligible. Under Class II., 9 have been recommended to the Guardians; 26 to institutions or local agencies; 7 to private persons; and the class total is 42. Under Class III., 5 have been assisted by grants to the amount of £3. 8s. 4d., and 52 by loans to the amount of £133. 7s. 1d.; 43 have been assisted by employment; 5 by letters to hospitals, &c. The total of this class is 105. The grand total is 308. The remaining figures in the return are—10 inquiries for other societies, 20 vagrants dealt with, and 97 reports sent out.

FOREIGN.

THE POOR LAW IN HOLLAND.‡

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

MY DEAR SIR,—A few remarks regarding the Poor-law in Holland may be found interesting to your readers.

The Dutch Poor-law is founded on the principle that the relief of the poor is the business of the religious bodies of the various denominations recognised by the Government, and also of private charities, and the public authorities only interfere when all other sources of relief have failed, in order to prevent the pauper starving or falling into the criminal class.

Begging is forbidden by law, and beggars are arrested and committed to certain establishments known as the Beggar-colonies.

The Poor-law divides paupers into three classes (leaving out those supported by private charities)—(a) those who obtain relief from the churches;

* The Committee also take the supervision of a large number of the children placed in service directly from the workhouse; considering that, at once, untrained as they are, and expected by their mistresses to be capable of service equivalent to the wages paid, they stand in peculiar need of kindly visits to themselves and their mistresses from judicious visitors.

† Reporter, No. 202, p. 15.

‡ Reporter 224, p. 122.

(b) those who are supported by the official authorities; (c) professional beggars.

As to the first: There is no Established Church in Holland, but certain denominations receive grants from the Government, and these are each supposed to maintain their own poor. This is done by the maintenance by each religious body of asylums for the aged, by grants of food, money, clothes, or fuel, and also by cottages in which deserving poor are allowed to live free of rent.

As to the second class: The municipal or public authorities of each town or village are only permitted to give relief to a poor person after ascertaining that neither the religious body to which he may belong or any private charity can or will help him; and if after relief has been granted it is found that relief from any private source can be obtained, the official aid ceases.

The (what we should call parochial) relief is entirely outdoor relief, and consists sometimes of fuel, clothes, food and money, but more often the pauper is boarded with some person in his own rank of life, a sufficient sum of money being paid for his support.

With regard to the third class, 'beggars': Any person found begging is committed by a magistrate to a fortnight's imprisonment, and in case of a second conviction is sent to one of the large beggar-colonies, where they are employed in field work. They are retained in these establishments until they can prove to the satisfaction of the authorities that they can earn their own livelihood, when they are released.

The original Poor-law of 1834 held each parish responsible for all paupers born in it, wherever they might be living at the time of their becoming paupers; but this law was so far amended in 1870, that the parish in which a poor person resides has to care for him.

I will forward to the Library a copy of the Poor-law itself, should it not possess one already.

And believe me, my dear Sir, yours respectfully,

ED. F. H. FORTESCUE.

RETURNS FOR SEPTEMBER.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the five weeks ending Saturday, September 29, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to		Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians or local agencies	Private persons	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total			
Kensington	21	12	26	59	..	9	5	14	13	1	10	..	24	97
Fulham	2	8	1	11	..	6	7	15	2	1	15	19	45	18
Paddington	9	8	21	38	..	13	1	14	13	..	9	16	39	90
Chelsea	9	3	14	26	..	9	3	12	17	1	5	30	41	79
St. George's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
G. Committee	3	2	10	15	..	1	1	2	12	..	1	13	75	85
W. Committee	5	1	17	23	..	3	1	4	11	..	6	1	13	13
St. James's and Solio	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westminster Union	1	1	6	8	..	4	..	4	6	..	1	8	30	12
St. Marylebone	8	1	18	27	..	27	8	42	18	7	1	9	35	104
Hampstead	5	..	6	11	..	5	2	7	1	2	..	2	21	..
North St. Pancras	5	4	3	12	..	10	7	17	..	1	1	5	7	36
South St. Pancras	8	5	15	28	..	1	34	18	53	1	2	..	5	81
Islington	11	6	13	30	..	1	34	15	70	13	..	2	16	116
Hackney Union	1	1	2	4	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	12	16
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	..	3	13	16	..	8	3	11	10	2	4	16	43	5
Strand	4	4	9	17	..	11	5	16	1	1	1	3	36	56
Holborn	6	4	9	19	..	23	5	29	4	2	..	6	54	22
City	2	2	2	6	..	4	4	6	10	4	..	14	28	16
Shoreditch	4	2	17	23	..	3	9	12	5	1	1	7	42	14
Bethnal Green	5	9	20	34	..	2	2	4	6	..	..	6	44	27
Whitechapel	4	..	9	13	..	3	6	9	4	1	1	..	6	28
St. George's-in-the-East	4	1	16	21	..	2	1	3	9	2	2	13	37	10
Stepney	7	1	13	21	..	7	1	8	..	..	1	1	30	30
St. Mary's	4	2	12	18	..	1	6	7	10	2	1	13	34	12
St. Saviour's	9	2	21	32	..	8	1	9	8	4	2	14	55	5
St. Saviour's	4	3	19	26	..	3	3	6	8	..	1	10	29	5
Newington	3	1	3	7	..	1	6	9	2	..	..	2	18	4
St. Olave's	3	..	12	15	..	5	6	11	7	..	1	2	36	8
Lambeth	8	1	9	18	..	4	4	8	18	..	2	20	46	12
Brixton	3	..	1	4	..	2	3	7	1	..	1	5	13	3
Wandsworth & Putney	..	2	1	3	..	1	1	3	3	7	1	1	11	3
Battersea	2	1	7	10	..	5	5	9	..	2	1	12	27	6
Clapham	..	3	3	6	..	..	..	..	3	..	4	7	10	2
Camberwell	3	..	4	7	..	4	3	7	1	..	..	1	22	1
Grove Lane	..	2	2	4	..	2	2	2	..	..	1	3	7	1
Peckham	..	1	3	4	..	1	..	1	5	8	1	9	26	5
Greenwich	1	3	1	5	..	4	1	5	6	..	1	7	17	6
Deptford	8	..	2	10	..	1	2	3	8	3	5	16	29	5
Woolwich	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	12	17	6
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	172	94	360	626	22	272	140	434	261	50	35	128	476	1536

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of September compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of August 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week August	4th week Sept.	4th week August	4th week Sept.
Kensington	1,067	1,080	381	389
Fulham	423	428	605	623
Paddington	814	793	893	895
Chelsea	885	916	311	378
St. George's	1,722	1,749	1,474	1,397
Westminster	761	762	295	310
St. Marylebone	2,290	2,337	1,829	1,822
Hampstead	168	164	85	104
St. Pancras	2,781	2,804	4,504	4,451
Islington	1,302	1,327	2,282	2,339
Hackney	838	850	1,681	1,672
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury	1,141	1,127	644	601
Strand	724	724	273	269
Holborn	2,547	2,549	3,555	3,485
City of London	1,950	1,966	2,790	2,686
Shoreditch	1,119	1,151	781	787
Bethnal Green	1,375	1,383	657	636
Whitechapel	980	945	178	148
St. George's, East	1,071	1,060	104	792
Stepney	867	883	171	163
St. Mary's	826	812	401	429
Poplar	1,053	1,033	1,631	1,552
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,443	2,475	2,466	2,311
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,857	1,896	2,207	2,132
Lambeth	1,609	1,673	3,043	3,016
Wandsworth and Clapham	917	941	1,362	1,363
Camberwell	1,142	1,149	1,244	1,232
Greenwich	1,311	1,295	1,962	1,944
Woolwich	625	633	2,263	2,206
Lewisham	278	283	671	583
Total	36,386	36,648	40,643	40,045

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of September 1877 was 36,648, and 40,045 received outdoor relief, making a total of 76,693. This was an increase of 118 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 914, 4,946, and 19,564 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 661. This was an increase of 109 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 114 on the corresponding day of last year.

THRIFT IN BOYHOOD.—The following is one of a series of notes sent by Bulwer Lytton to Laman Blanchard, when the latter was thinking of writing a book on the 'Boyhood of Eminent Men':—

'The boyhood of distinguished lawyers interests a large class. The habit of thrift generally characterises it. Show the use of early habits of economy. The juster virtues are incompatible with a disregard to money. Men called great have often been spendthrifts in their youth—good men rarely. Early habits of extravagance and debt made Caesar the disgrace of the Roman Republic. The wasteful Alcibiades ruined Athens. Those who save and make countries are usually saving and thrifty in their own personal habits—Washington, Peter the Great, Henry VII., Frederick the Great, Aristides, Elizabeth. Necessity of teaching boys what money purchases. They can't know their duties, unless they know the connection of duty with arithmetic.'—Memoir in the *Poetical Works of Laman Blanchard*, p. 72.

NEW YORK STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION.
REPORT FOR 1876.

Our readers' attention was called last year (*vide Reporter* No. 186) to this most useful association, and the issue of the fifth annual report enables us to give further details of its work. The Association was formed in 1872, 'to promote an active public interest in the New York State Institutions of Public Charities, with a view to the physical, mental, and moral improvement of their pauper inmates'; and 'to make the present pauper system more efficient, and to bring about such reforms in it as may be in accordance with the most enlightened views of Christianity, science, and philanthropy.' The Association reports every year to the New York State Board of Charities. It has six Standing Committees: on children, adult able-bodied paupers, hospitals, outdoor relief, library, and finance respectively. The Executive Committee provides 'for the visitation by its members, from time to time, of the institutions of public charities throughout the State.' Visiting Committees are accordingly appointed, who make monthly and annual reports. A couple of extracts from these reports will show their outspokenness: 'The corps of nurses is too small; there are but two physicians, one of whom is seldom met with in the Asylum, and the matron rarely does anything for the comfort of the patients.' 'Two trained nurses from Charity Hospital were in attendance for several months, but the matron made their positions so unpleasant that they were obliged to leave the hospital.'

A very striking testimony to the value of woman's work and judgment is given in the fact that the President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Associate Secretary for 1877-8 are of the female sex. Several of the Standing and Visiting Committees are also presided over by ladies, or have lady-secretaries.

Before noticing the reports of some of the Standing Committees it will be well to quote a most interesting extract, in which the Association, after calling attention to the progress made by the County Visiting Committees, 'notwithstanding many discouragements,' and to the 'mutual confidence and support' which exists between it and its branches, says:—'Keeping this fact in mind, we would call your attention, for the first time, to a rather exceptional feature in the organisation of our Association. This is an attempt to meet a difficulty which has long been acknowledged by philanthropists of America and of Europe. The problem has been how to bring the best thought of the day, the results arrived at by men of science, political economists, students of pauperism, into practical application, through those who have constant personal intercourse with the poor, and who, from the want of such knowledge, have often innocently been the means of increasing instead of diminishing pauperism. And not less do the students of social science need the assistance of those who are familiar with the characters and daily lives of the poor, gaining from them the information upon which to direct their thought and to base their theories, thus preventing these theories from becoming visionary and keeping them within the bounds of practical application. There should be no gap, no separation, between these two sets of earnest workers. Both are striving for the same objects, the alleviation of suffering and the diminution of pauperism; neither can work with the same efficiency alone; the thought and experience of each are needed by the other. We have attempted in planning our work to bridge over this gap, and to bring thinkers and doers together. The entire framework of our Constitution rests upon the recognition of this great need of uniting theory and practice; the best thought with the best application of it; of bringing the study into the poorhouse, the hospital, the homes of the poor; of bringing the sadness and suffering of poorhouse and hospital, the trials and temptations, the patient endurance of the poor into the study. Our Visiting Committees help our Standing Committees by reporting their experiences and difficulties, and our Standing Committees help our Visiting Committees by trying to devise measures by which those difficulties can be overcome; sometimes by bringing to bear upon them the latest and best scientific information obtainable from experts of this or other countries, sometimes by suggesting a radical change of system, but always keeping in view the practical working of the proposed remedy, and basing it upon the experience and needs of our Visitors. The practical value of the plan, as it has quietly developed itself year after year, for the past five years, is now beyond question, and it can no longer be regarded as an experiment.'

The first Standing Committee is that on children. It has to 'inform itself of the number, present condition, plan of education, and ultimate disposition of the children in the reformatories of this State, and in the State Institutions of Public Charities. . . . to urge upon the community the very great importance of enforcing such enlightened measures in the care and training of these children as may tend to effectually destroy hereditary pauperism in this State, and to best enable them to become useful citizens and good men and women.' Its report is principally taken up with a review of the results of a law passed in April 1875, by which all healthy children over the age of three were removed from the county poorhouse. 'To let a child,' the Committee say, 'grow up in a poor-house is equivalent to training him in the way he should *not* go, and the passage of

the law abolishing the old system was unquestionably a great and much-needed reform.' 'It was soon noticed,' they add, 'as one of the good results of the new law, that parents became less anxious to give up their children when they found that the State had ceased to keep boarding-houses for youthful paupers. Under the old system it was common for drunken and shiftless people to put their children for the winter into a poor house, taking them out in summer to lead a life of vagabondage, until the cold drove them into the hospitable leisure of the poor-house again, there to associate with vagrants of all types and ages, and to reach the level of the lowest as surely as water running downhill. There was naturally a great outcry among this class of parents when they found that if, for instance, they sent a child to the familiar shelter of "the Island," it was transferred to some private institution with fixed rules and a reformatory system. This was so little what they wanted that in many cases they resolved to spite the State by keeping their children at home.' The number of children accordingly dropped from 1,081 in 1875 to 477 in 1876. In some counties the children are temporarily boarded with respectable families, and the Committee express their conviction 'that, except in the case of juvenile criminals, any *decent* family home is better than any institution, however good of its kind'; and with regard to the supervision of the children, they quote a statement of what has been done in Michigan, which they well describe as 'strong testimony to the value of a system of unpaid yet official labour given by responsible men and women.' The statement is well worth quoting here. 'In the provision made by the State (Michigan) regarding vagrant, neglected, and dependent children, through the State Public School, and for criminal children through the Reform School, it has followed the old idea of institutional life. But by far the wisest, most economical, natural, and humane of all its endeavours in this direction is the work being done by the county agents of the State Board of Charities, under the law of 1873 and 1875. The duties of the county agents are to investigate the case of every child arrested for crime, and to advise with the magistrate as to the disposition to be made of it; to visit all children adopted or indentured from the Public or Reform School; to procure homes for children, and generally to keep watch and ward over these waifs who seem to be deserted by everyone but the State. They have attended to 252 cases of arrest for crime, 224 boys and 28 girls, that were disposed of as follows: 182 were discharged under suspended sentence and returned to parents or guardians; 51 were sent to the Reform School, 11 were sent to the House of Correction, and 2 were fined. Of the 182 discharged 12 were sent to the State Public School; 6 to poor-houses, and homes were found for 6. The children for whom homes were found from the State Public School, 117 in number, have all been visited. The total expense of this work up to September 30, 1876, was \$474.45. In addition to these formal duties required by law they have been of incalculable service in preventing crime, preserving peace in families, restraining cruelty, and in many other ways. If the work of these agents was to be estimated simply by dollars and cents, the amount of money saved the State by keeping boys out of institutions would be found to be very large. . . . The position is not an office, pays no salary except expenses, and can only be filled by those who love the work, and do it because they love it.'

The report of the Committee on Adult Able-bodied Paupers refers principally to the subject of vagrancy, and to the preparation of a Bill 'to provide for the custody and reformatory treatment of vagrants,' under which workhouses would be established, that should in a manner be self-supporting and include a reformatory treatment. To these workhouses vagrants would be sentenced, instead of as heretofore to the jail or poorhouse, for periods ranging from ninety days to six months on the first conviction, and from six months to a year on subsequent convictions. This, it is considered, would be 'a great improvement upon the present law, under which the maximum sentence to the county jail for vagrancy is sixty days, and commitments are frequently made for ten days, or even less. By these short sentences the offenders simply become accustomed to jail life, and cease to regard it as a punishment. It is thought that the fear of a commitment for even ninety days will act as a deterrent upon some persons, while the longer terms will give sufficient time to influence favourably some of the least hardened, and to teach the ignorant some means of gaining a livelihood. There is no question that long terms of confinement are essential in any system intended to reform those subjected to its influence. Persons whose habits of mind and body are opposed to much steady labour can never be improved except by enforced discipline continued long enough to compel them to acquire new habits; short sentences are worse than useless in such cases.'

The policy indicated here is what Mr. Doyle calls 'the policy of repression,' and we would venture to call the Committee's attention to two books, the one a Blue Book on 'Poor Laws in Foreign Countries,' the other entitled 'Poor Relief in different parts of Europe,' both of which form a record of the failure of that policy. As Captain Amyatt Brown, in his pamphlet 'On the Suppression of Vagrancy and Indiscriminate Almsgiving,' says: 'Besides the vagrant there is another party in the transaction who is more to blame than the vagrant himself, and that is the charitable

British public,' and he adds that 'any scheme which deals solely with the former, and ignores the latter, will as certainly fail in producing any permanent effect as all such schemes have hitherto failed.' Captain Brown's pamphlet is the history of a success, and we commend it to the notice of the Committee.

The report of the Out-door Relief Committee contains a very interesting account of the breaking-up of the 'revolver' or 'rounder' system in the city of New York. It was discovered that vagrants 'begged during the day and slept at night in the different police station-houses of the city, taking these in turn.' These station-houses were visited by some members of the Committee, whose report contained such startling information that a reform was at once demanded by the public, and an order was soon after issued 'closing the station-houses to the "revolvers" and ordering their arrest.' One or two extracts from the report will show how much need there was for a radical change, and will make one wonder how a system that had been condemned by the Board of Surgeons attached to the police department in 1867, could have been so long tolerated. 'At the Sixth Precinct, No. 9 Franklin Street, in a room 15 by 25 feet, were 45 men, and often the number ran as high as 60. The impression made by this room and its inmates beggars description; lying side by side so closely that the visitor could gain no access to the room itself, were 45 men of an average age of not more than 35 years, white and black, and men of all nationalities. The windows were closed, and there were no apparent means of ventilation. The air was intolerable. An open sink was in the further corner of the room, and the heat was furnished by a drum from the large stove which heats the cells in the story below. All but 6 per cent. of these men were, in the opinion of the officer in charge, tramps. The room for women in this station-house is of the same dimensions, but a corner of it is appropriated for the purposes of an ante-room, in which occasional post-mortem examinations are made.' At another precinct-house 'the room for men is 30 feet long and 12 wide, and on the evening of April 19th had 40 occupants. The lodgers were clearly of the lowest class, and filthy in appearance; the room was shockingly over-crowded, and the air most impure. Seated on a box in one corner of the room was an old man with crutches. There was not room for him to lie down. The officer believed that six-eighths of these men were "revolvers," many of them habitual drunkards. When the liquor stores in the neighbourhood closed then a fresh batch of lodgers arrived. Not 10 per cent. of these men would work, according to the statement of the officer of the precinct. The station-house life has become a second nature to them.'

A couple of extracts will show the character of these people. At one station 'the sergeant stated that once, after a "Camp-fire of the Army of the Republic," a quantity of provisions remaining over from the supper was sent to the precinct-house. Preparations were made to give the lodgers the next morning a breakfast, and they were all invited to remain. No one accepted the invitation, and the file of men and women marched out, many of them to the nearest dram-shop, to fortify themselves before beginning their rounds of begging for the day.' At another a story was told of a gentleman calling the 80 lodgers together and offering work at one dollar a day; 'only two men accepted the offer.'

The station-house lodgers, however, were not solely composed of tramps. Persons seeking employment were to be found among their number. Accordingly the New York Night Refuge Association was established, and homeless men and women offered a night's lodging and meal 'in return for a certain amount of housework or other labour performed by them as payment.'

From the first report, since issued, it may be gathered that success has attended the efforts of the Association. The Refuge has not been abused, the tickets for admission being issued by the police and certain charitable institutions. The great difficulty was in providing a labour test, the necessity for which was thoroughly recognised, as the lodgers were allowed 'a sufficient time to enable them on their own showing to obtain the employment for which they were seeking.' About 600 out of the 6,051 received were able to obtain employment, the average duration in the Refuge being about five nights. The Refuge was closed in April, and will shortly be re-opened for the winter.

Such are a few of the many points of interest to be found in this able report. The whole volume is a record of the patient working of earnest men and women, an army of volunteers, for 'the alleviation of suffering and the diminution of pauperism'; a record of the practical value of bringing the study into the poor-house . . . the patient endurance of the poor into the study.' Though seeking the permanent improvement of the condition of the poor, the hand of pity is not to be stayed until the improvement be effected. 'For the large class of pauper poor whose present abject condition is caused by their own improvidence, their own want of temperate habits, caused also by our careless, selfish way of trying to help them by giving money alone, and not money, time, and thought, some present provision must be made. We cannot undo in a day the evil results of faulty systems of alms-giving extending over many generations. Nor should we condemn these without at the same time trying to substitute some better system.'

MR. CARLYLE ON THE POOR-LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

And yet, as we said, Nature makes nothing in vain; not even a Poor-law Amendment Act. For withal we are far from joining in the outcry raised against these poor Poor-law Commissioners, as if they were tigers in men's shape; as if their Amendment Act were a mere monstrosity and horror, deserving instant abrogation. They are not tigers; they are men filled with an idea of a theory: their Amendment Act heretical and damnable as a whole truth, is orthodox and laudable as a half-truth; and was imperatively required to be put in practice. To create men filled with a theory, that refusal of outdoor relief was the one thing needful: Nature had no readier way of getting outdoor relief refused. In fact, if we look at the old Poor-law, in its assertion of the opposite social principle, that Fortune's awards are not those of Justice, we shall find it to have become still more unsupportable, demanding, if England was not destined for speedy anarchy, to be done away with.

Any law, however well meant as a law, which has become a bounty on unthrift, idleness, bastardy, and beer-drinking, must be put an end to. In all ways it needs, especially in these times, to be proclaimed aloud that for the idle man there is no place in this England of ours. He that will not work, and save according to his means, let him go elsewhere; let him know that for him the Law has made no soft provision, but a hard and stern one; that by the Law of Nature, which the Law of England would vainly contend against in the long run, he is doomed either to quit these habits, or miserably be extruded from this Earth, which is made on principles different from these. He that will not work according to his faculty, let him perish according to his necessity: there is no law juster than that. Would to Heaven one could preach it abroad into the hearts of all sons and daughters of Adam, for it is a law applicable to all; and bring it to bear, with practical obligation strict as the Poor-law Bastille, on all! We had then, in good truth, a 'perfect constitution of society;' and 'God's fair Earth and Task-garden, where whosoever is not working must be legging or stealing,' were then actually what always, through so many changes and struggles, it is endeavouring to become.

That this law of 'No work no recompense' should first of all be enforced on the manual worker, and brought stringently home to him and his numerous class, while so many other classes and persons still go loose from it, was natural to the case. Let it be enforced there and rigidly made good. It behoves to be enforced everywhere, and rigidly made good:—alas, not by such simple methods as 'refusal of outdoor relief,' but by far other and costlier ones; which too, however, a bountiful Providence is not unfurnished with, nor, in these latter generations (if we will understand their convulsions and confusions), sparing to apply. Work is the mission of man in this Earth. A day is ever struggling forward, a day will arrive in some approximate degree, when he who has no work to do, by whatever name he may be named, will not find it good to show himself in our quarter of the Solar System; but may go and look out elsewhere. If there be any *Idle Planet* discoverable?—Let the honest working man rejoice that such law, the first of Nature, has been made good on him; and hope that by and by, all else will be made good. It is the beginning of all. We define the harsh New Poor-law to be withal a 'protection of the thrifty labourer against the thriftless and dissolute;' a thing inexpressibly important; a half-result, detestable, if you will, when looked upon as the whole result; yet without which the whole result is for ever unattainable. Let wantfulness, idleness, drunkenness, improvidence take the fate which God has appointed them; that their opposites may also have a chance for their fate. Let the Poor-law Administrators be considered as useful labourers whom Nature has furnished with a whole theory of the universe, that they might accomplish an indispensable fractional practice there, and prosper in it in spite of much contradiction.

We will praise the New Poor-law, farther, as the probable preliminary of some general charge to be taken of the lowest classes by the higher. Any general charge whatsoever, rather than a conflict of charges, varying from parish to parish; the emblem of darkness, of unreadable confusion. Supervisal by the central government, in what spirit soever executed, is supervisal from a centre. By degrees the object will become clearer, as it is at once made thereby universally conspicuous. By degrees true vision of it will become attainable, will be universally attained; whatsoever order regarding it is just and wise, as grounded on the truth of it, will then be capable of being taken. Let us welcome the New Poor-law as the harsh beginning of much, the harsh ending of much! Most harsh and barren lies the new ploughers' fallow-field, the crude subsoil all turned up, which never saw the sun; which as yet grows no herb; which has 'outdoor relief' for no one. Yet patience: innumerable weeds and corruptions lie safely turned down and extinguished under it; this same crude subsoil is the first step of all true husbandry; by Heaven's blessing and the skyey influences, fruits that are good and blessed will yet come of it. *Chartism*, c. iii. [1839.]

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

At the recent Social Science Congress, Mr. G. W. Hastings drew the following contrast between two Unions. He said:—'At our meeting at Leeds, in 1871, I brought this matter under the notice of our Association, and I produced the statistics of two Unions—those of Atcham, in Shropshire, and Woodbridge, in Suffolk—which had been selected for the purpose, because in point of area, population, and the nature of the occupation of the inhabitants they were closely similar. Each comprised about 20,000 inhabitants, and was purely rural in character. I showed that while Atcham paid £1,512 for indoor, and £650 for outdoor paupers, Woodbridge paid £1,476 for indoor, and £6,099 for outdoor. During the year in which this outlay was incurred, Atcham had 156 indoor paupers and 125 outdoor paupers, while Woodbridge had 163 indoor and 1,339 outdoor. The proportion of paupers to population was in Atcham 1 in 68; in Woodbridge 1 in 15. The pecuniary results were that the cost of relief per head of the population was for Atcham 2s. 3d., and for Woodbridge 6s. 7½d.; and in the pound, on the gross estimated rental, 3d. for Atcham, and 1s. 0½d. for Woodbridge; per acre for Atcham 4½d., and for Woodbridge 1s. 10d.; and the out relief alone per acre was for Atcham 1½d., and for Woodbridge 1s. 5½d.' After stating that these facts had not been answered, he added: 'There was, however, one argument used, or rather one assertion made, in reply to my remarks. It was stated in more than one quarter that the principles carried out at Atcham might do well enough for a rural Union, but that it would be impossible to apply them in the more concentrated population of a town. Now, I can give a remarkable answer to this objection. Since the year 1871, when I addressed the Association at Leeds, the Local Government Board have enlarged the area of Atcham Union, and have added the town of Shrewsbury thereto. When this step was taken it was affirmed by many that it would be impossible to carry out what had become known as the Atcham system within the enlarged borders of the Union. I am glad to say that the Atcham Guardians thought otherwise; that they unflinchingly upheld their principles, and that they found themselves rewarded with the most satisfactory results. When the town of Shrewsbury first came under their administration, a committee was formed to investigate all the cases of destitution, real or supposed, in which outdoor relief was given, and this committee was supplied with a fund, raised by voluntary contribution for the purpose, in order to break the effects of the necessary change, and to prevent any hardship falling upon individuals. The result of the inquiry was that more than one-third of those receiving out relief were at once struck off the roll as undeserving, and that a large portion of the fund remained in the hands of the committee, simply because they could discover but very few cases for which it could be made available. The same gratifying decrease of pauperism that had previously been observed in the rural district of Atcham was now observed in the urban district of Shrewsbury, and the sound principle of Poor Law administration, which has again and again been enunciated to demonstration, was once more proved by the evidence of facts. If examples on a wider scale are needed, I can point to the city of Manchester, whose guardians have for a little time past carried out a code of regulations of their own for the reduction of outdoor relief; and I find that, without refusing help in any case really requiring it, the outdoor paupers in Manchester have been consequently reduced from 2,319 to 931; and that the indoor relief recipients, who in 1874 numbered 2,957, were last year 2,940. The only conclusion can be that there were upwards of 1,300 persons in Manchester who fancied that they could not support themselves, or made others think they could not, until a test was applied to their inability, on the application of which test they discovered either that they were capable of self-support, or that they had relations who were willing to keep them. I point, as another example, to the metropolitan Union of St. George's-in-the-East, where a similarly rigorous administration has been followed by like results. I may add that, in a rural Union with which I am intimately acquainted in my own county of Worcester, owing to the representations made by the West Midland Poor-Law Conference, a committee of the guardians was appointed to inquire into the out relief. It had been loudly affirmed by that very Board that no reduction in the out relief was possible, and that no relief of any kind was given except in necessitous cases; and yet the result of the inquiry was that the out relief was reduced at once by one third.'

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES. No. XI.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME.—Charity begins at home—that is, real charity. The modern charities of the rich are mostly given in public subscriptions and to distant objects, which they cannot be acquainted with. The effect of giving alms to those close to us and connected with us is, that we acquaint ourselves with the persons and miseries of the receiver; charity has its proper use and operation, and both the giver and the receiver are blessed. There is more than can be known except by experience, in this

maxim 'charity begins at home'; and this principle in charity will not be found to diminish the supplies to really useful objects at a distance, but would rather be found to increase the fruitfulness of the spring, as well as make it flow in the right direction. Charity at home will not be found to diminish the healthful supply abroad; but the beginning with foreign distant charities may stop the supply homeward. However, the true principle is, that everyone should attend to his own concerns first, and to his own neighbourhood; and this will be found to be much more sufficient in practice than is imagined. There is more than money in almsgiving.—Bosanquet on the *Poor and Christian Almsgiving*, p. 351.

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES RECENTLY DEALT WITH BY DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

CLASS I.—DISMISSED.

St. James' (Westminster).—The family consisted of father, mother, and three children. Application was made for clothing for the two younger children to enable them to go to school. It appeared on inquiry that the eldest child was earning good wages as an ironer; that the father and mother were to be seen constantly at the public house; and that their earnings had been during the past three months 31s. a week. They could earn considerably more if they were sober and industrious.

CLASS II.—RECOMMENDED.

St. James' (Westminster).—The applicant, who had a wife, and a son aged 14, had been in receipt of a salary of £100 a year in a merchant's office at Liverpool. He was discharged for intemperance, and the family came to London. The wife (a superior person) and the son obtained employment; but their earnings were barely sufficient for their support. She fell ill, but refused to go to a convalescent home, as she said she would have to leave her husband and son to starve. It appeared that the husband had not been habitually intemperate; but not having a character he had been unable to obtain work. Temporary employment was obtained for him, and clothes were given him. Nourishing food was given the wife by the clergy. Application was made to the employer at Liverpool, who undertook to reinstate the husband in his situation, and paid the passage of the family.

Strand.—A widow, who obtained her livelihood by charing, applied for a grant to enable her to buy some clothes and redeem others for the use of her daughter, who had been promised a situation at Chelsea, provided she could obtain better clothing. They were living in a common lodging house of evil repute, from which it was desirable they should be taken as soon as possible. The daughter had a good character from her last employer, and the statements of the mother were found correct. The clothes were provided, and the daughter went to the situation. After a short time she was dismissed for taking tea and sugar. A lady on the Committee, however, obtained admission for the girl at a home, and afterwards placed her in a good situation, in which she has been doing well.

CLASS III.—ASSISTED.

St. Pancras (South).—Assistance was asked for a widow with two daughters, who supported themselves by letting furnished apartments and keeping a small school. The mother also did fancy work. Owing to the general depression of trade, and also partly to illness, they had got into difficulties; their rooms were unlet, and the mother's work was at a standstill; they were in dread that the landlord would turn them out, and take their furniture. This would have broken up their little school. Inquiries were made as quietly as possible. The family had held a good position in the neighbourhood for many years, and were greatly respected. The landlord was induced to promise that he would do up the rooms as soon as the arrears of rent were paid up. A connection of the family gave £5, and the Committee collected £15 more, which was sufficient to relieve them from their difficulties and give them a fresh start.

In another case, M. H., a shoemaker, was ill in Middlesex Hospital, and his wife was referred to this Committee by the Guardians. She had six children, the eldest of whom was 18, and was earning £12 a year as a servant. Another girl of 15 had been in service, but was then in the Smallpox Hospital. The family occupied two rooms in a house which they rented at £30 a year; they obtained 16s. 6d. a week from lodgers. The rent was one quarter in arrear, and the wife was unable to continue to pay it and support the four children which were at home. The case was recommended to the Society for Relief of Distress, who made the wife an allowance of 5s. a week for eleven weeks. The husband having died in hospital, the widow obtained a promise of work from a firm who had employed him, if she could obtain a machine for sewing boots. £4. 12s. 6d. having been collected by a lady, the remainder was procured from private persons by the Committee, and the machine was purchased for £8. 10s.

In another case the usual inquiries were made before stamping a letter for the Ormond Street Children's Hospital, and it was reported that the

father, a tailor, was out of work in consequence of a bad thumb; that the mother was seriously ill in bed; and that there were four young children at home, besides the sick child. The case was accordingly visited by a member of the Committee, and inquiries as to character being satisfactorily answered, assistance was obtained to take things out of pawn for the wife, and to procure suitable nourishment for her during her confinement. One of the children, who was very ill, was sent to a convalescent home, and kept there for five months on the special recommendation of the doctor. She returned home in July greatly improved in health.

St. James' (Westminster).—In this case the applicant, a native of Australia, had been a clerk in a merchant's office in that country, and had afterwards held the position of manager and subsequently of principal in a large store. Unfortunately he fell ill, and the business being badly conducted by the person in charge, he became a bankrupt. He was ordered to England for change of climate, and arrived with a small sum of money; but failing to get suitable employment he was reduced to destitution. His statements were found to be correct; food, lodging, and clothing were provided, and eventually a free passage to Australia was procured for him through the instrumentality of the Committee.

BOARDING OUT.

An Association for boarding-out orphans has been established in memory of Mrs. Nassau Senior. The Committee are the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P., Miss Octavia Hill, Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., and William Shen, Esq. Miss Caroline Stephen, 48 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea; and Miss Synnot, Clapham Common, S.W., Honorary Secretaries.

'The purpose of the Association is to carry out, in memory of the late Mrs. Nassau Senior, an object which was very dear to her, and the importance of which has, through her feeling on the subject, been strongly impressed upon some of her friends—to provide some of the orphans and destitute children of London with as much as it is still possible to give them of the blessings of home, of country life, and of parental care.

'This is now done for some of our pauper children by the Guardians, according to the regulations issued by the Poor-Law Board; and the Association proposes to extend the same advantage to children whose parents were not paupers, but who are left destitute by their death—to the class of children, that is, for whom orphan asylums are intended. Those who believe that the practice of placing children in private homes, to be brought up as members of families, is a more wholesome and natural one than that of collecting them into large institutions, will feel that the advantages of the boarding-out system over that at present adopted are as great with regard to these children as they are with regard to the children of paupers. The Association proposes to adopt as many as are applicable of the regulations of the Poor-Law Board, and especially to secure an equally regular system of inspection.

'There appear to be three great advantages in the practice of boarding-out children, as compared with that of placing them in institutions. First, its success in giving them such natural domestic training, and such individual love and care, as nothing but a real home can afford; secondly, its cheapness, since no new buildings nor staff of paid officials are required; and, thirdly, its elasticity and adaptability both to the circumstances of each individual child, and to future needs and developments. Delicate children may be sent to the sea-side or to suitable climates; gifted children may be placed where special advantages for their education are to be found; help can be given in a thousand unforeseen and various ways when each child is placed under the watchful care of an individual friend; and the collective experience of the Association is at the service of any member to supply information and suggest expedients.

'The Committee already know of several desirable homes in the country, in which children would be received, and where they could be superintended by ladies already tried as members of Boarding-out Committees under the Poor Law regulations. As soon as sufficient funds have been received, the Committee will be prepared to select children to be placed in the most suitable of these homes. Reports of the children's welfare will be furnished to the Committee by the superintending ladies at least once a quarter; and these reports, together with all other information respecting the work of the Association, will be published annually, and sent to subscribers. Donations and subscriptions will be received by the Honorary Secretaries.'

The fund is not intended to meet the wants of the large class of fatherless children supported by widows, nor to deal with purely Poor-Law cases. The two children already boarded out by the Association are those of a man whose widow received 4s. 6d. weekly from his club till the lodge broke; she herself is dying of consumption. The Committee will be glad to consider, on its merits, the case of any orphan submitted to them; the names may be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, or to Miss Octavia Hill. The number of orphans boarded out will not be many.

UNITY OF ADMINISTRATION IN CHARITY.

'There is now a general impression that anything like promiscuous charity is a mistake, but it is only those whose way of life brings them into habitual contact with the charity-receiving classes who can fully realise how great a mistake it is. So utter a repugnance have the really working classes, and the truly industrious poor, to seeking charity, that the mere fact of charity being solicited should suggest doubt of those asking it belonging to those classes, and lead to a strict inquiry as to the truth of whatever allegations are made. If a private individual gives charity in any case with the merits of which he is not personally acquainted, or has not been assured of by some one on whose independence and judgment he can rely, the chances are much more in favour of his having played into the hands of an undeserving person than of his having assisted a deserving one. We think it may safely be said that the largest half of all our charity is secured by people who are neither truly needful nor worthy of it.

'To the intervention of the cormorant traders upon poverty, of whom we have been speaking, must in a great measure be attributed the fact that the enormous—and probably in itself amply sufficient—total of English charity fails to fulfil its mission; that the law of the land, that no member of the community shall perish from want, is practically a dead letter. The ultimate object of charity is, we take it, to afford maintenance to the helpless poor, and give adequate assistance to those whose own utmost efforts at self-help fail to secure them a sufficiency of the common necessities of life. This purpose English charity does not accomplish, though it can scarcely be doubted that its resources are equal to carrying it out to the fullest extent—if they were rightly administered. How to administer them rightly is a question to which only years of experimental trials can give a satisfactory answer; but the time has unquestionably arrived when "something should be done." There is one point in the required reform, however, concerning which we think there could be but little difference of opinion: the necessity, namely, for concentrating charity—for, if possible, confining its distribution to a single channel. In the face of such watchful, active, and unscrupulous enemies as the charity-hunting poor, diversity is a weakness. As matters stand, it is the point which more than all others favours their operations. The agents of each charity are led to infer that they alone are solicited for aid, and while the assistance that each may give may be all too small to meet the alleged wants, the gifts of a number will combinedly make up a very comfortable livelihood. If the exact total amount that each person or family was drawing from charity could be known, many of the idle poor would not be able to draw a tithe of what they do now; would be able to draw so little that the game would cease to be worth the candle to them, and, disgusted and desperate, they might be driven—to work for a living.

'Centralisation in charity would be a tower of strength against the attacks of the worst kind of poor—an undoubted benefit to the best, and to the public at large. Its tendency would be to extinguish the mere idle poor as a class, lessen the mass of full-blown technical pauperism, and ameliorate the condition of the industrious poor, who, from the causes we have spoken of, find charity as at present administered only vanity and vexation of spirit.'—*Our New Masters*, p. 390.

MR. FORSTER, M.P., ON THRIFT.—In addressing the Oddfellows at Radford, a short time ago, Mr. Forster called attention to the necessity of making provision for old age, and after pointing out the reason why, in his opinion, the Government plan of annuities had failed, and the conditions under which a form of insurance could, he considered, be safely established, he appealed to his hearers to 'see whether they could by any means help the formation of a society which could safely take charge of the money on those conditions.' He added that if the 'authorities of the principal societies agreed with him he should be very glad to offer £50 for prize . . . for the best essay, to be written by members of a registered friendly society . . . upon the question of the duty of a working man to provide for old age, and how he can best do so, and especially how members of friendly societies could best do so. . . '

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) . . . 5 0

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 231.

THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 18, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Oct. 18	3 P.M.,	Administrative Committee.
Monday, „ 22	3 P.M.,	Council.
Tuesday, „ 23	2.30 P.M.,	Mendicity Sub-Committee.
	3.30 P.M.,	District Sub-Committee.
Wednesday „ 24	2.30 P.M.,	Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday, „ 25	3 P.M.,	Administrative Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, the 22nd instant:

1. Mr. A. H. Hill to move:—

‘That the present relations of the Central Office to the District Committees of this Society be considered, and that arrangements be made at once to secure a more effective uniformity in the Society's work throughout the metropolis.’

2. Major FitzRoy to move:—*

‘That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps more completely to disassociate Charity Organisation from Charitable Relief. To this end the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to direct their attention to making such arrangements that, on and after January 1, 1879, no relief by grant be made by any Committee of this Society; and that this important matter may be kept constantly before the Council, the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to report progress quarterly, commencing in January 1878.’

ST. OLAVE'S.—Mr. W. F. Beanford has been elected a representative of this Committee.

* See page 161.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, October 15, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Lieut.-General Cavenagh (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—Dr. Anderson, J. W. Probyn, F. J. S. Edgcombe.
FULHAM:—Rev. H. Wilson.
PADDINGTON:—J. R. Holland.
CHELSEA:—Dr. Daniel.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Major FitzRoy, Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast.
ST. JAMES'S & SOHO (Westminster Union): W. Bevan.
ST. MARTLEBONE:—Major-General Blunt.
HAMPSTEAD:—C. E. Maurice.
SOUTH ST. PANCRA'S:—Miss Gibson, Miss Collett.
HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. Hill, H. M. Keary.
HOLBORN:—G. B. Baker.
CITY:—Rev. W. H. Lyall.
SHOREDITCH:—Rev. H. B. Kelly, J. L. Foster.
BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. C. Kirton.

WHITECHAPEL:—C. L. Corkran, C. Lavers Smith, Rev. A. Wedgwood, Rev. S. A. Barnett.
ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—A. G. Crowder.
STEPNEY:—E. Peters, Mrs. Barnett.
POPLAR:—A. D. Graham.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—R. Barrington, Rev. W. A. Richmond.
NEWINGTON:—F. D. Thornton, H. R. Brand.
ST. OLAVE'S:—W. F. Beanford.
DEPTFORD:—H. F. Cornish.
WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.
LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramly.
ELTHAM:—Rear-Admiral Gardner.
SYDENHAM:—H. Reid.
VICE-CHAIRMAN:—A. H. Hill.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—S. Fuller, C. A. Miner, Dr. Hawksley. **TOTAL**:—45.
ORGANISING SECRETARY:—C. J. Ribton-Turner.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, October 11. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the chair; Lady Wilson, Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Messrs. Hill, Miner, Peters, and Roberts.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending October 6 the receipts had been £17. 17s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £192. 2s. 5d., and £30. 0s. 9d. respectively, £18. 12s. 5d. of the latter sum being reserved to pay expenditure on School Board cases.

GRANT.—A grant of £10 had been made to the Whitechapel Committee.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on October 9 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Miss Howes, Messrs. R. Barrington, F. J. S. Edgcombe, and S. Fuller.

MR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson moved:—

That this Council approves of the course taken by the Administrative Committee in issuing the circular of September 15 last with reference to Mr. Barnardo's Homes.

This motion he supported by a graphic speech, and remarked that the Society had not the smallest wish to suppress a good work.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Russell Barrington.

Mr. W. Bevan said that, the matter having been dealt with by the Administrative Committee, he thought it a pity that the question should have been reopened at the Council. He therefore moved the previous question, which was put and carried.

The Council then adjourned.

ERRATA.—For the paragraphs headed ‘Grants,’ page 162, *Reporter* No. 230, read as follows:—

GRANTS.—That the following grants had been made during August and September:—Fulham, £30; North St. Pancras, £15; Islington, £25;

* It was estimated that the liabilities of the Council amounted to £600.

Holborn, £40; Shoreditch, £40; Bethnal Green, £40; Whitechapel, £20; Stepney, £30; St. Saviour's £30; Newington, £20; Lambeth, £10; Mile End, £10.

[The following are the total amounts granted to these Committees during the year ending September 30, 1877:—Fulham, £120; North St. Pancras, £40; Islington, £105; Holborn, £140; Shoreditch, £90; Bethnal Green, £165; Whitechapel, £114; Stepney, £213; St. Saviour's, £167; Newington, £140; Lambeth, £125; and Mile End, £177.]

In the returns of Metropolitan Pauperism, p. 154, the persons in receipt of outdoor relief in the union of St. George's East should have been 92 instead of 792.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council for the week ending October 13, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Crown Life Assurance Company	£	s.	d.
Baldwin, A., Esq.	10	10	0	Todd, B. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Horniman, F. T., Esq.	1	1	0	Verney, Sir Harry, 1876-7	2	2	0
Annual:—				Yates, A. G., Esq.	1	1	0
Cohn, Hermann, Esq.	1	1	0				

FOREIGN.

NEW YORK.—The *New York Church Journal*, in an article on Charities, has the following:—'The matter of Charities will need reinvestigation, we are convinced, at no distant day. It is beginning to be forced upon the attention of even the most careless that we have been going on in a blind happy-go-lucky sort of way, under the impression that the mere giving of money to anybody or anything that asked is a good and meritorious work. Instead of this, such giving may be a very bad and a very wicked work, deserving the severest penalties. Possibly nothing does so much evil in this world as careless good-nature. And careless good-nature among a rich people may be the most fruitful parent of crime and worthlessness. For we are a rich people. . . . And yet we are over-ridden with beggars and tramps from one end of the country to the other, as is no country, perhaps, in Christendom! The reason is, that people with any industry and sense make a living so easily and so abundantly, that they have not only enough for themselves, but some to spare for the lazy and the worthless. The waste in America is enormous. . . . That our indiscriminate charities are responsible in large degree for the increase of a worthless population, there can be no doubt. That any charity which does not look to the *extinguishment*, by the most merciful but effectual means of this worthless population, is a wrong charity, weak and wicked, is so evident that it needs no argument. That a charity which blindly sustains and increases this worthless population, always worthless and often criminal, is worse than weak and wicked, we shall not argue here.'

A BETHNAL GREEN DIALOGUE.

Passing up St. Peter's Street, Bethnal Green, a few days since, I met a labouring man whom I had known well for the past ten years. Some time ago he was habitually under my personal observation, occasionally, indeed, employed by me; but latterly he has been living in a rather more distant part of the parish, and had been almost lost sight of during the past eighteen months. Suddenly meeting him, an inquiry into his present position at once suggested itself, and the following dialogue is almost *verbatim*:—

M. 'Well, P, I am glad to meet you, and pleased to see you so much better clad and so much more comfortable-looking than I have known you for some time past.'

P. 'Thank you, sir, for your kind inquiries. You know I have been frequently almost starving, and then for a few months or so doing rather better; but latterly I am thankful to say that my work, which you know is paid by the job, has been much more brisk, and my earnings consequently much larger and more regular, and, having no children, my wife and myself have been able to make both ends meet, which,' he added, 'you well know, sir, I have been for years off and on not able to do.'

M. 'Well, now, I am glad to hear such good news; and now that you have mentioned your wife, how is she?'

P. 'Well, sir, thank you; but to say the truth, my wife is not very well, sir; see, sir, that the *change in her living* does not agree with her. From being in other days so frequently pinched, she now actually complains of her health from having too much, not only in the quantity, but the quality; for you must know, sir, that whereas we had formerly very frequently no meat, now she as often has too much, and, as I tell her, buys enough for

a family, instead of remembering that there are only our two selves. Why, sir, she will buy half a shoulder or leg of mutton at a time; and as I do not care for cold meat, nor for that matter does she herself, it has been more than once wasted and gone stale. As I tell her, sir, such a thing as two shillings' worth of good steak would be ample for a meal, and then would have none to spare, and none to waste; but she will not listen—spend the money she says she will; it looks more respectable, and gratifies her vanity.'

M. 'But surely, remembering the old times, you do not spend all in such waste?'

P. 'I am sorry to say we do. My wife will listen to no economy, and says while I earn she will spend.'

M. 'But do you give her all your earnings?'

P. 'Yes, sir; for *peace I am obliged to do so*. She reckons up sharply all I get, and insists upon my making her housekeeper; and if I try to put anything by she will go to my employers, get an account of my earnings, and search my pockets to make the *total agree*, so I must always be plain with her, tell her all, and trust to her management. It is true I have a few shillings in the Post Office, but nothing worth mentioning; and as my work is now much slack, and is already falling off, I expect that we shall soon be as pinched as ever. So, sir, I have done better lately, but with a short time may be as badly off as ever.'

So we parted. But surely such a meeting and such a dialogue deserves a short paragraph among the 'Annals of the Poor.' Is there, Sir, no 'School of Cookery' where these hopeless spendthrifts can be warned? The case is a typical one. Thousands are thus earned, and thus *worse than wasted*, and P. will, during this present winter, be considered a deserving object of compassion and support, while the wasted and putrefying legs and half-legs, and shoulders and half-shoulders of mutton, and bread even in half-quarterns, are crying for revenge upon those who, 'having fed themselves to the full,' are amongst the most loud and encroaching upon the aims of the provident.

J. D. M.

CONVALESCENT HOMES.

The Sisters of All Saints' Home, Margaret Street, London, have undertaken the management of a Home at 4 Markwick Terrace, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

The object of this institution is to receive ten female patients, specially those suffering from diseases of the chest, for whom the climate of St. Leonards is so highly recommended; and they will receive most careful nursing and all that is needed for their restoration to health.

Any patient (from any part of England) will be admitted on the payment of 10s. a week, if their case be eligible according to the Rules of the Home. Presents of fruit, vegetables, flowers, new-laid eggs, &c. will be thankfully received by the Sister in Charge.

The Home can be seen any afternoon, between 3 and 5.30.

Annual subscribers of £1. 1s. can have a patient for one month in each year on payment of 8s. 6d. a week.

CHARITY AND EMPLOYMENT.—Though an individual may be in work himself, he will come across a multitude who have failed in finding anything for their hands to do. And seeing how rich this country is, this state of things is really very sad. Of course, it is hard to get at the root of this terrible London evil; indiscriminate almsgiving has, it must be confessed, a good deal to do with the large amount of the laziness abounding in our midst; but that there is a vast quantity of enforced idleness in this very large place of London cannot, I assume, be doubted by anyone possessed of even a few grains of common sense. . . . There are many well-meaning folk among the throng that daily tread the pavé between Birdcage Walk and Old Palace Yard. There are to be seen there men and youths, poverty-stricken and haggard to look upon, who are only too anxious to do well, but kept aloof from success by sheer misfortune, and lacking a friend to take them by the hand. Feeble health may possibly have brought about their sorry trouble; perhaps some slippery trick or other; perchance running after myths, losing the substance in grasping the shadow, and consequently 'jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire.' However this may be, there are hundreds (and what I say is an absolute fact) who would be humbly grateful for employment—aye, and of the roughest and any kind. In their present mode of existence (and after revelling in the glory of seeing and hearing the 'sogers' play) they moon or loaf about and wander through the streets, their only hope consisting of helping some one into a carriage, or giving a hand when a cab is to be unloaded, or 'carry yer parcel, sir,' or, 'please to 'elp a poor fellow to a copper.' And there is the curse: almsgiving gets in the way and closes all prospect of a man helping himself. Some prefer to live—exist—on misplaced so-called charity rather than lead an honourable, noble life.—*Labour News*, Sept. 15.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

CHARITY ORGANISATION AND RELIEF.

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

DEAR SIR,—I should be much obliged if you would allow me a few words of explanation of the motion of which I have given notice.

My object is simply to recall our minds to the first principles of the Society as stated in the Manual, viz.:—

'The main object of the Society is the improvement of the condition of the poor, (1) by bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor-law, and amongst the Charities; (2) by securing due investigation and fitting action in all cases; and (3) by repressing mendicancy.'

It may be said that, in 'securing fitting action,' it is a distinction without a difference if our Committees obtain the relief from some other society, or give it from funds placed in their hands by individuals. But my experience leads me to the conclusion that there is a great difference, and that the energies of our Committees are frittered away, and organisation lost sight of in dealing with individual cases. Our function ought to cease when we have thoroughly investigated a case and handed it over to the proper quarter for 'fitting action.'

To meet special and urgent cases, it may be necessary that each Committee should have at their command a small relief fund; but it would be better if arrangements could be made with the Society for the Relief of Distress to do this.

Our object should be to make our offices centres of information and reference, where those who are working and those who are anxious to work can communicate with one another; but as it is, our Committees are too often merely another source of relief in a district where too much is given already.

97 Onslow Square.

Yours faithfully,

C. C. FITZROY.

STARVATION CASES.

The death of Ann Kelly in the Mile End Union District has recently directed public attention to the small allowance of outdoor relief often granted by Boards of Guardians; the following letter of Dr. J. H. Hill, addressed to the *Daily News* in July last, points out some of the evils of the system:—

'I was for eight years, and until recently, the medical officer to one of the largest workhouses in London. During that time many cases of death from starvation came under my notice and care, cases where, although a low form of disease came as it were to the rescue of the sufferers and ended their pangs, still want of the common necessities of life was the primary and real cause of their disease and death. Many of these cases were brought before the coroner, and verdicts returned of death accelerated by want of proper food—verdicts really of death from starvation, but cloaked in milder and less striking terms; and here I would remark that in my opinion it would be better to always look the matter fairly in the face, call a spade a spade, and call such cases—where, according to medical testimony, corroborated by other evidence, death has been caused or accelerated by want of proper food—deaths from starvation, and let parochial authorities explain more clearly and satisfactorily how such cases are permitted to exist when the name of the sufferer is, as in many cases, on the books of so-called parochial relief. I have known many cases where persons sick unto death and living alone have been allowed 3s. a week and a loaf of bread, when, on the most simple inquiry, it would have been found that they were paying 2s. 6d. a week for rent, leaving the small sum of 6d. a week for procuring proper food, fuel, &c. I am confident that a better system of parochial investigation of cases is in many instances required, which would lead to the detection of such cases before too late, and the providing them with proper nourishment and attention, which would frequently be the means of saving their lives. An immense amount of money is expended in many parishes in giving a weekly pittance to a great number of persons, when, from the staff of relieving officers and system of giving relief, it is utterly impossible that due and proper care can be taken in its administration. I firmly believe that a great saving of life, money, &c., would be effected by an increased and better staff of relieving officers. It is also a question worthy of deep consideration whether legislative interference could not be beneficially brought to bear by the passing of an Act of Parliament enabling parochial authorities to obtain a magistrate's order for removal to a workhouse infirmary of such persons as could be satisfactorily proved to be without friends and to be dependent entirely upon parochial aid, and at the same time are unfit to remain or become recipients of outdoor relief, instead of, as at present, allowing them to exercise a frequently very unwise discretion of their own, and morally and really to commit 'suicide by starvation'

rather than enter a workhouse. I have known many instances where persons have refused until too late to be removed from wretched hovels, where they have laid under clearly hopeless conditions for recovery, and where a nuisance to others around them, while at the same time they have been receiving parochial relief. Surely this could be improved upon.'

Bearing on this, the following notes may be of interest. They are taken from the Returns from 1870 to 1875 of 'the number of all deaths in the metropolitan district upon which a coroner's jury have returned a verdict of death by starvation, or death accelerated by privation.'

In 1870, out of 37 cases in the Eastern Division of Middlesex, one received 1s. 6d. a week in outdoor relief; another (man and wife) 2s. 6d. a week, with 2 quarter loaves, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar, and 2 ozs. tea; another, admitted into the house dying, was in receipt of 1s. and a loaf.

In 1871, in the Central Division, 8 were receiving outdoor relief. The following are the amounts set down in each case: 3s., 2s. 6d., 2s., 3s., 4s., 3s., 2s. 6d. In one case 'meat and brandy' were being given. It is not stated whether there were children or others who would be likely to share in the relief.

In the Eastern Division, in the same year, out of 25 cases, 5 received respectively, as outdoor relief, the following: 2s.; 'an amount not known'; tea, sugar, 1s. 6d., and a loaf; 2s. 6d. a week; one who was in the stoneyard two days received on the first day 7d. and a loaf, and on the second 5d. and a loaf: 'an order for admission was given by the parish doctor, but the man died before admission.'

In the returns for 1872, in the Central Division, 4 cases are set down in which outdoor relief was being received; the sums are: 4s., 2s. and two loaves, 2s. 6d. and a loaf. In one case the amount is not stated.

In the Eastern Division, in the same year, two cases are mentioned. One is that of a boy aged 6, for whom 'one week's relief and soup occasionally' were given; admission to the workhouse was offered to, and refused by, the parents. The other is that of a girl aged 6 months, whose mother was in receipt of '2 loaves per week for a month.'

In 1873 three are mentioned as being in receipt of outdoor relief; in one 1s. 6d. a week was given, the house was offered and refused; in another brandy and meat were supplied; one is entered as having received £2. 14s. in outdoor relief, and to have died from 'want of food.'

In 1875 five cases are mentioned, with the following remarks on each: 'amount unknown,' 'medicine,' 'mother had 1s. 6d. and 4 loaves,' 'nourishment for three days,' '2s. weekly.'

In the return for 1876 four are set down, one receiving 2s. 6d., one 3s., one 3s. 6d. and a loaf, and one 3s. 6d.

These notes refer only to the question of the inadequacy of outdoor relief. The deceased are sometimes set down as 'inmates.' Unwise charity, also, appears in some cases to keep the poor in chronic starvation. One case is mentioned as being 'supported by charity,' another as in receipt of 5s. a month from the churchwardens.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of October 1877 was 36,972, and 40,197 received outdoor relief, making a total of 77,169. This was an increase of 476 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 1,135, 4,296, and 14,022 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 816. This was an increase of 155 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and a decrease of 11 on the corresponding day of last year.

WANDERING VAGRANTS.—The Brighton Board of Guardians, in common with many other local authorities, have for a long time been considerably exercised by the more or less frequent and extensive incursions of 'tramps' into their casual wards. Many devices have, with but little avail, been tried in various places to check the visits of these moving masses of pauperism; and the Brighton Board have now hit on the simple and inexpensive expedient of having their orders for the casual wards issued after a certain hour by one of their own officers at a district police station. This plan, which requires only the co-operation of the police authorities, and a little extra salary to the officer, has been found to answer exceedingly well, as, for reasons more or less obvious, the professional tramp evinces a peculiar reluctance to visit such places more often than impelled by strict necessity, preferring to seek a fresh town rather than present himself a second time at a police-office. A return submitted to the Board yesterday afternoon showed that during the past three months there had been the extraordinary decrease of 1,822 admissions as compared with the corresponding period last year, when the number was 3,088. During the twelve months the plan had been adopted 5,884 persons had been admitted, being a decrease of as many as 2,841 on the previous year, whilst, instead of admitting them to the wards at the rate of 44 a night, the average now was only 17. The Board expressed themselves highly satisfied at the success of the scheme, and, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, decided to continue it for another six months.—*Daily News*, October 10.

CHARITY AND LABOUR.*—For so it is written, 'Cui plus datum est, plus requiretur ab illo' ('He that hath much must make account for much; and if he hath not spent it well, he must make the heavier account'). But I speak not this to let poor folks from labour; for we must labour and do the works of our vocation, every one in his calling: for so it is written, 'Labores manuum tuarum manducabis, et bene tibi erit' ('Thou shalt eat thy hand-labour, and it shall go well with thee'). That is to say, every man shall work for his living, and shall not be a sluggard, as a great many be; every man shall labour and pray, then God will send him his living. St. Paul saith, 'Qui non laborat, non comedat' ('He that laboreth not, let him not eat'). Therefore those lubbers which will not labour, and might labour, it is a good thing to punish them according unto the king's most godly statutes. For God himself saith, 'In sudore vultus tui vesceris pane tuo' ('In the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat thy bread'). Then cometh in St. Paul, who saith, 'Magis autem laboret, ut det indigentibus' ('Let him labour the sorer, that he may have wherewith to help the poor'); and Christ himself saith, 'Melius est dare quam accipere' ('It is better to give than to take'). So Christ and all His Apostles, yea, the whole Scripture, admonisheth us ever of our neighbour, to take heed of him, to be pitiful unto him: but God knoweth there be a great many which care little for their neighbours.—*Latimer's Sermons.*

* See Reporter, No. 228, p. 114.

Recently published, price 5s.

HOSPITAL MORTALITY, being a Statistical Examination of the Returns of the Hospitals of Great Britain for Fifteen Years. By LAWSON TAIT, F.R.C.S., Fellow of the Statistical Society, &c. &c.

CHURCHILL, 11 New Burlington Street.

'We commend to the careful perusal of all connected with charitable institutions, whether lay or professional members, the honest *exposé* of the pitiable makeshifts adopted to enhance the utility of a charity in the eyes of the public. The hearty thanks of the profession are due to the author for the mass of information he has collected, and for the able manner in which he has elucidated important facts affecting the welfare of our empire and the progress of our science.'—*Medical Examiner*, August 2, 1877.

Now ready, price 3d.

REPORT ON SOUP KITCHENS. By the Co-operation Sub-Committee of the Charity Organisation Society.

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ITALIAN CHILDREN: Report of the Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society appointed to Inquire into the Employment of Italian Children for Mendicant and Immoral Purposes.

Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

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METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RELIEF, a Paper read by Sir C. E. TREVELYAN at a Conference convened by the Charity Organisation Society, presided over by Dr. Acland; with Remarks by Sir W. Gull, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Sir R. Alcock, Mr. T. Holmes, and others.

Also may now be had, in 8vo., price 1s.

REPORT of a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society on the Education and Care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics; with the Proceedings of the Committee and Report of a Deputation on the subject to the President of the Local Government Board, January and May 1877.

London: LONGMANS & Co.; and at the Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

THE LABOUR NEWS and EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISER. Price One Penny.—A Weekly Organ of information on the condition and requirements of the Labour Market in town and country. Edited by ALBAGER HAY HILL. Correspondence is requested from all parts.—Office, 1 Long Acre, London, W.

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DISTRICT COMMITTEES of the Charity Organisation Society, and their Offices.

WEST.

KENSINGTON—42 Church Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—56 Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—20 Westbourne Park Terrace, Harrow Road, W.
CHELSEA—5A Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
ST. JAMES'S AND SOHO (Westminster Union)—27 Great Palace Street, W.

NORTH.

ST. MARYLEBONE—151 Marylebone Road, N.W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAS and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAS—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Barnsbury, N.
HACKNEY—Old Town Hall, E.

CENTRAL.

ST. GILES'S and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur St., New Oxford St., W.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBORN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, Clerkenwell, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.

EAST.

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STEPNEY UNION—3 Arbour Cottages, Arbour Street East, Commercial Road, E.
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ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
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CONTRIBUTIONS for the District Committees should be sent to Hon. Secretaries, at their respective Offices. Contributions towards expenses of the Council can be paid at the Central Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi; or to the account of the 'Charity Organisation Society' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, 59 Strand, W.C. Contributions for the District Committees can be paid to the 'District Committee Aid Fund' the Council.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct to 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 14d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments are not to be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or of definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE

BY THE

PRICE 1d.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Oct. 25 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 29 ... 3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, " 30 ... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
 ... 3.30 P.M., District Sub-Committee.
Wednesday, " 31 ... 2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday, Nov. 1 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

ST. OLAVE'S.—This Committee would be glad to obtain the services of an Hon. Secretary.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL.—The Council would be glad to receive any copies of the Eighth Annual Report of Council that District Committees may be able to spare.

The following business stands for Monday, the 29th instant:

'That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps more completely to dissociate Charity Organisation from Charitable Relief. To this end the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to direct their attention to making such arrangements that, on and after January 1, 1879, no relief by grant be made by any Committee of this Society; and that this important matter may be kept constantly before the Council, the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to report progress quarterly, commencing in January 1878.'

4. Mr. Bousfield to call attention to the present position of the Society with regard to Mr. Barnardo's Charities, and to move a resolution thereon.

Present :—Mr. A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

WHITECHAPEL.—C. L. Corkran, Rev. A. Wedgwood, Rev. E. A. Barnett.
STRATFORD.—H. E. Ector.
MILE END.—R. M. Dowson.
POPULAR.—A. D. Graham, R. Ellis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S.—W. F. Smith, R. Barrington.
NEWINGTON.—D. P. Thoratou, H. R. Brand.
LAMBERT.—S. S. Tayler, W. M. Venning.
WANDSWORTH.—A. Lambert.
CAMBERWELL.—T. Galabin.
DEPTFORD.—Capt. Cassan.
LEWISHAM.—R. V. Tidman.
ELTHAM.—Rear-Admiral Gardner.
VICE-PRESIDENT.—W. M. Wilkinson.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—A. C. Miner, S. Fuller. TOTAL: 46.
ORGANISING SECRETARY.—C. J. Ribtou-Turner.
VISITORS.—H. H. Graham, O. Tottie.

Mr. E. Peters, in the chair; Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Barrington, Beauford, Hill, Lawrence, Miner, Mitchell, Fuller, and Tidman.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending October 19 the receipts had been £18. 18s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £221. 17s. 6d., and £20. 0s. 9d. respectively, £18. 12s. 6d. of the latter sum being reserved to pay expenditure on School Board cases.

GRANTS.—Grants of £30 and £20 had been made to the St. Olave's and Poplar Committees respectively.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on October 16 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Miss E. Howes, Messrs. Fuller and Graham.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on October 16 there had been present:—

Rear-Admiral Gardner, in the chair ; and Mr. W. Bevan.

CO-OPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on October 17 there had been present:—

Mr. J. Hollond, in the chair; Major FitzRoy, Rev. M. S. A. Walrond, and Mr. A. H. Hill.

* The ascertained liabilities were £700, exclusive of £600 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

EMPLOYMENT.

The following papers had been forwarded to District Committees:

'GENERAL POST OFFICE: 26th September, 1877.

'SIR,—I beg leave to forward to you the enclosed copies of a Prospectus giving the conditions under which the Department will in future employ boy messengers in the Telegraph Department; and as it is understood that your Society has the means of acquainting itself intimately with the class of persons from which boy messengers are usually drawn, and is in the habit of receiving applications for employment, I have to ask if you would be prepared to co-operate with the Department in its endeavours to select, as candidates for the employment in question, such boys as are of undoubtedly good character, and have respectable parents or guardians.

'I should explain that the wages which will be paid to the boys under the new system are higher than those which the Department has been in the habit of giving, and the prospects of their promotion in the Service are better; it is hoped, therefore, that, with these advantages offered to candidates, the class of boy messengers may be materially improved.

'If you find that it is in your power to assist the Department in the manner proposed, I would suggest that, on recommending a candidate, a certificate should be furnished by a responsible member of your Society, to the effect that inquiries have been made at his home, and that he is found to be respectable, and suitable, so far as his character and that of his home are concerned, for the employment sought.

'I shall be happy to furnish you with any number of these prospectuses which you may require.'

'I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

'W. PARKHURST.

'The Secretary, Charity Organisation Society.'

'SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

'CENTRAL OFFICE—15 Buckingham Street,

'Adelphi, London, W.C.: October 15, 1877.

'DEAR SIR,—With reference to the accompanying letter, which has been addressed to the Society, I am directed to request that you will communicate with the Secretary of the General Post Office whenever persons who have boys eligible for employment under the Post Office come under the notice of your Committee.

'I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

'C. J. RIBTON-TURNER,

'Organising Secretary.

'To the Hon. Secretary,

Committee.'

*SITUATIONS OF OUTDOOR BOY TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON.

Applications for these situations must be made by candidates, in writing, to the Secretary, Appointment Branch, General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand.

The limits of age for the situation are from 14 to 15.

The Boy Telegraph Messengers, so long as they remain in their class, must reside within three miles of the General Post Office, or of the office at which they are employed, either with their parents or guardians, or they must be placed by their parents or guardians with some responsible person living within the same distance.

Their employment will not give them any claim to superannuation, compensation, or other allowance under the Superannuation Acts of 1834 or 1859.

The wages of these boys are 7s. a week, rising after one year's service to 8s., in Town Districts, with uniform; and 6s. a week, rising after six months to 7s., and after a year's service to 8s., in Suburban Districts, with uniform.

The duty does not commence, as a rule, before 8 a.m., and it continues for 10 hours.

On attaining the age of 16, boys will no longer be employed as Outdoor Telegraph Messengers in the Town Districts; but in the Suburban Districts they will continue to be so employed until they are 17.

Outdoor Telegraph Messengers who can from their conduct be recommended for further employment will be eligible for nomination, on their attaining the age of 16, to Boy Sorterships and Indoor Telegraph Messengerships, and on their attaining the age of 17 to Junior Sorterships and Letter Carrierships; and preference will be given to them over other candidates.

The wages for these situations are as follows, viz.:

SITUATIONS.	WAGES.
Boy Sorter, Circulation Department..	12s. a week, with prospect of rising to 18s. a week.
Do. Eastern Central District Office	14s. a week, with prospect of rising to 18s. a week.
Do. Metropolitan District Office	10s. a week, with prospect of rising to 14s. a week.
Indoor Telegraph Messenger	12s. a week.
Junior Sorter, Circulation Department and Eastern Central District Office	20s. a week, increasing by 1s. a week annually to 25s. a week, and with prospect of rising to 45s. a week.
Junior Sorter, Metropolitan District Office	18s. a week, increasing by 1s. a week annually to 34s. a week.
Junior Letter Carrier, Eastern Central District and Metropolitan Districts (Town Divisions)	18s. a week, increasing by 1s. a week annually to 21s. a week, and with a prospect of rising to 30s. a week.
Junior Letter Carrier (Suburban Division)	17s. a week, increasing by 1s. a week annually to 20s. a week, and with a prospect of rising to 28s. a week.
Suburban Letter Carrier	18s. a week, increasing by 1s. a week annually to 23s. a week, and with a prospect of rising to 28s. a week.

VAGRANCY.

Letters from Lewisham and North St. Pancras were read on the increase of vagrancy, and on the best measures for its treatment.

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND THE COUNCIL.

Mr. A. H. Hill then proceeded to read a statement in connection with his motion, to the effect that the present relations of the Central Office to the District Committees of this Society be considered, and that arrangements be made at once to secure a more effective uniformity in the Society's work throughout the metropolis. He explained that he did not wish to anticipate any larger discussion by pressing his motion at the present time, but he considered the period had arrived when the work of the Society in its districts should more thoroughly approximate to the machinery set forth by the originators, and he believed that all classes would benefit by a greater centralisation of efforts.

Mr. H. R. Brand seconded the motion, and expressed his opinion that all grants made to District Committees should be carefully decided on, and then punctually paid.

Rev. R. J. Simpson considered the discussion premature.

Mr. H. Hay Hill thought that the collection of funds in the districts was prejudiced by the want of a higher class of officers.

Mr. Lawrence thought no material good would be gained by the discussion, and moved that the consideration of the subject be adjourned.

Mr. Edgcombe seconded this proposal.

Dr. Daniel was of opinion that the motion should be carried, whilst Col. Prendergast thought it should receive much fuller consideration than was then possible.

Mr. Maurice thought that a mere collection from the centre would be very unpopular in many districts.

Mr. Tidman thought only inefficient committees were likely to raise any objection, and they should be brought up to a higher standard.

Mr. Corkran considered that more steps should be taken to educate the public in the principles of the Society.

Mr. Bevan held that the financial question was quite secondary to the humanitarian one. It was essential at any cost to bring up the efficiency of the districts, even if those districts had to be largely increased in number.

Mr. Hill, in reply, said he was quite satisfied with the discussion that had taken place, as he merely desired to indicate certain large issues which would have to be further considered at some future date, and, with the consent of the seconder (Mr. Brand), he withdrew his motion.

On the motion of Mr. Edgcombe, the consideration of Major Fitz-Roy's motion was adjourned till next Monday.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending October 20, 1877:—

Donations:—	£ s. d.	Dickinson, Messrs. J., & Co.	£ s. d.
Anonymous	2 0 0	Co.	2 2 0
Dandridge, A. M., Esq.	1 0 0	Lyell, Miss	1 0 0
Annual:—		Morley, Messrs. J. & R.	5 5 0
Brown, H., Esq.	1 1 0	Read, Rev. T. F. Rudston	1 1 0
Collins, W. B., Esq.	0 10 6	Tawke, Mrs.	1 1 0

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of October 1877 was 37,393, and 39,674 received outdoor relief, making a total of 77,067. This was a decrease of 102 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 692, 3,644, and 13,959 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 890. This was an increase of 74 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 160 on the corresponding day of last year.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES. No. XII.

FRIENDSHIP IN CHARITY.—Human life does not admit of extensive friendships and wide circles of intimacies and interests. Truth and reality all lie in particulars, and all interest is in details; and the more we deal in generals and vast circles of information, and great numbers of people, the more our knowledge becomes superficial and heartless and inanimate, and our intercourse degenerates into mere acquaintance.—BOSANQUET: *The Poor and Christian Almsgiving*, p. 251.

AFFILIATED COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received the following returns from Associations affiliated to the Society, showing the number of cases they have decided during the quarter ending Saturday, September 29, 1877:—

	Birkenhead	Brighton	Chester	Eton	Glasgow	Horsham	*Kingston-on-Thames	Oxford	Reading	Scarborough	Wimbledon	*Winchester
CLASS I.												
Dismissed, or unfavourably reported on, as—												
1. Not requiring relief	4	2	..	..	30	1	..	3	2	..	1	..
2. Undeserving	19	26	9	2	106	..	..	1	6	2	..	..
3. Cases for Poor Law, or otherwise ineligible	7	24	22	3	10	..	..	7	8	15	1	..
	80	52	31	5	146	1	..	11	15	17	2	..
CLASS II.												
Recommended to—												
1. The Guardians	15	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
2. Institutions or Local Agencies	21	10	..	3	22	..	..	7	..	1	..	..
3. Private Persons	22	9	1	2	61	..	..	2	3	..	..	..
	58	19	1	8	83	..	..	11	3	1	..	..
CLASS III.												
Assisted by—												
1. Grants	48	28	24	..	9	8	..	4	6	13	3	..
2. Loans	..	..	..	4	2	1	..	16	..	2	..	..
3. Employment	14	..	4	3	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
4. Letters for Hospitals &c.	3	11	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	65	39	28	6	15	10	..	20	7	15	3	..
TOTALS	153	110	60	19	244	11	..	42	25	33	5	..
Reports sent out	24	74	86	..	164	4	..	27	..	..	7	..
Inquiries for other Associations and Committees	15	11	1	2	..	..	..	2	7	1	1	..
Vagrants dealt with	8	640	13	340	..	279	..	170	18	19	669	..

* No returns received from these Associations at the time of going to press.

FOREIGN.

THE SUPPRESSION OF MENDICITY IN ROME.—The want of an Institution for the Suppression of Mendicity, which exists to so great extent in Rome, has now the prospect of being supplied by private energy and benevolence. A Committee has been formed, of which Signor Ferdinando de Felice is the President, for the purpose of establishing workshops and homes for mendicants. The great aim of the Institution is the suppression of the trade of begging, and the effectual help of those who are truly in need. It is hoped that the Government may be induced to transfer the convents and monasteries, which were suppressed by law in 1873, to the Society, and thus 2,000 persons would be received. These buildings would then be prepared for the reception of beggars, and of poor creatures who, having been recently released from prison, may be homeless and, from the loss of character, unable to obtain honest employment, and the chance of a new start in life would be afforded them. In each building there will be an officer, whose duty it will be to discover and provide the kind of work most suited to each individual. Of the profits realised, one portion will be appropriated to the funds of the Institution, and another for the benefit of the workman. The patronage of many members of the Roman aristocracy has been obtained, and the Committee is anxious to bring the scheme to the notice of the public in England, hoping that many may be inclined to assist in suppressing the great evil of mendicity, by which all who have ever been in Rome must have been annoyed and distressed.

Messrs. Macbean & Co., Bankers, Rome, will receive subscriptions on behalf of the 'Comitato per la Instituzione in Roma di una Casa Provinciale di Lavoro ed Ospizio di Mendicità.'

THE CHURCH CONGRESS.

CHARITY ORGANISATION IN ITS CHRISTIAN ASPECT, WITH REFERENCE TO ALMSGIVING AND MEDICAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTIONS—THEIR USE AND ABUSE.

Sir Lovelace T. Stamer read the first paper, in which he strongly condemned careless, indiscriminate, and lavish giving to those who represented themselves to be in want. So far from being twice blessed—blessing him who gives and him who receives—it had the contrary effect. The evil was not a small one. In the metropolis the amount expended annually on legal charity was a little less than two millions, while the amount given in private charity was computed at about seven millions sterling. These facts showed the urgent necessity for some organisation of charity in order to insure it doing good instead of great evil. He was strongly in favour of money intrusted to the clergy for the relief of the

sick and needy being distributed through lay agency, as when given by the clergy it frequently led to false pretence and hypocrisy. (Cheers.)

Dr. Fairlie Clarke was the next reader, and he treated of the medical charities of London. There was more than half a million sterling spent annually by those charities—most of it in a recklessly open-handed manner—and this expenditure was out of all proportion to the real needs of the people. More than half of the applicants to the London hospitals could pay a few shillings a year for that which they now sought in *forma pauperis*. A payment of three halfpence or twopence a week would secure to a working man and his entire family medical aid throughout the year. What was wanted was such a concurrence of opinion among the managers of medical establishments that they would lend their aid to the establishment of provident dispensaries, and be content to relieve those who, being proper objects of charity, would not be degraded by receiving it. The present free dispensaries ought to be turned into provident dispensaries, and many more of those excellent institutions ought to be established. Manchester had gone far in this direction. Birmingham was following the good example, and Liverpool was considering the question with a view to doing likewise. He was happy to say that in London, also, the number of provident dispensaries was increasing; but it was urgently needed that much more should be done. The clergy could give most valuable aid in the movement. They were often influential as members of the managing committees of hospitals, and they could also help in setting on foot provident dispensaries, and in their intercourse with working people could do much in the way of explaining the advantages of those institutions, and recommending them to widespread support. To raise and strengthen those who were in danger of being debased and pauperised was surely a work in which the ministers of a national Church might well take part.

The Rev. Harry Jones testified to the usefulness of the Charity Organisation Society, which had prevented large sums of money from going into the pockets of impostors and professional beggars. His experience left him without a doubt that charity organisation was distinctly one of the Christian works of the day.

The Rev. R. Linklater said the ministration of charity was the work of the Church, and outside the Church charity sank into philanthropy. The greatest calamity that had happened to the poor was the suppression of the religious houses by Henry VIII.; but he hoped to see the day when the tithes of England would be given once more to the poor and needy of the land, and thus an act of national sacrilege be to some extent atoned for. He proposed, as a practical matter, that in all parishes a committee of communicants should be formed to receive grants of tithes, and that all charity should be distributed from those centres. He also advocated the establishment of provident institutions in each parish, and recommended that the clergy should on all possible occasions impress upon the poor among their people the advantage of thrift.

Dr. Richardson spoke of the difficulties which surrounded the question of medical relief. Hospitals should never contain more than twenty-five to thirty beds, and there should be many small institutions instead of a few large ones. With respect to the outdoor work of the hospitals, on which so much was expended, there had been a vast and startling increase in the applicants for the benefits of the hospitals of late years. How was it to be prevented? In the first place, there ought to be united action on the part of the outdoor managers of dispensary hospitals and the managers of provident dispensaries, so that all might be brought under one common system. He would recommend, too, that no funds should be given to outdoor dispensaries where the admission was free, as that system had largely added to the number of applicants for medical relief. Next, he would suggest that the issue of governors' tickets should be suspended in respect of those departments. It was most desirable that a fund should be formed by the benevolent for the support of convalescent homes; for the aid of working men who, being convalescent, were returning to work; and, further, to provide in their day of sinking and distress for those most excellent women who spent their strength in the nursing of the sick. In conclusion, he had to say the two professions—the medical and the clerical—were one, as the soul and the body were one, and the more closely they were united for the common good, the more rapidly would the happiness of the world be increased. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. Wigan (Bethnal Green) gave an instance of wrongheaded liberality, in which several old women were paid 5s. every time they attended service at the church. (Laughter.) The Rev. Hy. Cummings said the reason many people went begging was because they were able to do it, and that showed the necessity of some good organisation. There was great want of confidence in the minds of a large body of the public in the matter of charity, and this fact was revealed on occasions such as the Indian famine. People then sent money freely because they had confidence in its being properly administered. The Rev. Chas. Bull having made a few remarks, the Rev. Thos. Franklin said that a good organisation would guide the stream of charity into judicious channels, so that instead of pauperising the people, it would make them thrifty, provident, and happy.

(Cheers). The Rev. Hy. Cowell (Paddington) remarked that the plan adopted in his parish was for the district visitors to bring each case before a small relief committee, and relief was then given through the district visitors. After a few words from Mr. MacInnes, the Section adjourned.—*The Guardian*, October 17.

PAUPERISM.—BOARDING OUT.—Mr. Francis Peek regretted that the subject of truant children had been bracketed with that of pauper children. The latter subject was of such great importance to the country that it deserved exclusive attention. He found from the last Government reports that there were in England 752,887 paupers, maintained at a cost of no less than £7,335,858 per year. After making all allowances there was a large amount of pauperism which, he maintained, was home-made. Universal testimony showed that when the pauper taint was imbibed it never could be eradicated. There were now over 48,000 children indoor paupers. The idea seemed to be that most of them were brought up in district schools or were boarded out; but such was not the case. Of the entire number, about 40,000 children were still brought up in connection with the workhouse; of these, 32,362 children were orphans, or the children of parents who were paupers; 16,000 might be considered as casuals, 5,817 were in district schools, 27,000 attended workhouse schools, 15,568 did not attend any school, but were simply in the workhouse; and 2,800 children were boarded out. It would not be disputed that to train children in workhouses was to make paupers of them; so that every ten years they sent out 30,000 to 40,000 children to perpetuate pauperism and make it hereditary. There were three systems in existence, each of which was infinitely better than the workhouse system. The first was the district school system, an excellent specimen of which was to be seen at Anerley; but that system, though good, was not without its imperfections and disadvantages, especially as to cost. The next plan was the boarding out of pauper children in cottage homes. The plan was carried out partially in England, and universally in Scotland, where, under proper supervision, the most admirable results were found to follow. The third plan might be called the village home system, the best example of which was to be found at Metray school. Having described the latter system in some detail, Mr. Peek earnestly recommended its wide adoption. It combined the advantages of the district school and of the cottage home, and this in time would cut off the entail of pauperism.

INTEMPERANCE.—Canon Duckworth said: 'In 1857 there were 76,000 committals for drunkenness in England. In 1875 there were 204,000, of which 150,000, or 75 per cent., were contributed by the seven most densely populated counties, and those which contain the largest towns, viz., Lancashire, Middlesex, Durham, York, Stafford, Northumberland, and Cheshire. In eight agricultural counties the average rate of committals was 2.9 per 1,000. In eight industrial and mining counties it was 13.6 per 1,000. That is to say, the present insobriety of our industrial population is five times as great as that of our agricultural, while that of our agricultural population is about one-third greater than that of Frenchmen of all classes. Scotland is ten times as drunken as France, and Ireland nine times, so far as committals are to be regarded as a fair test of general intemperance. Taking into account the increase of population during the eighteen years between 1857 and 1875, the committals, according to Professor Leone Levi, have increased by fully 71 per cent. throughout the country.'

DISTRICT VISITORS.—Dr. Alfred Carpenter said: 'I urge most strongly upon all district visitors that any recommendation which appears to suggest that stimulants would be provided if they were prescribed is helping the enemy at a time when enormous injury can be done to the cause of temperance. Stimulants, as a rule, are unnecessary in the treatment of disease. I urge, therefore, as a duty upon the officer of mental health, that he resolutely discourage their distribution by district visitors. Dr. Carpenter also urged the formation of a class of visitors from amongst the poor themselves.'

LABOURERS' DWELLINGS AND SAVINGS BANKS.—Sir H. Selwin Ibbetson said, recently, he hoped to see the welfare of the labourer promoted by a combination of the landlords throughout the country to give him a better house. With a better cottage, let to him, as it ought to be, at a reasonable rent, he would be able to live and labour in hard times like these without striking for an increase of wage. He was satisfied, moreover, that the landlord was very short-sighted who did not see the advantage which he gained by building cheap and sound cottages. Of course it was not, as a speculation, a pecuniarily remunerative one, but the remuneration came in the thews and sinews of the labourer and the better cultivation of the land, and the landlord had also the satisfaction of feeling that he was attempting to help others on in their course through life. He had long thought that another thing wanted to encourage the labourers was an extension of the savings banks. He hoped some day to see savings banks scattered through all the villages of the land.

A FLOOD OF CHARITY.—A correspondent sends us a table showing the distribution by Mr. Graham's executors of the large sum confided to their charitable discretion. The table is arranged on the model of the 'Classified Directory to Metropolitan Charities.' The acknowledgments by the several charities benefited occupied, it will be remembered, three of our advertisement columns on Monday:—

Class I.—Literary	—
Class II.—2 Missionary	£750
Class III.—Church and Chapel Building	—
Class IV.—9 Affliction (Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and Idiots)	6,750
Class V.—56 Sickness, viz.:—14 General Hospitals	£19,500
Special Hospitals:—	
5 Consumption	6,750
3 Ophthalmic	1,750
1 Orthopaedic	250
1 Skin	500
6 Women	2,750
4 Children	4,500
2 Lying-in	750
6 Miscellaneous	3,500
3 Lock and Fever	2,000
1 Cancer	1,000
2 Incurables	3,000
	£46,250
1 General Dispensary	500
3 Convalescent Homes	1,500
2 Nursing Institutions	750
2 Truss and Surgical Aid Societies	1,000
	£50,000
Class VI.—7 Annuities—Pensions and Charities for the Aged	2,750
Class VII.—4 Almshouses, Asylums, &c., for ditto	2,750
Class VIII.—6 Distress—General Relief	4,000
Class IX.—13 Voluntary Homes—Ladies, Governesses, Women, Girls, Men, Boys, Infants, &c.	7,250
Class X.—9 Orphans—Asylums, Homes, Schools, &c., for Boys and Girls	7,000
Class XI.—8 Reformation and Prevention—Industrial, Reformatory, and other Schools, Discharged Prisoners, &c.	4,000
Class XII.—12 Education—Colleges and Schools	8,500
Class XIII.—2 Social Improvement—Charity Organisation and Employment Society	750
Class XIV.—3 Protection and Preservation—Individuals and Animals	3,500
	£98,000

Times, Oct. 17.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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Any Subscriber changing his address or not receiving his copy is requested to communicate with the Secretary, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 233.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 1, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Nov.	1	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday,	5	...	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday,	6	...	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
			3.30 P.M., District Sub-Committee.
Wednesday,	7	...	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday,	8	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

ST. JAMES' AND SOHO.—Mr. F. C. Mills has been appointed Hon. Secretary of this Committee, *vice* Mr. C. A. O. Marsham.

ST. MARYLEBONE.—Mr. L. G. Gordon Robbins has been elected one of the representatives of this Committee.

The *Charity Organisation Reporter* is published weekly during the sittings of Council. The monthly number of the *Reporter* is published on the second Thursday in each month throughout the year. Contributors of £5 and upwards to the funds of the Council, or to those of any of the Committees of the Society, can have the *Reporter* free.

THE 'REPORTER.'—The Secretary will be glad to receive memoranda containing information on the following subjects, with a view to their insertion in the *Charity Organisation Reporter* when space permits:—

- (1) Meetings on subjects connected with the improvement of the condition of the poor.

- (2) Efforts made to improve the machinery and working of existing District Visiting Societies.
- (3) Efforts made to promote provident habits among the poor.
- (4) Efforts made to improve the dwellings of the poor.
- (5) Efforts made to promote the welfare of the afflicted poor.
- (6) Efforts made to suppress vagrancy.

Annual Reports of District Committees.—Papers of Suggestions relating to Annual Reports are about to be issued to District Committees.

School Board Returns.—District Committees who have not yet done so are requested to forward their School Board returns for the past quarter to the Central Office with as little delay as possible.

Estimates for the Financial Year 1877-8.—The attention of District Committees is called to the following resolution of Council of July 3, 1876:—

That *within a month after September 30 of each year* ESTIMATES of the probable expenses of each Committee for the ENSUING YEAR, together with the BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE PAST YEAR, be sent to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee, in order that they may, *as soon as possible*, have the means of passing the Estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

Forms for the Estimates and Balance-sheets have been forwarded to the District Committees. *It is very desirable that District Committees likely to require grants should transmit them, duly filled up, to the Central Office at an early date.*

HOSPITAL LETTERS.—We have received the following letter from the Hon. Secretary of the St. George's (Hanover Square) and Westminster Committee:—'I am directed to inform you that Letters as per enclosed list are now in this office, and will be given to any District Committee for deserving cases.'

	No. of Letters		No. of Letters
Children—Victoria	In 8	King's College	In 7
" "	Out 47	" "	Out 14
" Belgrave	In 2	London	Out 2
" "	Out 18	Lying-In—Queen Charlotte	In 3½
" Great Ormond Street	In 7*	" "	Out 9½
" "	Out 56†	" Pimlico (Charity)	Out 5
Consumption—Brompton	In 1	Margate Sea Bathing Infirmary	Out 11
" "	Out 73	Orthopaedic	Out 5
" City Road	In 1	Paralysed and Epileptic	9
" "	Out 6	Pimlico Provident Dispensary	8
" North London	Out 6	Skin—Blackfriars Road	8
" Ventnor	5	Surgical Appliance Society	4
" Victoria Park	Out 6	Surgical Aid Society	19
" Margaret Street Dispensary	6	Sussex County	2
Convalescent—Brighton (for Women)	2‡	St. George's	170
" "	1	St. Mary's	In 4
" Eastbourne	7	" "	Out 1
" Mrs. Gladstone's	7	Throat	3
" St. Peter's, Broad-stairs (Women)	2	Truss—City of London Society	9‡
" Seaford	2‡	University College	In 6
Homeopathic	Out 12	" "	Out 11
Heart—Soho Square	In 1	Westminster	10
" "	Out 4	Women—Soho Square	Out 8
		" Vincent Square	10

* Of these, 3 are not available after the 31st December next.
† Of these, 12 are not available after the 31st December next.
‡ None of these are available after the 31st December next.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, the 5th instant:

1. Major FitzRoy to move:—

'That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps more completely to dissociate Charity Organisation from Charitable Relief. To this end the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to direct their attention to making such arrangements that, on and after January 1, 1879, no relief by grant be made by any Committee of this Society; and that this important matter may be kept constantly before the Council, the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to report progress quarterly, commencing in January 1878.'

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, October 29, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Mr. A. H. Hill, and subsequently the Earl of Lichfield (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—Dr. F. Anderson, J. W. Probyn, F. J. S. Edgcombe.
FULHAM:—C. J. Stevens.
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson, J. R. Holland, G. Charles.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, Major FitzRoy.
ST. JAMES' & SOHO (Westminster Union):—W. Bevan, W. Bondfield, F. C. Mills.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—L. G. G. Robbins.
HAMPSHIRE:—C. E. Maurice.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAZ:—Miss Collett, C. A. Beles.
ST. GILES':—H. M. Keary.
STRAND:—H. Hay Hill.
FOLBORN:—G. B. Baker.
CITY:—Rev. H. Brooks, Rev. H. I. Cummins.
SHOREDITCH:—J. L. Foster.

WHITECHAPEL:—O. L. Corkran, C. L. Smith.
ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Rev. S. A. T. Yates.
STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—Rev. W. A. Richmond.
NEWINGTON:—F. D. Thornton.
ST. OLAV'S:—Rev. J. Johnson.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown, Q.O.
WANDSWORTH:—A. Lambert.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.
LEWISHAM:—R. V. Tidman.
ELTHAM:—Rear-Admiral Gardner.
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—S. Fuller, Dr. Hawksley, C. A. Miner.
TOTAL:—40.
ORGANISING SECRETARY:—C. J. Ribton-Turner.
VISITOR:—H. H. Graham.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, October 25. There had been present:—

Mr. E. Peters, in the chair; the Earl of Lichfield, Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. S. A. Barnett, H. I. Cummins Messrs. Barrington, Burdett-Roberts, Crowder, Dowson, Hill, Hoare, and Lawrence. Mr. Rodger, visitor.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending October 20 the receipts had been £15. 0s. 6d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £07. 15s. 2d., and £20. 0s. 9d. respectively, £18. 12s. 5d. of the latter sum being reserved to pay expenditure on School Board cases.

GRANTS.—Grants of £10, £10, £7, and £15 had been made to the St. Saviour's, St. George's East, Newington, and Whitechapel Committees respectively.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on October 23 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Messrs. Barrington, Bousfield, Brand, Edgcombe, and Fuller.

The receipt from the Charity Commissioners of a collection of Papers relating to Charities was reported.

VAGRANCY.

Major FitzRoy having consented to his motion standing over to the next week,

The Rev. H. I. Cummins called attention to the great increase of vagrancy in the City, and quoted facts showing that the applications had increased from 55 in May to 909 in October, notwithstanding a very careful supervision by the police during the last month. He further stated that many of the more recent applicants for bread appeared to be destitute wayfarers, but that in the anomalous state of Poor-law administration they could not be referred to the relieving officer with any certainty of relief during the day. He moved—

That the President of the Local Government Board be requested to receive a deputation from the Council to direct his attention to the great and alarming increase of vagrant destitution in the metropolis during the

* The estimated liabilities were £700, exclusive of £600 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

last few months, as shown by the applications for bread at the offices of the Society, and to urge the necessity of instant measures to meet it.

Mr. Edgcombe seconded.

Mr. A. H. Hill thought that the co-operation of the Mendicity Society should be obtained, and the Organising Secretary suggested that the leading members of the Metropolitan Boards of Guardians should be invited to take part in any deputation that might be arranged. He thought that the present method of giving bread at the offices to destitute wayfarers, though bad in principle, was good as a matter of policy.

Mr. J. R. Holland feared that any extension of relief to vagrants in the middle of the day would only lead to an increase in the disease.

Mr. Bousfield stated that he had some time since received an official reply, that the present law, if duly administered, was sufficient to meet the case.

Major FitzRoy said there was no increase in the number of vagrants at St. George's, Hanover Square.

Mr. Peters said that at Stepney there was a decided increase; and

Mr. Maurice said the same was the case at Hampstead.

The Rev. Harvey Brookes thought that the matter was urgent, many deserving persons were evidently applying in a state of utter destitution.

Mr. Cummins having replied, his resolution was put and carried.

MR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.

Mr. Bousfield called the attention of the Council to the relations of the Society to Mr. Barnardo's institutions, but after some discussion agreed to withdraw his resolution.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending October 27, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	District Committee Aid	£	s.	d.
Hubbard, W. E., Esq.	10	0	0	Fund:—			
				St. Marylebone Committee	300	0	0

THE CHURCH CONGRESS.*

CHARITY ORGANISATION IN ITS CHRISTIAN ASPECT, WITH REFERENCE TO ALMSGIVING; AND MEDICAL AND PROVIDENT INSTITUTIONS, THEIR USE AND ABUSE.

A correspondent has sent us the account of the discussion on the above subject which appeared in *Church Bells* of the 20th October last. This account is more detailed than that which we published last week from the *Guardian*, and we give it at length, omitting the substance of the paper read by Dr. Fairlie Clarke and the speech of Dr. Richardson, which have already been given in a sufficiently complete form.

SECTION HALL, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. 2.30 TO 5. OCT. 17.

The Section-room at 2.30 presented a very different appearance to the morning. It was pretty full at the commencement, and kept up its numbers throughout, though a large number fluctuated between it and the Congress Hall, and heard a part of each. The interest in the discussion was sustained capitally to the end, and speakers and listeners were unflagging, so that an important subject was left well turned over but not exhausted.

The Bishop of Dover took the chair, and called on Archdeacon Sir Lovelace Stamer, Bart., to read his first paper, in the absence of the Earl of Aberdeen. The subject was, 'Charity Organisation in its Christian aspect with reference to Almsgiving; and Medical and Provident Institutions, their use and abuse.'

The Archdeacon urged that Charity Organisation was a matter of Christian concern, that that lavish distribution might be avoided which, far from being twice blessed, does harm to the lazy and selfish giver, and to the idle and designing receiver. To cut the career of the professional beggar short was desirable. An immense sum was squandered in London in private charity, and organisation was very helpful in guiding the giver and improving the condition of the poor. He offered a practical suggestion for parochial almsgiving. Far better that the clergy should here remain in the background, and that district visitors should not be mixed up with this relief; and he considered that a parochial mission-woman was the best agent for this purpose, to carry the relief resolved upon round, either in kind or more seldom in money. In a smaller parish, the clergyman might separate between his visits for spiritual comfort and temporal relief. Relief thus systematically administered was far preferable to occasional gifts, and

* Reporter, No. 232, p. 165.

this and gifts to charitable objects, as provident dispensaries, would fitly employ the alms of the congregation. Our aim should be to provide for the self-respect and independence of the people.

The Rev. Harry Jones said of the Charity Organisation Society that it was a new broom, and might be thought 'to sweep too clean.' Its work lay with open administration of charity, not with secret giving. But how useful it was, notwithstanding prejudices, to have such an association at hand, ready to do the dirty work of difficult inquiry, from which many would shrink. The Charity Organisation Society makes a better system of giving possible; and certainly a man can show mercy with cheerfulness better if he knows he is not deceived, and is relieved from the disagreeable uncertainty of not knowing whether he has done most good or harm. The work of the Society was in harmony with the true law of Christianity, since it checked falsehood and improvidence, and made Christian charity more true.

The Rev. R. Linklater, another East-end incumbent, who, like Mr. Jones, was much cheered on coming forward, spoke of the true motives of Christian almsgiving from love to men for Jesus' sake—a matter of deep principle and sacrifice. He regretted the loss of the share of the ancient tithes, and the suppression of the monasteries, which had supported so many of the poor.

The Rev. J. D. McGachen, Bethnal Green, said he was driven to take an interest years ago in Charity Organisation, because it seemed to him that Christianity was at stake in the East of London. Thousands of pounds went there uselessly. There were people who expected five shillings a head almost to go to church, and others who were all things to all sects to get their alms. Very affecting was the speaker's description of the real, deep poverty which hid itself in that part of London in sorrow and shame. Such the Church must seek and tend; but many others who fed on charity undeservedly should be exposed. The Charity Organisation Society met a crying need: it was young, and its work was old; it was yet imperfect.

The Rev. Chas. Bull wished a separation in charitable relief between those who had parish relief and those who had not. The Rev. T. Franklin made a hot attack on the charitable ladies, whom he called the Bashi-Bazouks of the regular army of well-regulated charity bestowers. He wished those helped who helped themselves; and had found in Leamington the value of a Charity Organisation, though the kind ladies distrusted. The Rev. J. Cowell, St. John's, Paddington, did not like Sir L. Stamer's scheme, because it placed so much power in the hands of a mission-woman. He had a system which worked well. The visitors recommended cases on slips of paper, and a committee of the parish considered each case and sent proper relief by the visitors to them. Mr. M'Innes feared that some thought the giving of money was charity, whereas people must give, and follow up the giving. People gloried now in all organisation; but we must not give a tenth, or more, and think that then the rest was ours to spend as we liked. The Rev. Henry Wright, in a vigorous speech, thought the blot was the bad administration of the Poor Law, and he wished ladies to try and examine the condition of the poor in the workhouses.

BOOKS ON CHARITY AND CHARITABLE RELIEF.

M. Bruno-Gambini, one of the original Committee of the Bureau Central de Bienfaisance at Geneva, has lately sent us a copy of his book on Christian Charity.* His view of the subject is likely to be of interest to those engaged in Charity Organisation.

Like the author of 'Dispauperisation,' he finds ample evidence to prove a case against a method of legal relief such as that which exists in England. But he places in the category of systems of legal relief the collective and individual charity which is practised in Italy, Spain, France, and Holland, and which, like legal charity, limits its sphere, for the most part, to the relief of physical wants. In support of this he quotes the evidence given in official inquiries in England, Switzerland, and other countries, and states that this evidence proves beyond a doubt that moral and physical misery increase in proportion to the money lavished on their relief, and that the creation of a new charitable institution augments the number of the poor, just as the opening out of a new market leads to an increase in manufacture. Taking, then, as his guide, numerous Scriptural precepts respecting the poor, he is unable to reconcile the charity there set forth with that usually advocated. From them, however, he draws the inference that there must be a *moral element* in charity, 'a sort of inward improvement in both the parties whom it has brought into contact'; and thus that charity must be personal. There are the contented poor and the pauperised poor, whose strength of character has been diminished. Their moral weakness is the principal cause of their distress. Labour and forethought are the only means by which the people can struggle against indigence. A man, except in unusual misfortunes, can, by the strength of

his will, maintain himself above destitution; and what is more difficult still, after having fallen into destitution he may regain his position. Those energetic, proud, thrifty, and hard-working families, who reject aid and resist, support themselves and retrieve their position, while so many others become and remain for ever ruined, are a proof of this. What is necessary, therefore, is to 'destroy destitution' instead of relieving it; and to do this charity has not to act on the destitution itself, which is only an effect, but upon the *moral causes* of this effect, so as to check them, if possible.

He then traces the lapse of Christian charity, with the gradual change in the doctrines of the Church respecting it, to the time of Constantine, when charity became lukewarm, almshouses were established, 'la foi s'aristocratise et la Diaconie croule'; and he concludes that it is principally under the double influence of the legal alms of the Roman Empire, and of the doctrine that alms would redeem from sin, that Christian charity became a material charity, such as that generally practised at the present day.

Personal visitation of the poor, in order to aid them in soul and body, is, he believes, the *basis of right charity*; and he mentions three institutions that appear to work satisfactorily on this basis:—'Amies des pauvres' at Hamburg, the German Society of 'La Mission Interieure,' and the 'Association of Delegates of Benevolent Societies of Boston.' He considers the practice of these societies not unlike that of the early Church, and he quotes St. Cyprian to show that aid used to be granted not by chance, but with care, and preceded by an inquiry, in which the most exact and circumstantial information was obtained, the age of the applicant, his profession, the number of his children, his character, the cause of his distress, being entered in a special register or matricula.

As to the *means of assisting* a poor person, 'that is to say, a man who, in spite of his embarrassed position, has not altogether lost his moral power,' the charitable should aim at teaching him to provide for his own wants, and should encourage him to work and to be provident. In such charity as this there is the moral element. The motto of the Amies des pauvres is 'Prie et travaille,' its constant rule 'Aide toi et nous t'aiderons.' They consequently spare no effort to obtain work for the poor, to give them work, and even to get the shoemaker to make shoes, which are afterwards transferred to the destitute tailor, while the destitute tailor sews a coat which is destined for the shoemaker.

On the other hand, savings banks and benefit societies should be everywhere instituted and warmly supported. There is 'the certainty that the poorest workpeople, the most miserable population, can and do save money, and that thrift depends above all on the character of the individual.' This is proved by many inquiries into the subject, while we have the opinion of M. Guizot that 'if ever the poorer classes are to be relieved in a permanent manner, it will only be by institutions which have as their basis labour and foresight'; and the opinion of M. Jules Simon, who lays it down as a principle that no one but the poor man himself has the power of saving the poor from destitution, and who considers that association and thrift are only second to schools in relation to the material prosperity and moral advancement of the working classes.

Keeping these methods then in view, charity has to determine 'to relieve real indigence in the hope of curing it'; and it has to adopt two principles. It has to substitute 'an intelligent beneficence for the instinctive and blind desire to do good'; and it has 'to couple all material aid with some action which will apply to the moral element in the poor.' Then, if the case is one of a family which is in distress from vicious habits, the charitable should make the aid they offer *conditional*; if the family will not approve the condition, it is only charitable not to relieve; or, if the case is one in which the misconduct of the head of the family is the cause of distress, material aid will, besides other evils, only weaken his responsibility, and it is uncharitable to give unless the gift is conditional. And thus in all cases, and especially those in which there is a relationship with its accompanying responsibilities, the charitable should make it a rule to aid those only who will aid themselves. The two parties in a charitable act, the giver and the receiver, must both be 'improved,' and this can only be done by 'visiting' and personal influence, and by 'conditional assistance.'

[To be continued.]

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of October 1877 was 37,797, and 40,141 received outdoor relief, making a total of 77,938. This was an increase of 871 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 134, 3,787, and 12,525 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 844. This was a decrease of 45 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 53 on the corresponding day of last year.

* 'De la Charité Chrétienne et de son application à la bienfaisance particulière et à l'assistance publique.' Par F. Bruno-Gambini. Genève, 1871.

NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES.—I.

The volume containing the Tenth Annual Report of the State Board of Charities for the State of New York divides itself into three parts: the Report proper, in which the work of the Board in its different branches is briefly stated; the evidence collected in a, so far as possible, exhaustive inquiry on the causes of pauperism; and a series of conclusions based on this evidence. This evidence and these conclusions form part of the Report of Mr. C. S. Hoyt, Secretary to the Board.

The Board are able to state that 'the accommodation for the blind of both sexes, suited by age and otherwise for instruction, are believed to be, for the time being, adequate to all those seeking admission.'

This is a striking contrast to the state of things here. In the United Kingdom there are upwards of 30,000 blind persons, of whom there are scarcely 800 at work in industrial institutions, while there are believed to be nearly 10,000 of them able-bodied and capable of contributing to their own livelihood. In the metropolis there are six industrial and training and eighteen pension and other societies for the blind. Yet of the 3,000 blind persons in London, industrial training is only available for 50.

In consequence of the number of *unteachable idiots*, both children and adults, in families or county poor-houses, the Board have been induced to recommend 'the establishment of a custodial institution for unteachable idiots, in which there shall be complete separation of the sexes, with proper arrangements and oversight.'

Referring to the *county poor-houses*, the Board report as follows:—'Among the more important changes effected in the management of the poor-houses, since the Report referred to, have been the removal of the violent and disturbed chronic insane to the appropriate State institution for this class, and the transfer of the children, temporarily, to asylums or family homes. A more careful scrutiny regarding admissions to poor-houses is generally exercised by officials, the able-bodied class being rejected, and a better system of discipline, in most cases, is enforced and maintained. The removal from the poor-houses of some of the classes referred to has greatly changed the character of these institutions, so that, from being the abodes of the able-bodied idle and vagrant, as well as nurseries of pauperism and crime for children, they have become largely homes for the aged and infirm, furnishing also comfortable accommodation for the enfeebled and sick. As such they attract the notice of the charitable and benevolent more generally than heretofore, thus securing, in the case of the poor, the gratuitous services of large numbers of intelligent, zealous, and earnest persons. It is believed that these volunteer agencies will hereafter multiply, as opportunities for usefulness offer, and the value of their services in various localities is recognised.'

In *Reporter* No. 230, p. 152, will be found a note of what has been done in Whitechapel in bringing charitable effort to the aid of the work-house system, as it now exists. The Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants is working on this method. The extension of work of this nature was advocated at the recent Church Congress.

Referring to *Dispensaries*, the Board states, that 'the number of Dispensaries in large cities seems to be greater than public necessity demands, and may tend measurably to encourage unnecessary application for gratuitous medical aid. To guard against imposition, one of these institutions recently adopted the plan of collecting a small sum monthly from each patient, and a considerable income was derived from this source.'

Under Act chapter 661 of the laws of 1873, provision is made for the support and care, by the State, of certain persons having no legal settlement, in such poor-houses and almshouses as may be designated by the Board. There are 11 State almshouses for *State paupers*. 'The beneficial result of the Act, both in its social and economic bearings, will be best seen by a brief summary of its operations. The whole number of commitments to September 30, 1876, as has been shown, was 1,850. Of this number 1,048 have been sent to the care of friends, or places of settlement in other States or countries; 31 placed by adoption into families; and 404 discharged upon recovery from the disease or infirmity for which they were committed. This shows 1,483, or over 80 per cent. of those committed thus restored to self-support, or placed under the authorities of other States or countries liable for their maintenance. A few only of those aided or sent out of the State have subsequently applied for relief.' But for this it is probable that 60 per cent., or 890 persons, would have become 'fixed public burdens.' The expenses have been less than \$18,000 per annum.

The increase of *able-bodied vagrants* is noticed. It is calculated that last year (1876) \$200,000 were expended in their relief by officials; and a proportionately large sum must have been spent by private individuals. The charges for arrests, commitments, etc., must have been very considerable, the cost of one magistrate alone being \$2,000. 'These men and women are generally debased. . . . As they pass from town to town they spread moral contagion, and when they rest in a county poor-house they corrupt all those who are better than they when committed. In the county jails they are thrown into close and intimate companionship

with persons detained as witnesses, and with young men and women arrested on suspicion, and here again they are centres of evil.'

The Board recommend the establishment of workhouses in which the vagrants shall be committed for terms of sufficient length, that they may be weaned from their evil ways and companions, and better thoughts and habits taught them. The tramps, it is remarked, are generally young men, and the number of native Americans among them is increasing to an alarming extent.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES.—XIII.

INVESTIGATION AND CHARITY.—There should be no blinking of this question [what that is which we owe to humanity, when a case of distinct undeniable suffering and want comes in authentic exhibition before us]; and it were the symptom of a weak and worthless cause did we seek to evade it. We desire no exemption for our philanthropist from any of those moral obligations which, whether morally or Christianly, are alike binding upon all; and all we claim for him is the privilege of ascertaining the real state of every applicant who lays the case of his necessities before him.

It is surely no unfair demand that when one man places himself in the relation of a suppliant to another, that other should be entitled to place himself in the relation of an inquisitor over him; and when we make use of this term, we do not mean that the inquiry should be conducted with harshness or insolence, for, on the principle of rendering honour to all men, it ought to be conducted with the most perfect kindness, and courtesy, and delicacy. All that we insist for is, that he who seeks of another's bounty should also submit to another's scrutiny. In the denunciation just quoted upon him who steels himself against a brother's imploring cry, it is presupposed that he knows the cry to be a true one. 'If he seeth his brother have need,' give him then a sight of the necessity, that he may know what he is doing.—*On the Sufficiency of the Parochial System*, by Dr. Chalmers.

INCREASE IN PAUPERISM.—Speaking of the increase in pauperism during the month of August, the *Globe* says:—'Round the skirts of each handicraft there are numbers of outsiders who manage to pick up a scanty living by doing odd jobs. Whenever a strike takes place these waifs lose their only means of subsistence, and are forced to fall back upon parochial assistance, which too often converts them into professional paupers.'

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Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE
Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL.

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 234.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 8, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the **CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY** is
the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicancy.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Nov.	8	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.	
Monday,	"	12	...	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday,	"	13	...	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
				3.30 P.M., District Sub-Committee.
Wednesday	"	14	...	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday	"	15	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

Estimates for the Financial Year 1877-8.—The attention of District Committees is called to the following resolution of Council of July 3, 1876 :—

That *within a month after September 30 of each year* ESTIMATES of the probable expenses of each Committee for THE ENSUING YEAR, together with the BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE PAST YEAR, be sent to the Secretary of the Council, to be laid before the Quarterly Finance Sub-Committee, in order that they may, *as soon as possible*, have the means of passing the Estimates for the District Committee Aid Fund.

Forms for the Estimates and Balance-sheets have been forwarded to the District Committees. *It is very desirable that District Committees likely to require grants should transmit them, duly filled up, to the Central Office at an early date.*

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES.—District Committees which have not yet done so are requested to send to the Secretary by the 10th instant, if possible, notes of cases of interest dealt with by them during the past month, for insertion in the next monthly *Reporter*.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR.—A circular letter, calling attention to the resolutions of Council of the 23rd

July last, is about to be sent to District Committees. Copies of the Report of the Committee on this subject can be had by District Committees on application.

LECTURES.—The Secretary of the Council will, in accordance with instructions from the Administrative Committee, be glad to make arrangements with District Committees for one or more popular lectures, by competent persons, on general subjects connected with Charity, Provident Habits, and the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.

ST. GILES'.—Mr. R. L. Kenyon has been appointed Hon. Secretary, *vice* Mr. H. N. Hoare, who is now acting as representative of this Committee.

WOOLWICH.—Colonel Oldfield has resigned the post of representative of this Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, the 12th instant:

1. Major FitzRoy to move :—
‘That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps more completely to dissociate Charity Organisation from Charitable Relief. To this end the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to direct their attention to making such arrangements that, on and after January 1, 1879, no relief by grant be made, from its ordinary funds, by any Committee of this Society; and that this important matter may be kept constantly before the Council, the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to report progress quarterly, commencing in January 1878.’
2. Mr. W. F. Lawrence to move :—
(1) That the Report on Adequate Relief be taken into consideration ;
(2) And to move on the Report, that whereas it appears that cases exist which are not adequately relieved by any means this Society at present possesses, it be resolved :
(a) That a short statement of such cases be inserted by advertisement in the *Times*, *Daily News*, *Standard*, and *Daily Telegraph*, on the first Monday in each month during a period of four months, commencing on December 3.
(b) That the advertisements be addressed as from the Central Office, but be drafted and paid for by the District Committees inserting the same, who should conduct all correspondence with the public relating to them, and be responsible for the *bona fides* of the case advertised.
(c) That a statement of each case be presented to the Districts Sub-Committee within the first fortnight of each month, who shall have the power of veto in each case within one week of such presentation, subject, however, to appeal to the Administrative Committee by the Committee presenting the case.
(d) That the Secretary to the Council address a letter to the principal newspapers, to inform the public of the proposed scheme.’
3. Rev. R. J. Simpson to move :—
‘That the clause in the Manual of the Society (page 12), which sets forth “That the Charity Agents are allowed in cases of absolute hunger to give bread,” be rescinded, and that this resolution be duly reported to the Metropolitan Poor Law Authorities.’
4. Mr. J. R. Holland to move :—
‘That, while the Council has no desire to curtail the powers of District Committees in dealing with starving persons, it cannot recommend them, as a rule, to give bread to those who are frequenting the casual wards and as such, receiving the relief which the Poor Law allows to such cases.’

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, November 5, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Mr. A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—Dr. Anderson, J. W. Probyn, Mrs. Lathbury, F. J. S. Edgcombe.
FULHAM:—C. J. Stevens, Rev. H. Wilson.
PADDDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson, G. Charles, J. R. Holland.
CHELSEA:—Dr. Daniel.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Hon. R. C. Moreton, Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, Major FitzRoy.
ST. JAMES' & SOHO (Westminster Union):—W. Bevan, H. Peto, W. Bousfield.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—The Earl of Lichfield, S. G. Gordon-Robbins.
HAMPSHIRE:—C. E. Maurice, E. Bond, Rev. H. F. Mallet.
NORTH ST. PANCRA:—A. N. Butt.
SOUTH ST. PANCRA:—Miss Gibson, C. A. Reiss.
ISLINGTON:—F. B. Roberts.
HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
HOLBORN:—G. B. Baker.
SHOREDITCH:—J. L. Forster.

WHITECHAPEL:—Rev. A. Wedgwood.
STEPNEY:—E. Peters.
MILE END:—Major Nares.
POPLAR:—R. Ellis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. B. Montgomerie, R. Barrington.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson, W. F. Beauford.
LAMBETH:—S. S. Tayler.
WANDSWORTH:—Miss H. Gurney.
CLAPHAM:—G. P. Bidder.
CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.
LEWISHAM:—G. Parker.
RYDENHAM:—H. Reed.
VICE-PRESIDENT:—W. M. Wilkinson.
ADDITIONAL MEMBER:—C. A. Miner.
TOTAL:—47.
ORGANISING SECRETARY:—C. J. Ribton-Turber.
VISITOR:—E. Topley.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, November 1. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the chair; Rear-Admiral Gardner, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Rev. S. A. Barnett, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Barrington, Brown, Bevan, Copeman, Crowder, Edgcombe, Fuller, Hill, Lawrence, Miner, Peters, Roberts, Robbins, Stevens, and Tidman. Mr. Rodger, visitor.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending October 27 the receipts had been £10 for the General Fund and £300 for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £93. 6s. 5d. and £278. 0s. 9d. respectively, £18. 12s. 5d. of the latter sum being reserved to pay expenditure on School Board cases.

GRANTS.—That grants as follows had been made:—Islington Committee, £60; Fulham, £35; Stepney, £30; Shoreditch, £15; St. Saviour's, £40; St. George's East, £25; Poplar, £35; St. Olave's, £70.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on October 30 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Messrs. Bousfield, Edgcombe, Fuller, Graham, and Lewis. Lady Wilson, Messrs. Roberts and Rodger, visitors.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on October 30 there had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Major FitzRoy, and Mr. Bevan.

VAGRANCY.

Mr. C. E. Maurice reported that the increase in vagrancy at Hampstead, which he had mentioned at a former meeting, had abated.

CHARITY ORGANISATION AND RELIEF.

Major FitzRoy made a few preliminary remarks on his notice of motion, and obtained permission to insert the words 'from its ordinary funds' after the words 'be made' in the motion as set down in the Reporter.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending November 3, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
De Winton, Col. . . .	1	1	0	Hansbury, F. L., Esq. . .	1	1	0
Sheppard, Mrs. M. . .	1	0	0	Liebenrood, Capt., R.N. .	1	0	0
Annual:—				Rushton, Mrs.	1	1	0
Bosanquet, F. A., Esq. .	1	1	0				

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of October 1877 was 38,249, and 40,282 received outdoor relief, making a total of 78,531. This was a decrease of 593 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 111, 3,893, and 12,587 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 809. This was a decrease of 35 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 57 on the corresponding day of last year.

* The estimated liabilities were £650, exclusive of £300 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

SHOREDITCH.—*The Annual Report.*—This Committee has dealt with 527 cases during the past year, as compared with 516 in 1875-6. Labourers (51), women obtaining a livelihood by charring and washing (45), needlewomen (38), general dealers (21), hawkers (19), and porters (15), form the larger part of the applicants. 456 had never subscribed to any club or benefit society.

PROVINCIAL.

NOTTINGHAM.—*Medical Charities.*—At the recent anniversary of the General Hospital the Weekly Board stated that they had received a report from the local Charity Organisation Society; and that they were of opinion that it would be of some public service to make it known as widely as possible. The report mentions that the usual request of those who are recommendations for begging is for linen, &c., to enable them to go into the hospital, 'but they sometimes say that they are waiting for a bed and have meanwhile nothing to live upon. Considerable ingenuity in counterfeiting sickness is frequently shown. These appeals appear to be generally successful, and there is reason to believe that the clothes and food obtained are sold, the real object of the beggars being to obtain money. The Committee would respectfully suggest that governors asked for recommendations should refer them to the office of this Society; where, if deserving, they would obtain not only recommendations, but also, when necessary, the linen and other articles required by in-patients, and even assistance to support them until they could be admitted. Recommendations presented by mendicants should be impounded and sent to this office, to which the applicants themselves should also be referred. The frequent allegations that applicants are known to the governors who have signed the recommendations, or that they have been inadequately relieved by the Society, should not be accepted without inquiry.'

One noteworthy case is reported:—'Thomas B., alias Thomas Smith.—This man has been known to the Committee for one year and a half as getting his living by begging with recommendations. His very sallow face and glassy eyes enable him to feign illness with great success. It may be mentioned that he has on the same day obtained an outdoor recommendation and a shilling from one governor, and an indoor recommendation and a walking-stick and food from another in a street close by. One of the recommendations was afterwards used for begging. Out of the last two years he has passed fourteen months in prison. On the 1st September last he was committed for a month for begging with a recommendation threatening to strike a servant-girl with his stick. On the 10th October he was again sent to gaol for a month for a similar offence.'

The Weekly Board further stated that 'the possession of a recommendation does not and cannot now always ensure admission for the patient. The pressure upon the hospital wards has of late years been so great that only the most severe cases can be taken in at once, and the rest have to wait their turn, often for many weeks, before they can be admitted.'

Lord Manvers, after urging the careful use of governors' recommendations, said that nothing could be more grievous than that an institution so valuable as this should be imposed upon, as it had been occasionally. He thought the position of the Charity Organisation Society, of which there was a very useful branch in this town, might be well employed in sifting cases that were brought before them.

WEST SUSSEX MENDICITY SOCIETY.—From the report of this Society it appears that in the year ending 29th September, 1873, the Society dealt with 6,247 tramps; in 1874 with 6,885; in 1875 with 5,264; in 1876 with 7,301; in 1877 with 11,891. There has been an increase of 4,590 in the past year. The increase in the number of persons apprehended under the Vagrant Act has been 43, i.e. 110, as against 67 in the year 1876.

FOREIGN.

VAGRANCY IN THE UNITED STATES.—Mr. Elihu Burritt, in a letter to the *New York Tribune*, expresses the opinion that begging must now be regarded as a permanent institution in America. If business prosperity increases to the full extent of the general hope, we shall find, he says, that the mobilised army of tramps will not disband or return, or rather resort to industrial life. We shall have to accept the situation, and make provision for it, as they do in other countries. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact; we have with us already all the classes that vice, poverty, and ignorance have made 'dangerous' in the Old World, and we must have the Old World institutions to protect society against them. We have nearly all the institutions except one, and that one has become an urgent, outspoken necessity. We must have the English workhouse, with whatever improvements we may add to it. We cannot afford or need one in every half-dozen towns, as in England, but we ought to have one in every county in our populous Northern States, or one within twenty-five miles of every town and village. Such an institution is as much needed as a county

gaol. It should not be a prison or poorhouse, neither for criminals nor indigent invalids, nor mental incompetents. It should be especially fitted for the class of actual or prospective vagrants who claim to beg only because they cannot find work. It should fully meet their case, and provide such an amount and variety of outdoor and indoor labour as should not only pay their board, but also something over for the poorhouse or asylum. If, like a similar class in Japan, they should be sent out by the institution with a suit of clothes and a little money as a reward for honest work, it would enhance the merit of the system. Such a workhouse must be established in a country town, with plenty of land for summer work, and as many mechanical industries as practicable for indoor employment in winter. With such an institution, every town and village could make a clean sweep of tramps, for it could say to everyone of the able-bodied vagrants:—"There is the workhouse, within a day's walk at the farthest. There you will find plenty of work, and better food and lodging than you can get by begging." This would test the motive of their vagrancy. If they refuse the workhouse they must accept the prison. "There is no discharge from this war" with voluntary indolence and vagabondage. We must supplement our gaols, poorhouses, and asylums with this English institution. It must be a county establishment, at least in our most populous States. And there is hardly a county in them all that has not had an amount of property destroyed by tramps equal to the cost of a workhouse and 300 acres of land. The location, erection, and working of such an establishment are matters of detail which the county would decide for itself. Its authority to found such an institution could be obtained through an easy process of legislation.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES.—XIV.

WEALTH AND CHARITY.—The great use of wealth is to do good with it . . . it is not a property, but a stewardship. It is true that when compassion is given way to as a heedless and headlong impulse, it often does mischief. But to regulate is not to destroy; and when told it is blessed to consider the poor, we are not to interpret this into a call upon the understanding to overbear the heart, but a call to bethink ourselves, not how to do little, but how to do the most, or how to do the best for them. And it will sometimes turn out that the best thing is to give, and with an unsparing hand, when benevolence may take to itself a free and full indulgence. In matters of philanthropy it is not the office of consideration to damp the benevolence, but of benevolence to prompt the consideration. Some are jealous of all thought in the business of charity, as if it savoured of the coldness and rigidity of calculation; but let us remind them that it is the part of the liberal man not only to do, but to devise liberal things; and that in the very soul or actuating spirit of liberality—not the spirit of that avarice which withholds, but of that wisdom which can devise the way that is most prolific of blessings to the poor, and which rejoices therein—not because the least expensive, but because the most effective method of well-doing.—*On the Sufficiency of the Parochial System*, by Dr. CHALMERS.

THE NATIONAL PENNY BANK.—We hear that this bank has now an average of £800 a week in receipts, without withdrawals, and that at present they hold deposits to the amount of £33,000, as against £11,000 this time last year.

PAROCHIAL COUNCILS.—It appears from the last statement of the accounts of St. Peter's Parochial Council that the receipts for 1876 were £1,235. 14s. 5d. Of this £632. 13s. was received at offertories at the churches of St. Peter and St. John. The subscriptions were £317. 13s. 6d., and District Visitors contributed £59. 11s. 5d. The expenditure in relief was—by Permanent Fund, £699. 4s. 6d.; by Temporary Fund (other than medical), £211. 19s. 11d.; on medical certificate, £107. 17s. 2d.

CORRECTION.—The *Guardian*, from which our report of the proceedings of the Church Congress on the subject of the 'Christian Aspects of Charity Organisation, &c.' (see *Reporter* No. 232, p. 165), was taken, has, in its issue of the 31st October, 1877, published the following correction: "The name of the Rev. J. D. McGachen, vicar of St. Bartholomew's, Bethnal Green, was erroneously given as 'Wigan' in our brief notice of the discussion at the Church Congress on 'Charity Organisation.'" Mr. McGachen said he had been driven to take an interest years ago in the subject, because it seemed to him that Christianity was at stake in the East of London. There were people who almost expected five shillings a head to go to church, and others who were all things to all sects to get their alms. The Church must seek and tend those who were really suffering, but those who fed on charity undeservedly should be exposed; and he believed that the Charity Organisation Society met a crying need."

Mr. McGachen was until recently the Hon. Secretary of the Bethnal Green Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, an office which he had held from the time of the establishment of that Committee.

BOOKS ON CHARITY AND CHARITABLE RELIEF.

(Continued from 'Reporter,' No. 233, p. 169.)

M. Bruno-Gambini then sketches the organisation which should be the framework of an association whose members would work in this spirit. Its main features are similar to those of the Charity Organisation Society. For information and inquiry a Central Committee is necessary; for assistance personal and individual work is required. This, speaking generally, is the method of procedure. Assistance is given during inquiry; the inquiry is conducted by a visitor, who reports to the Committee; the Committee decide on the report what, if any, subsequent action should be taken; and the case is then entrusted to the visitor, the Society placing, if necessary, the means of assistance at his disposal.

With regard to the funds required for such an organisation he says: "It is true that a centralised administration necessitates considerable expenditure, but it is not necessary to regard it, in this special instance, as forming part of the general and ordinary expenses of a society, and still less as money squandered to the detriment of the poor. To forget that the centralisation of information renders the moral work possible, and forms, so to speak, a part of it, would be a great error. . . . At present private charity remits a part of the funds at its disposal to public charitable institutions in order that they may distribute them. The contrary to this should be done, or, at least, private charity ought to be able to act as the intermediary, which redistributes the sums which public aid has entrusted to it."

The only advantage of 'collective' charity is the centralisation of information; and so impressed is the author with the necessity of wise personal and individual influence, and the great evil of material charity unaccompanied by it, as it must be in most charitable institutions, that he quotes with satisfaction the following passage from a speech of M. Cherbuliez: "He could not understand the feeling of satisfaction which the greater number of the delegates (at the Congrès de bienfaisance de Bruxelles, 1856) showed when they spoke with admiration of the number and variety of the charitable institutions of their country. It seemed to him to be like boasting of the sanitary state of a country, and alleging, as a proof, the large number of doctors who practised there. And how would it be if these doctors, instead of being the sign of the evil, were the cause of it? . . . For his part, that would be the happiest day of his life on which, instead of boasting of the charitable institutions of his country, he could come and say to them, 'No, gentlemen, in Switzerland there are none, or but few crèches, or infant schools, because poor mothers have the leisure, the will, and the ability to take care of their children themselves. In Switzerland there are fewer almshouses than anywhere else, because the workmen of that country have a sufficiently careful spirit, and sufficiently high wages to enable them to husband their resources so as to provide for old age and accidents. In Switzerland but little alms is given, for the workman renounces charitable gifts more readily than his independence and his dignity.'"

With regard to State or legal aid, M. Bruno-Gambini considers that it ought to be limited to the relief of affliction arising from absolute incapacity to work, from old age, or from physical and mental infirmities. It ought, except in cases of emergency of a temporary nature, to be entirely dissociated from almsgiving, whether bestowed at the houses of the poor or in any other way. Such charity is private charity, which by the conjunction of individual and associated action, should be 'organised' so as to avoid overlapping, with its consequent abuses, and to act in harmony with State relief.

CHARITIES FOR THE BLIND.—A new Asylum for the Blind has just been opened at Plymouth.

HOSPITAL FOR INEBRIATES.—On the 29th ultimo, at a meeting at the Mansion House, it was resolved to establish an industrial home for the reformation of women and girls addicted to drink. £4,000, of which £300 had been obtained, was required for this purpose. Yet is it advisable to establish one more charitable institution? In New York there is a 'State Inebriate Asylum' which provides for a limited number of public patients committed by county judges or sent by superintendents of the poor, under the authority of the Legislature. Its income is, however, derived mainly from the receipts from paying patients. It is questionable whether it is desirable to ask for State aid, except on the ground that the inebriates are, in point of fact, an 'afflicted class,' and that, by curing drunkenness, imbecility and insanity are prevented. But, if there were certified inebriate asylums to which, on adequate payment, or, when the patients could contribute, on part payment, guardians, magistrates, and charitable persons might send cases, and at which also paying patients would be received, the want would be met, and while an honourable and charitable work was imposed on the medical profession, there would be no temptation to make charity an unwise and unjust substitute for professional duty.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

EDUCATION AND ILL-HEALTH.

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

DEAR SIR,—I should like to call the attention of the District Committees to an ably suggestive article in the *British Medical Journal* of the 13th ult., on 'Primary Education: its Sanitary and Medical Aspects,' by Dr. Francis Warner, M.D., one of the Visiting Physicians of the East London Hospital for Children.

In it he speaks of the sufferings which children are often subjected to, from the idea that they are idle or inattentive at school, when they are really the victims of ill-health or inherited disease. For instance, Dr. Warner writes—'We have several times met with cases of slight chorea, where the child had been in trouble at school because he "would not keep quiet"; the schoolmaster not suspecting that he had to deal with a case of brain disease.'

If a simple fact like the above were made known to those who have to do with Board and other schools for the poor, it might save much unintentional ill-treatment.

October 24, 1877.

I am, yours faithfully,

H. N. D.,

Hon. Sec. Mile End Committee.

THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

SIR,—The Indian Famine Fund has now reached a magnificent sum, and it has become a great national testimony of sympathy with our Indian fellow-subjects in the overwhelming misfortune which has come upon them.

Nothing can be more cheering than the benevolence which has prompted the subscription, and if its daily exhibition is now only able to show itself in smaller additions, it is mainly because the rich cream of human kindness has been already skimmed. There is, however, another cause which is operating to a considerable extent in keeping back subscriptions, and which ought not to be difficult to remove by a full and detailed statement of the manner in which the fund is being applied, and clearly showing the propriety of, and necessity for, such application of charitable funds.

For want of this information it is the opinion of many that the necessity for it is not apparent. It has throughout been stated by the highest official persons, from the Governor-General downwards, and only recently by the Marquis of Salisbury, that there is no want of money within the power of the Indian Government to do all that is required; and, indeed, this could not be otherwise. The Government, they say, is also fully alive to its entire responsibility to deal with the famine. This could not mean that the Government would wait till the poor natives were half-starved before they gave them either free relief or wages on the works. The Government must be constantly taking the largest outlook to prevent as well as to relieve famine and starvation, and their consequences, and if the crops cannot be sown for want of seed, it would, in ordinary course, provide what is wanted to afford both present work and to avert future danger.

Of course, in doing all this under its own heavy responsibility, the Government has the advantage of carrying out its own work in its own way and by its own officers; and the difficulty is in seeing how an external body, independent and without Government responsibility, can find necessary work to do, which is not governed by the high duties already being carried out by the Government.

If the fund were to be handed over to the Government merely to aid in lessening the total cost, and thus to save taxation, it would still be a splendid instance of national sympathy; but it is not paid to or being administered by the Government, and what is now needed is to know exactly in what way it finds its high use, without detracting from the responsibility of the Indian Government to do all that is necessary.

A satisfactory answer to this question would vastly increase the fund.

November 1, 1877.

W.

THE BLANTYRE COLLIERY ACCIDENT AND A MINERS' PERMANENT RELIEF FUND.

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

SIR,—I observe that an appeal is being made with great success for the sufferers by the dreadful colliery accident at Blantyre.

Whatever the claim on the public may be for such a subscription, we hope it will only be granted on condition that steps are first taken to organise a 'Miners' Permanent Relief Fund Benefit Society,' on the lines of the society of the same name established at Newcastle in 1862 for the counties of Northumberland and Durham, and since then of others successfully inaugurated and in operation in the Midland Counties and Yorkshire.

The excellent society at Newcastle is now in its full usefulness, and after providing for all claims upon it for the year 1876, added £11,603 to its reserve fund, which then amounted to £33,587, invested at good interest. It numbers 50,000 miners, having added 12,000 during the last year.

During the year 1876 widows and children received £5,774; permanently disabled, £2,675; minor accident allowances, £4,958; aged miners, £206; and legacies were bought (life insurances) for which there were payments of £844.

All this is achieved by the men subscribing 3d. each per week, or 1s. per month, with some special contributions, which produced £24,033, to which 20 per cent. was added by the colliery owners, producing £3,912, and interest on investments of reserve fund, £885.

Surely a society like this, supported by the men and owners themselves at so little individual sacrifice, and calculated to provide for all casualties, and for relief in sickness and old age, is better than having to appeal to the public for charity every time that a large accident occurs. As for small accidents, they are not sufficiently exciting to call out the sympathy of the public, and though in the aggregate they exceed the large ones, they get no relief. I therefore appeal to the men and owners to help themselves out of the large sums they are and have been receiving as wages and profits in coal; to spare the public these appeals in future; and to cultivate the principle of self-help, providence, and thrift.

The Hon. Secretary of the Newcastle Society is Henry Taylor, Esq., Quay Side, Newcastle, who will supply copies of the rules and report of this society on application.

Your obedient servant,

W.

November 5, 1877.

THE AMALGAMATED CARBIDRIVERS' SOCIETY.—The Chairman, at a meeting of this Society held on Sunday evening last, said 'that the Association was entirely self-helping—so much so, indeed, that they had refused many kind offers of assistance from ladies and gentlemen.' In four years the Society had spent £105 in legal expenses in defence of members; £280 for sick pay; £100 for funeral expenses; £50 in trades' benefits; £36 to members in difficulties; and it had £1,000 in hand.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

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The 'CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' is published weekly during the Sittings of Council; on the second Thursday in each month throughout the year a Double Number is published.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. LOCH, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Nov. 15	... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, „ 19	... 3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, „ 20	... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
	3.30 P.M., District Sub-Committee.
Wednesday „ 21	... 2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
	4.30 P.M., Medical Committee.
Thursday „ 22	... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

ST. PANCRA'S, SOUTH.—The Hon. Secretary of this Committee would be glad to know of some home or institution, in town or country, that would take in an old lady who has a small income of her own.

ST. OLAVE'S.—This Committee would be glad to hear of suitable employment for an applicant, aged 35, who is a book-binder, but who, owing to an accident, has lost his left hand. He is about to be supplied with an artificial hand, which may be of great service to him. The applicant bears a good character.

Persons who think they may be able to assist, are requested to communicate direct with the Hon. Secretary of the St. Olave's Committee, 172 Tooley Street, S.E.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—Major Meadows has been elected one of the representatives of this Committee during the absence of Lord Dunsany, who has temporarily resigned the post.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR.—The attention of District Committees is drawn to a letter on the above subject on p. 177.

WORK OF THE COUNCIL, 1876-7.—The attention of District Committees is drawn to the statement of the work of the Council for the year 1876-7, which has been drawn up for insertion in their Annual Reports, in accordance with a resolution of Council of July 3, 1875.*

LECTURES.—The Secretary of the Council will, in accordance with instructions from the Administrative Committee, be glad to make arrangements with District Committees for one or more popular lectures, by competent persons, on general subjects connected with Charity, Provident Habits, and the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, the 19th instant:

I. (1) To the motion of Major FitzRoy on the subject of Relief and Organisation (*see* p. 177), the following amendment has been moved by Mr. Wightman Wood, and seconded by the Rev. H. I. Cummins, viz.: 'That all words after "to this end" be inserted, and the following words added: "The District Committees of the Society are requested to discontinue as soon as is reasonably practicable, the practice of making grants (loans excepted), from their ordinary funds, and to collect, if possible, a special fund from which to make grants in accordance with the Society's principles."' (2) The Rev. R. J. Simpson has given notice of the following amendment, viz.: 'That, while acknowledging the force of the principle involved in Major FitzRoy's motion, this Council is of opinion that the time has not arrived when the Society can dispense with the power of relief from its own resources in the last resort.'

(3) Mr. C. A. Miner has given notice of the following amendment:—'That the motion be altered as follows, viz.: "That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps to make *more widely known* the established principles of the Society with respect to granting relief, as set forth in the Manual of the Society, viz.:

"(i) When other charities are unable to afford the requisite assistance to such cases (cases of temporary distress, with evidence of good character and thrift), the Committees assist them, if the funds entrusted to them admit of this.

"(ii) The Committees cannot undertake to find the pensions which chronic cases need; but where individuals or special charities are willing to take charge of these, the Committees are ready to send them the names of persons ascertained to be deserving."

(4) Capt. Fortescue has given notice of the following amendment, viz.: 'That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps more completely to dissociate Charity Organisation from Charitable Relief.

'To this end, District Committees are requested to collect money, either for the working expenses of the Society or for relief, and to keep the two accounts distinct, and that after January 1, 1879, no grant to any District Committee for relief will be made by this Council (except money specially placed in its hands for the purpose of relief), but all grants will be considered as for working expenses; and, further, that it be a recommendation to District Committees to point out that, in collecting money for relief, no part of the money so collected is used for office expenses.'

II. Mr. W. F. Lawrence to move, on the Report on Adequate Relief being taken into consideration: 'That whereas it appears that cases exist which are not adequately relieved by any means this Society at present possesses, it be resolved:

'(a) That a short statement of such cases be inserted by advertisement in the *Times*, *Daily News*, *Standard*, and *Daily Telegraph*, on the first Monday in each month during a period of four months, commencing on December 3.

'(b) That the advertisements be addressed as from the Central Office, but be drafted and paid for by the District Committees inserting the same, who should conduct all correspondence with the public relating to them, and be responsible for the *bona fides* of the case advertised.

'(c) That a statement of each case be presented to the District Sub-Committee within the first fortnight of each month, who shall have the power of veto in each case within one week of such presentation, subject, however, to appeal to the Administrative Committee by the Committee presenting the case.

'(d) That the Secretary to the Council address a letter to 'the principal newspapers, to inform the public of the proposed scheme.'

III. (1) Rev. R. J. Simpson to move:—

'That the clause in the Manual of the Society (page 12), which sets forth "That the Charity Agents are allowed in cases of absolute hunger to give bread," be rescinded, and that this resolution be duly reported to the Metropolitan Poor Law Authorities.'

(2) Mr. J. R. Hollond to move:—

'That, while the Council has no desire to curtail the powers of District Committees in dealing with starving persons, it cannot recommend them, as a rule, to give bread to those who are frequenting the casual wards and, as such, receiving the relief which the Poor Law allows to such cases.'

(3) Mr. Wightman-Wood has given notice of the following amendment to the Rev. R. J. Simpson's motion, viz.:—

'That the word "rescinded" be omitted, and the following words substituted, "altered so as to apply to residents only, and not to vagrants."

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, November 5, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Mr. A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—Dr. Anderson, J. W. Probyn, Mrs. Lathbury, F. J. S. Edgcombe.
FULHAM:—C. J. Stevens.
PADDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson, G. Charles, J. R. Hollond.
CHELSEA:—Dr. Daniel.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Major Fitz-Roy.
ST. JAMES' & SOHO (Westminster Union):—W. Bevan.
ST. MARYLEBONE:—Rev. P. H. Wicksteed, S. G. Gordon-Robbins.
HAMPSHIRE:—Rev. H. F. Mallet.
NORTH ST. PANCRA'S:—A. N. Butt.
SOUTH ST. PANCRA'S:—Miss Gibson, C. A. Reiss.
HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. Hay Hill, W. Wightman Wood.
HOLBORN:—Capt. Fortescue.
SROBEDITCH:—J. L. Forster.

BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. C. Kirton.
WHITECHAPEL:—C. L. Corkran, C. L. Lavers Smith.
ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Major Meadows.
STREPTON:—E. Peters.
MILE END:—Major Nares.
POPLAR:—Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, R. Ellis.
ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. Montgomerie, Rev. W. A. Richmond, B. Barrington, W. F. Smith.
ST. OLAVE'S:—Rev. J. Johnson, W. F. Beauford.
LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown.
BATTERSEA:—T. E. Hardy.
DEPTFORD:—Capt. Cassan.
LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramley.
ELTHAM:—Rear-Admiral Gardner.
SYDENHAM:—C. A. Barry, H. Reid.
TOTAL:—44.
VISITORS:—H. Howgrave Graham, B. Dallas.

* See Reporter, No. 184, Vol. V., p. 115.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, November 8. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the chair; Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Captain Fortescue, Rev. S. A. Barnett, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Bevan, Brown, Crowder, Hill, Hoare, Lawrence, Peters, Roberts, and Robbins.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending November 3 the receipts had been £16. 17s. 4d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £544. 14s. 1d. and £18. 0s. 9d. respectively, the whole of the latter sum being reserved to meet expenditure on School Board cases.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR.—The following letter had been sent to District Committees:—

‘Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Administrative Committee, in accordance with the resolution of Council of the 23rd July last (*vide Reporter* No. 226, p. 128), to call your attention to the resolutions passed by the Council at their meeting on that day, on the subject of *Personal Work among the Poor*, and to ask you to let me know in due course what steps your Committee have taken, or propose to take, to carry out the suggestions contained in those resolutions. The Council are of course aware that in some districts an organised system of personal work in connection with the Committees has been already instituted.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
C. S. LOCH, *Secretary*.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on November 6 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Mrs. Lathbury, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Messrs. Bousfield and Edcombe.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on November 6 there had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Mr. Bevan.

VAGRANCY IN THE DISTRICTS.

Rev. R. J. Simpson reported that several hundred applicants for bread had presented themselves at the Strand Committee offices.

The representative of the St. Olave's Committee said that there had been a large increase in their applications during the last few months.

Admiral Gardner reported a great increase at Eltham.

ORGANISATION AND RELIEF.

Letters having been read from Mr. W. Day and Mr. H. N. Hoare, Major FitzRoy moved the resolution of which he had given notice, viz.:—

‘That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps more completely to dissociate Charity Organisation from Charitable Relief. To this end the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to direct their attention to making such arrangements that, on and after January 1, 1879, no relief by grant be made, from its ordinary funds, by any Committee of this Society; and that this important matter may be kept constantly before the Council, the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to report progress quarterly, commencing in January 1878.’

He wished to clear away one or two misconceptions that some appeared to have entertained respecting the purpose of his motion. He did not propose any sudden change—the arrangement he advocated would not come into force till 1879. He did not wish District Committees to abandon their present system of making every effort to get relief.

The Council, however, should mean what they said as well as say what they meant. The Manual did not make any allusions to effectual relief being furnished by the Committees themselves. It had been argued that there was money enough spent in charity to meet the wants of the people; and that it was the business of the Society to see it well applied. It was *in fact* already the duty of the Committees to find out societies which were instituted for the purpose of

dealing with and helping the cases that came before them. He proposed nothing new, and yet he proposed a change.

From the work at St. George's, Hanover Square, where, besides the cases of the Committee, he had good opportunities of acquainting himself with the action of other Committees, from the work at St. Olave's, and from that at the office of the Council, he had acquired considerable experience respecting the ability of the Committees to obtain relief. And he quoted several cases in which an exhaustive scrutiny of the charities had not obtained the required assistance.

On the other hand, he had no doubt that many persons had subscribed on the theory that they were giving to a Relief Society. In the cases of ‘Veta’ and of ‘Capt. Williams’ the Society had been blamed for not giving temporary relief. Similar blame was imputed to the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee, in the case of a woman, in assisting whom £16 had been spent. The public did not ask for inquiry and report, in order that they might themselves carry on the work of relief; but they wished relief given for them. Yet it would be better, in his opinion, if the Society could expend a hundred per cent. in organisation, and nothing in relief.

The offices of the District Committees should be used as centres of information and inter-communication more than they were at present. He was glad that many persons of means were making this use of the machinery of the Society.

The Society for the Relief of Distress should, he believed, occupy the position of almoners, and dispense all necessary relief. He had heard many discussions as to the arrangements for relief, and he found, from the opinions entertained by several members of that Society, that the duty of dispensing relief was considered to devolve naturally upon them, while from the circumstances of our work, it was frequently taken up by our Committees instead.

Mr. E. Peters thought that the attention of District Committees should not, as was often necessarily the case at present, be confined to the work of relief. The difficult work of organisation was insufficiently done, and our Committees ought to have at hand more tabulated information on matters connected with the poor and charitable assistance generally.

Mr. F. D. Mocatta felt strongly on the subject. The Society was certainly established for investigation and organisation; but at the same time the conditions under which the Society had to work made it necessary to temporise. The Society's aim was to eliminate pauperism, not to cut the heads off paupers, or to argue that they need not exist. The strata of modern society were most various: there were the very rich; then those who had to live carefully; then the poor. Among these, too frequently, ignorance of the means of husbanding resources went hand-in-hand with want. There were the germs of self-help; there was intelligence; but the poor lacked information and knowledge.

This Society brought to the notice of members of other classes facts connected with the individual distress of the poor in this class, and its action tended to produce self-help. He had often received begging letters from persons whom he did not know. He referred them to the District Committees, and he was thus able to husband his relief fund. He always made it a rule to consider fully any case that was *bien constaté*. After detailing various cases that came under his notice, he said that, in his opinion, if there was a suitable relief society, application should be made to it; if there was no such relief society, application should be made to charitable individuals; if there was no such person to take the case up, the Society should deal with it. Every deserving case must in some way be effectually assisted. The Society should not be merely a distributor of relief—it should itself meet good cases.

Mr. C. L. Corkran entirely supported Mr. Mocatta. It would be fatal to the work of the Society in the poorer parts of London if investigation were not coupled with relief. He used the District Committees as a medium for the distribution of a large poor-fund; but if charities could not be found to fulfil their part in the administration of relief, greater efforts must be made to initiate more people in our principles and work. Circumstances might arise which would necessitate a considerable amount of relief being necessary.

Mr. Russell Barrington moved the following amendment:—

That the words ‘on or after the 1st January 1879,’ be omitted.

He considered that at present the Society should try and find other societies to relieve on its principles; but that it should on no account give up its work of relief. If this were done new organisations might

* The estimated liabilities were about £1,200, exclusive of £360 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

spring up for no purpose but giving relief, entrusting the work without safeguards to volunteers. The Society, he thought, should stand by its principles, and the Co-operative Sub-Committee should take speedy and effective action in the direction indicated by the motion.

The amendment was not seconded.

Mr. Wightman Wood considered Mr. Mocatta's statement too theoretical. He agreed with Major FitzRoy as to the necessity for some change. Many persons subscribed with a view to assisting the Society in its subsidiary work of relief: their complaint that so little was spent in relief would be met by the amendment he proposed, viz. :—

That all words after 'to this end' be omitted, and that the following be added: 'The District Committees of the Society are requested to discontinue, as soon as is reasonably practicable, the practice of making grants (loans excepted) from their ordinary funds, and to collect, if possible, a special fund from which to make grants in accordance with the Society's principles.'

Relief could not be dissociated entirely from the organisation of charity. If the relief-function was abolished the work would be even more difficult, and the time occupied in obtaining relief would be even greater. By a division of funds the District Committees might obtain the support of those who would be more inclined to give for relief than for organisation, and vice versa.

Rev. H. I. Cummins seconded this amendment. He did not think the Society for the Relief of Distress could, or would be relied upon to do the work of relief. The Society ought to deal with the subject. Mr. Wightman Wood's amendment seemed to apply only to rich Committees. The Council, he thought, might raise a relief fund.

Miss Gibson thought that there should be a separate fund. This would save much trouble. At present members of the District Committees had to spend a great deal of time in writing to ask persons to relieve cases.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson gave notice of the following amendment:

That while acknowledging the force of the principles involved in Major FitzRoy's motion, this Council is of opinion that the time has not arrived when the Society can dispense with the power of relief from its own resources, in the last resort.

He considered a fund of some sort was necessary; yet he feared that the due relative proportion of the sums collected for relief and for organisation might not be maintained.

Capt. Fortescue moved the adjournment of the debate, which was seconded by H. F. Mallet, and eventually carried.

Mr. C. A. Miner and Capt. Fortescue then gave notice of amendments, which will be found on p. 176.

VAGRANCY.

Mr. J. R. Hollond pointed out that his motion on this subject was in the nature of an amendment on that to be moved by the Rev. R. J. Simpson.

Mr. W. W. Wood gave notice of the following amendment on Mr. Simpson's motion, viz. :—

That the word 'rescinded' be omitted and the following words substituted: 'altered so as to apply to residents only and not to vagrants.'

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending November 10, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
Booth, Rev. G. A. . . .	1	1	0	Booth, Rev. G. A. . . .	1	1	0
Hankey, S. A., Esq. . . .	5	0	0	Ewart, Miss M. . . .	3	3	0
Pretty, W., Esq. . . .	10	10	0	MacGregor, General Sir			
				John, K.C.B. . . .	5	0	0
				Sydenham Committee . .	10	10	0

JUSTICE AND PITY.—'Some readers know that softness without rigour, rigour as of adamant to rest upon, is but sloth and cowardly baseness; that without justice first, real pity is not possible, and only false pity and maudlin weakness is possible. Others again are not aware of that fact.'—*Carlyle*.

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES RECENTLY DEALT WITH BY DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

CLASS II.—RECOMMENDED.

St. Marylebone.—A young couple in very bad health applied for a convalescent letter for the wife. Both belonged to clubs, but from ill health their payments had fallen into arrears. Their characters were good. They had no children. The Committee procured a convalescent letter for the wife and a hospital letter for the husband. The clergy in the applicants' district lent 30s. to pay up club dues. The Society for the Relief of Distress granted 10s. for travelling expenses, and the Committee paid 9s. for the wife's maintenance in the convalescent home. She has since been to the office to thank the Committee for the benefits she has received.

E. H., a widow (six weeks) with four children, ages respectively 7, 5, 2, and 6 months, applied for assistance in placing her two eldest children in a school. She had no objection to the parish schools. It was her intention to train as a monthly nurse. Her late husband was a coach-painter; he had worked for one firm for twenty years, and was much respected by his fellow-workmen. At the time of his death a few pounds were collected by them towards defraying funeral expenses, mourning, &c., and after these expenses had been met a small balance remained in hand sufficient to maintain the family for a short time. During the inquiry the applicant informed the Committee that a friend of her late husband's had sent her £10. This amount she proposed to expend on the children's schooling (other than the parish). The Committee advised that the amount should be placed in the Post Office Savings Bank until a suitable school could be found. Subsequently the Committee obtained admission for the children in a comfortable home for one year on the payment of £10.

Lambeth.—A tradesman's assistant and his wife, aged respectively 65 and 70, and quite disabled by illness and infirmity, had expended all their savings with the exception of a life policy of £150, on which they were unable any longer to pay the premiums, and were compelled to live by borrowing. The Committee have obtained a pension for them of 10s. a week from a relative, and have, after much trouble, found suitable lodgings for them in the country, where they were recommended to go both for the sake of their health and for the sake of economy. Their life policy was also purchased on most favourable terms through the instrumentality of the Committee, who have undertaken the charge of the purchase money, which is being refunded in the form of a pension, and in such other modes as are likely to be most beneficial.

Poplar.—In the month of March a boy aged fourteen years was taken into the Poplar Hospital for Accidents. He had been run over by a steam engine, and it was necessary to amputate both his hands. On his recovery the question was, what could be made of him? His parents belonged to the lowest grade of the poor, and were not at all favourable specimens of their class. The thing to be aimed at was that the boy should be made a fair scholar and trained for such light employment as could be carried on by the aid of artificial limbs. Different institutions were applied to but without success. They declined to receive so serious a case. At length a lady who had become interested in the matter obtained admission for him into a Home which it is hoped will be found in every way suitable, and, chiefly by her help, funds were easily raised sufficient to maintain him there for two years.*

CLASS III.—ASSISTED (BY LOAN).

Greenwich.—M. H., a garden labourer with a wife and six children dependent upon him, was a long time in hospital, his family being in receipt of parish relief. He left the hospital in a weakly condition, and was told by the doctor that he would never again be able to do hard work. The Committee made him a loan to buy a donkey and cart, in order that he might be able to hawk vegetables. He is now doing well and has repaid the greater portion of the loan.

I. O., a domestic servant, the daughter of poor parents, was, in consequence of an enlarged knee, compelled to leave her situation and come home. She had to pledge her clothes for her support, but recovered her health. She then obtained another place, and the Committee made her a loan in order that she might redeem her clothes. She is now in a situation and is repaying the loan.

ASSISTED (BY GRANT).

Strand.—A. K. applied for a grant of a small sum of money to enable her to get some clothes out of pawn and buy some others. She stated that she had had to leave her last situation through illness, and that she had been at home nearly four months. The person in whose service she latterly had been would take her back again, if she had better clothes. It was ascertained that her statement was true and that she was an industrious, honest, and sober woman. The Committee granted her the money to buy and redeem her clothes, and she then went to her situation.

* Taken from the Report of the Poplar Committee which will shortly be published.

Poplar.—Not long ago the Committee were asked to lend £2 to a working-man to enable him to send his daughter to the Margate Infirmary. It became their duty to enquire whether this was the best thing to be done for the poor child, who was suffering from a very bad special disease. Mr. F. M. Corner, for whose frequent assistance the Committee desire to express their most grateful acknowledgments, was of opinion that good might perhaps result from careful and prolonged medical treatment, and he further recommended that she should be under the care of a certain medical man who was connected with a Hospital specially intended for such cases. The child was taken to see this gentleman, and she was then admitted into the hospital, the Committee paying the greater part of the weekly charge, and the father that portion of it which it was thought he could fairly afford. Two similar cases are now awaiting admission, one into a hospital for hip disease, the other into a home for incurables, the payment in each case of 4s. weekly being met by the Committee, and by any friends whose co-operation they may be fortunate enough to secure.*

MEDICAL CHARITIES. TOWN AND COUNTRY.

On October 1 all the outdoor visiting which has hitherto been carried on by the TUNBRIDGE WELLS INFIRMARY ceased, and the new Provident Dispensary, which is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the Infirmary, was opened. The *British Medical Journal* remarks that 'from such co-operation the best results may be expected. Unless the Medical Charities consent to put some check upon their liberality, it is impossible for provident dispensaries to hold their ground. Working people will not pay even a penny a week for that which they can get for nothing. But while the provident dispensary suffices for all ordinary sickness, the hospitals are needed for severe cases and for accidents. Thus each institution has its own proper sphere.'

The same number of the *Journal* contains a letter respecting the SUFFOLK COUNTY MEDICAL CLUB. The following is the scale of payments:—

Members pay annually, and the medical man receives:				s.	d.
Single member	...	...	...	5	0
Man and wife	...	...	...	9	0
Man, wife, and one child	...	...	...	10	0
" two children	...	...	...	11	0
" three children	...	...	...	12	6
" four children	...	...	...	13	0
" five or more children under 16 years of age	...	...	...	14	0

Four shillings and sixpence is deducted from the above when a man belongs to any sick club providing a doctor. In confinements, members pay 10s.; medical man receives, under one mile, 15s.; over one mile, 20s. Surgical extras, same scale as Poor Law Board. The writer states that 'in six villages with a population of nearly 3,000, no less than 1,300 are in the club, or 1 in 2·3 of the whole population.'

The following account of the WHITECHAPEL AND ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST MEDICAL CLUB, which we have received from a correspondent, is in striking contrast to the above:—

'About a year ago a small committee was formed, by which rules and a scale of payment were drawn up, founded on the experience of provident dispensaries, and suited to the wants of the neighbourhood. The doctors most popular among the poor agreed to find medicine, and attend, if necessary, at the houses of members, for the usual club payment of 4s. a year. A collector was appointed, who canvassed from house to house, offering to people the care of their favourite doctor in illness for a payment of about one penny a week. The people thus canvassed were well able to afford such payments, and the men were generally found to belong to clubs; the women, however, persistently refused. After a year of struggling it has therefore been determined to give up the effort. The Committee attribute the failure to the fact that so many means exist for obtaining free treatment. There are several free dispensaries, the Metropolitan Free Hospital, and the London Hospital, all offering to supply the people with medicine and advice in the time of sickness. There are also many practitioners who, for 1s. a week paid during the time of illness, attend the sick. To these causes, and not to poor-law relief, which is given very strictly, must be attributed the ill-success with which our collector met.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fifth week of October 1877 was 38,465, and 40,733 received outdoor relief, making a total of 79,198. This was an increase of 667 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 125, 3,837, and 12,378 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 798. This was a decrease of 11 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 105 on the corresponding day of last year.

* Taken from the Report of the Poplar Committee which will shortly be published.

WORK OF THE COUNCIL 1876-7.

The Council* of the Charity Organisation Society have during the session 1876-7 held thirty-five meetings. The average attendance has been thirty-eight. At one meeting as many as sixty-eight persons were present, and at several there were more than fifty. The Council have dealt with or discussed the following important subjects amongst others:—Personal work among the Poor; Co-operation with the Industrial Classes; Out-relief; Metropolitan Medical Relief; Institutions for Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics; Charitable Endowments, and more especially the St. Katherine's Hospital Charities; Soup Kitchens; and the Suppression of the Traffic in Italian Children.

PERSONAL WORK.

At a meeting held at the Rooms of the Society of Arts in February last, at which more than 300 persons were present, the following resolution was, after a long and interesting discussion, unanimously agreed to:—

That District Visitors, and those who are willing to work personally among the poor, be invited to co-operate as far as possible with the District Committees of the Society.

A Special Committee subsequently considered what general rules the Council should frame for the guidance of District Committees in supplementing the Society's work by personal visitation, and on their report the following resolutions were adopted:—

That the District Committees be recommended to enlist the services of volunteer Visitors, who shall visit, and, when desirable, keep up friendly intercourse with those persons whose cases may have been investigated at the District Office.

That the Visitors, in their capacity as Visitors for the District Committees of the Society, shall not act as almoners for the Committees.

That it be not considered necessary that the Visitors be members of the District Committees, but that they be invited cordially to attend its meetings.

That the Visitors be instructed to keep constantly before them the importance of establishing friendly relations between themselves and all those who may be working among the poor in connection with other agencies.

OUTDOOR RELIEF.

The question of the changes to be made in charitable administration consequent on the reduction of outdoor relief have been discussed at length. A Special Committee has reported on the subject, and steps have been taken to ascertain what (if any) charitable institutions were or would place themselves in a position to meet those exceptional cases in which distress had ensued in consequence of the reduction of outdoor relief.

THE ST. KATHERINE'S HOSPITAL.

A memorial to the Lord Chancellor was adopted by the Council, urging

That such portions of the funds of the St. Katherine's Hospital as might be considered available for eleemosynary purposes would be wisely and justly appropriated for affording, under due safeguards, small pensions for the deserving and provident poor in the East of London, so as to meet any exceptional distress that might be contingent on the laudable efforts of the Guardians to administer the Poor Law on sound and well-defined principles.

This memorial was signed by the Duke of Westminster, Earl Stanhope, Lord Richard Grosvenor, and by numerous Members of Parliament and others.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RELIEF.

Two special meetings have been held on the subject of Metropolitan Medical Relief. At the former the following resolution was passed:—

That the improvement of the people of London in health and habits of thrift and independence demands that while, on the one hand, out-patient departments should be regulated so as to secure the prompt treatment of cases requiring the special resources of an hospital, on the other, free dispensaries should be converted into provident dispensaries, and new provident dispensaries should be established in proportion to the wants of the population.

This resolution was passed unanimously at a large and influential

* For a sketch of the constitution of the Charity Organisation Society, see Eighth Annual Report of the Council, 1877.

meeting. Subsequently, in July, a meeting was held at the rooms of the Medical Society, at which a resolution was passed for the formation of a representative Committee to take into consideration the question of the introduction of the provident element in the administration of Metropolitan Medical Relief.

INSTITUTIONS FOR IDIOTS.

A large deputation, composed of medical men and others, from all parts of England, waited upon the President of the Local Government Board with a view to submitting the need of training and industrial institutions for teachable idiots and imbeciles, and of custodial establishments for the incurable. They received the reply that the President of the Local Government Board would do everything he could to advance the objects represented by them.

ITALIAN CHILDREN.

A deputation has also waited upon the Home Secretary to draw his attention to the prevalent traffic in Italian children, and active measures have been taken to put the law in force for the prevention of this traffic.

SOUP KITCHENS.

The Council have again pointed out the injurious effect of free soup kitchens, and have advocated self-supporting public kitchens and coffee-houses, such as have been found successful in several large towns.

GENERAL.

The above are some of the many questions dealt with by the Council. Besides the Special Committees, Committees on almost all the branches of the Society's work have held numerous sittings. A large number of cases have been investigated by the Central Inquiry Department.

RETURNS FOR OCTOBER.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, October 27, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Underserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians	Institutions or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total			
Kensington	11	7	16	34	4	5	9	18	7	6	25	68	29	6	197	
Fulham	4	1	5	10	5	5	1	11	1	9	10	20	14	15	73	
Paddington	2	1	11	14	12	4	16	32	6	14	9	42	72	26	16	2
Chelsea	3	6	9	18	4	1	5	10	6	7	1	14	27	20	17	4
St. George's	2	1	13	16	2	2	4	8	7	1	3	11	20	9	6	
G. Committee	6	3	18	27	3	3	6	12	11	5	1	17	30	18	3	2
W. Committee	4	1	4	9	1	2	3	6	2	2	2	4	10	11	22	4
St. James's and Soho	9	4	6	19	1	10	20	31	11	1	7	19	34	16	18	1
Westminster Union	4	1	4	9	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	3	6	11	22	4
St. Marylebone	4	1	4	9	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	3	6	11	22	4
Hampstead	1	1	1	3	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	3	6	11	22	4
North St. Pancras	1	1	1	3	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	3	6	11	22	4
South St. Pancras	3	5	11	19	1	6	7	14	3	1	4	8	16	13	20	
Islington	6	7	11	24	1	5	13	19	9	1	10	20	39	29	13	
Hackney Union	2	2	2	6	1	1	2	4	8	1	1	10	20	15	6	34
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	1	3	4	8	1	9	10	20	8	1	1	10	20	15	6	34
Strand	5	5	12	22	2	2	4	8	6	1	1	8	15	21	158	
Holborn	4	1	12	17	2	11	13	26	5	2	1	8	16	14	27	4
City	4	1	3	8	2	3	5	10	6	1	1	8	15	11	72	939
Shoreditch	5	2	11	18	2	3	5	10	2	1	1	4	8	7	19	1
Bethnal Green	1	7	15	23	1	1	2	4	4	1	1	6	12	20	10	1
Whitechapel	5	2	11	18	1	3	4	8	1	3	3	7	14	6	14	1
St. George's-in-the-East	5	3	12	20	3	3	6	12	3	3	7	13	26	18	16	1
Stepney	1	2	4	7	4	1	5	10	1	1	4	6	12	26	19	1
Mile End Old Town	1	1	9	11	1	6	7	14	1	1	1	3	6	7	7	5
Poplar	5	3	12	20	3	3	6	12	2	2	2	7	14	10	5	1
St. Saviour's	2	5	7	14	3	3	6	12	3	3	4	10	20	14	1	1
Newington	2	3	4	9	3	3	6	12	1	1	1	4	8	9	10	1
St. Olave's	2	3	4	9	3	3	6	12	1	1	1	4	8	9	10	1
Lambeth	1	9	16	26	1	1	2	4	6	1	1	8	16	13	22	1
Camberwell	3	1	4	8	2	1	3	6	2	1	3	6	12	10	5	4
Wandsworth & Putney	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	4	8	4	2	1
Battersea	3	1	3	7	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	2	2	1
Clapham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	2	2	1
Camberwell:																
Grove Lane	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	2	2	1
Peckham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	2	2	1
Greenwich	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	2	2	1
Deptford	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	2	2	1
Woolwich	3	4	7	14	4	4	8	16	4	4	4	12	24	15	9	21
Lewisham	1	2	2	5	2	2	4	8	2	2	4	8	16	11	2	178
Eltham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	2	2	1
Sydenham	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	3	6	2	2	1
Totals	106	85	263	654	37	99	121	257	166	74	35	91	366	1077	560	472

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of October compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of September 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week Sept.	4th week October	4th week Sept.	4th week October
Kensington	1,080	1,144	389	418
Fulham	428	458	623	620
Paddington	793	794	895	888
Chelsea	916	943	378	379
St. George's	1,749	1,904	1,397	1,456
Westminster	762	785	310	286
St. Marylebone	2,337	2,474	1,822	1,752
Hampstead	164	173	104	101
St. Pancras	2,804	2,915	4,451	4,412
Islington	1,327	1,376	2,339	2,326
Hackney	850	864	1,672	1,752
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury	1,127	1,204	601	606
Strand	724	747	269	273
Holborn	2,549	2,698	3,485	3,497
City of London	1,966	2,011	2,686	2,675
Shoreditch	1,161	1,181	787	760
Bethnal Green	1,383	1,405	636	610
Whitechapel	945	1,034	148	155
St. George's, East	1,060	1,086	92	93
Stepney	883	908	163	159
Mile End Old Town	812	842	420	468
Poplar	1,033	1,079	1,552	1,586
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,475	2,568	2,311	2,427
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,395	1,441	2,152	2,188
Lambeth	1,634	1,671	3,016	3,042
Wandsworth and Clapham	941	979	1,363	1,356
Camberwell	1,149	1,221	1,252	1,196
Greenwich	1,295	1,379	1,944	1,978
Woolwich	633	678	2,206	2,238
Lewisham	283	292	582	585
Total	36,648	38,249	40,045	40,282

ORGANISATION NOTES.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—It appears from the *British Medical Journal* that the annual clear expenditure of £30,000 has not, under recent administration, supported more than two-thirds of the patients whom such an income is capable of maintaining. A patient at St. Thomas's Hospital has cost £12, while a patient at Guy's has cost only £5. The consequence is that upwards of 150 beds have remained empty, the mere interest on the money expended in construction being £100 a year for each such empty bed. In other words, the extravagance of administration has been such, that beds costing £15,000 a year have been and are still remaining empty.

THE REPORT OF THE LUNACY COMMISSIONERS.—The *Standard*, in an article on the report of the Commissioners for 1877, says: 'The report tells the same tale as all its predecessors—namely, that insanity is steadily on the increase. The statistics, as we shall presently show, do not altogether bear out the common theory as to the cause of the phenomenon. But of the result there is, unhappily, no doubt. Until the year 1859 no account had been kept of the number of lunatics annually admitted into our various asylums, hospitals, and licensed houses. But from that date to the present the number has increased from 36,762 to 66,636, while the proportion of lunatics to the whole population has increased from about 1½ per cent. to nearly 3 per cent. . . . It is only now for the first time that the Commissioners have succeeded in obtaining the necessary information to enable them to exhibit in a tabular form both the predisposing and exciting causes of insanity in all the registered cases for the year under consideration, as well as their varying effect in different professions and occupations. Nobody will be surprised to learn that, among all the causes of

insanity, intoxication stands first and foremost; but some persons may perhaps be surprised to hear that this is equally true of all classes. Each class has, of course, its own special troubles and temptations, which account for some portion of the insanity which it contributes to the sum total; but all meet together on the common ground of drink. In order three—that is among clergymen, lawyers, doctors, authors, artists, the most refined, most moral, and most highly cultivated section of society—about one-eighth of the cases of insanity are referred to intemperance. Among farmers and agricultural labourers about one-sixth is due to this cause; among factory operatives about one-seventh; among “persons of rank and property” having no occupation the percentage is much the same as it is among professional men. And the general conclusion to which we are forced is that drinking habits are by no means so completely eradicated from the educated classes as many persons are accustomed to suppose.

SOCIAL CHARITY.—Mr. Gladstone, speaking at Dublin, said: ‘The mere politics of the country lie upon the surface. That which is vital and essential is the social condition of the country. It is not whether my honourable friend, the member for Limerick, Mr. Butt, and I take the same view of party organisation. That may be a question worth considering in its own place; but it is unimportant in comparison with the great question of what is the state of human life in Ireland—what is done to provide for its wants, to alleviate its cares—to develop the energies of our nature—to give sanction and encouragement to what is good, to put down and discountenance what is evil—to make cheerful at least, perhaps in some cases even to make bright, the lot of human kind—to relieve labour of its cares—to enable the father to make a reasonable provision for the health and comfort of his wife and children, as well as of himself—to take care that when he rises in the morning to go to his labour, and when he comes home from it at night, his expectations shall not be unenlightened by hope, and his recollections shall not be embittered by the sense of wrongs. These are the questions that are really important, and our political ideas and our political arrangements must all be tested, and in the long run they will be tested, by the final opinion of mankind, and they will be tested by another and yet loftier, and yet more authoritative judgment—by their conformity to the principles of justice and virtue, and by their tendency to promote the true individual happiness of the people, as well as the greatness of the country at large.’

It is in this way that we hope Charity Organisation may develop—treating ‘charity’ as a whole, and, at the same time, trying to bring personal influence to bear on individual cases of distress. By association, each worker may obtain necessary information which he cannot readily acquire for himself, and may draw upon the resources of the experience of others.

THE CHARITY OF SELF-HELP.—Mr. Gathorne Hardy said at Woolwich, on the 7th inst.:—‘Everybody knows the views that are held by different societies, which say, “You must put this down,” and “you must legislate for that.” Gentlemen, if you want to reform the country you must begin by reforming yourselves. If you want to have a well-educated people you must begin by educating yourselves, and then you will be going about it in the right way. I am far from wishing to depreciate the efforts made by philanthropic societies for the reformation of people, but after all it is not on the platform or in the crowded assembly, but it is in the private houses, in the homes of the citizens, that reformation must be carried on, and it is there that the stability of the country must be secured.’

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS.—The *Guardian* says:—‘It is to be hoped that the Charity Commissioners will be able to bring out some practical result of the train of inquiry suggested by the Charity Organisation Society and the London School Board.’

THRIFT.—Mr. G. C. T. Bartley enumerates the requirements of the agricultural labourer as follows:—1st. Some fund, however small, to fall back upon for any sudden charge that may come upon him. 2nd. An assurance that if he is sick he will have something to make up for the loss of his wages. 3rd. An assurance that he will not be ruined by a doctor’s bill. 4th. An assurance that when he is old and past work he will have some allowance or pension. 5th. An assurance that he will leave behind him enough to prevent his remains being degraded by a pauper’s funeral. These requirements may seem somewhat formidable for a man with but too scanty wages, but they are the least that everyone in this kingdom should aspire to. What is more, the real way of raising wages is for all to determine to secure these benefits by their own efforts. As a matter of fact, all persons in this country do get sick allowance, medical attendance, support in old age and burial, but it now mostly comes from the parish, with all the degradation which this necessitates; the cost, therefore, which these benefits involve, instead of being paid to the labourer as his wages, goes to support the rates. Nothing would tend to raise wages more surely than for all people in their youth and middle age to provide themselves for those wants which they now in but too many cases receive from the rates and from the alms and clubs of those in a better position than themselves.

PROVINCIAL.

SOUTHAMPTON CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—At the second annual meeting of this Society on the 7th inst., Surgeon-General Dr. Maclean, who was in the chair, moved the adoption of the annual report.*

He said that the Southampton Charity Organisation Society was a very young society, and the report, which had just been presented, was in every way a cause for congratulation, considering that the Society had a great many misgivings, a good many misrepresentations, misapprehensions, and perhaps prejudices; but, notwithstanding this, he thought the past year’s work was a good omen of the work that would be accomplished in the future. The Executive Committee during the past year had worked well, they had given time, attention, and money to the faithful discharge of their duties, and he was quite satisfied the people of Southampton would feel greatly indebted to them for their arduous labours.

Mr. Russell Gurney, who was received with cheers, in seconding the adoption of the report, said he was not at all surprised to hear from the report, and also from the Chairman, that at the commencement of the Society’s operations they had considerable difficulties to contend with. He confessed that when he first heard of the Society his prejudice was against it, for he always felt that there were many other societies struggling for want of funds, and that the funds which were asked for a new society would be better applied to strengthen the old ones.

This objection, however, did not apply nor interfere, as anyone could see, with this Society. It was quite ready to help all other societies; but the great object the Society had in view was to prevent money which people were disposed to apply for charity being applied to the assistance and encouragement of imposture. It was not the great object of the Society to afford immediate and active relief, and certainly not to spread out doles among the poor; its object rather was to afford all other societies the means of having cases inquired into which were brought before them, and not only societies, but individuals also, in order that they might ascertain whether the object applying for charity was a worthy one or not.

When he (the right hon. gentleman) first resided in London, he used to have a great number of begging-letters applying for charitable relief. He was now and then induced, by the piteous tones of the applications to give that relief, without the amount of inquiry which he ought, perhaps, to have made, or which, in fact, he was able to institute. Now he had adopted a different plan. He sent all the letters he received to the Charity Organisation Society, or elsewhere, and had the cases investigated, and he found that almost invariably the cases forwarded were ascertained to be dishonest cases. Since adopting this plan these applications to him for charity had considerably decreased. It seemed as though all the imposture had disappeared, and that the cases he now received were *bona fide* ones. There was no doubt a regular system of organisation among beggars in large and small towns; they knew well where the persons who would make inquiries were, and they always endeavoured to keep out of their way. A great dignitary of the Church had said that ‘he had no doubt he had a great deal to answer for; but there was one thing he would never have to answer for, that of giving to a beggar in the street.’ He thought that they could not all adopt that principle.

He was satisfied there was an immense amount of mischief done by money being distributed indiscriminately; but if they gave to a society such as that whose interests he was now advocating, they might rest assured that their money would be well distributed to those worthy of it. A venerated friend of his, one of the great legal dignitaries of his day, told him (the speaker) that he had had brought under his notice a most piteous tale of a family represented to be in deep distress, and who were said to have lost their youngest child. Not being satisfied with the case, he visited the house, and found the family apparently in deep distress, and the child laid out to all intents and purposes, a lifeless corpse. His sympathy, as might be imagined, was greatly touched, and he left, promising immediate help. By a mishap, however, he accidentally left his glove in the room which he had visited, and went back for it, when to his astonishment he heard, while on the top of the stairs, the supposed lifeless corpse say, ‘Mother, can I get up now?’ There was something ludicrous in this; but it showed the kind of imposture to be met with, and the sort of difficulties which charitable individuals had to contend against. The gentleman to whom he was referring certainly seemed to be taking very careful means in order to ascertain whether his money would be properly applied; but had it not been for the mere accident of leaving his glove behind, he would have been greatly taken in. This, he argued, only showed how difficult it was for an individual to ascertain whether the cases they were willing to help were really deserving. Now, this Society had all the means of discovering such deception, which no single individual could possibly do.

There was another point which had been dwelt upon—the giving of loans rather than doles. With respect to individuals deserving help, he had been informed the loans were a good plan, because the Society had the means of inquiring whether the persons requiring such loans were of good

* We hope in a subsequent number to refer to the Report of the Society.

character, and what were their means of repayment. He fully believed that such a method was a good way of relieving those who stood in need of it. He instanced a town in the West of England where gentlemen had a large fund placed at their disposal, and there he found that although they had £1,000 out on loan, they seldom lost more than five pounds per annum. In all the cases so relieved, real, actual, positive good had been done. They not only relieved persons in distress, but encouraged them in ways of thrift, all of which tended to improve the character of the person relieved.

In the town of Southampton there were very considerable sums of money which had been bequeathed in former times for charitable objects. He thought it would be a good plan if the custodians of such moneys could be persuaded to give some little information respecting them, and assist in letting it be known who the persons were who benefited by such charity. He knew the cases of persons who were relieved by five different centres of relief, and not one of the centres knew that the persons were relieved by the other four. This, he urged, ought to be prevented; and it could only be done by publicity. Of course a certain amount of discretion was needed in publishing these names. But there ought undoubtedly to be some facilities afforded for preventing the imposture to which he had referred, and the more they could reconcile themselves to the fact, the more would be the benefit to society. They all had a right to know where the funds of the Guardians went to. There were many cases where persons were relieved out of the poor rates, and yet it was only right that private individuals should have the opportunity of affording relief beyond them. There might be circumstances which rendered the Society less required here than in other parts; still he thought they could not do without such agencies.

The Charity Organisation Society in London had done an enormous amount of good; it was increasing in power and influence, and the more it was known the more it would be supported. Whether there were circumstances in Southampton or not which rendered the operations of such a Society less beneficial he was not able to judge. For his own part he could not help feeling, from what he had seen of the work of similar societies in different large parishes in London, that this Society would be likely to be of very great good to the charitable, and of great good to all worthy objects of charity in Southampton, if it were liberally supported.

The report having been adopted, Mr. Sheriff Le Feuvre, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Gurney for his attendance, said that when they found that of the number of applicants whose cases had been dealt with one-third had been proved to be ineligible or undeserving, it clearly showed that a certain amount of money had been prevented from being wasted on undeserving objects, and been saved for the really deserving poor. It was a matter of extreme regret to him (the speaker) that the resolution which was carried by the clergy of the town last April at the conference had become so much a dead letter, and had practically not been acted upon. With regard to what had been said respecting loans, he thoroughly concurred in it, and he would remind the executive committee of the Society that they had under the management of the local trustees of charities a special fund for loans, under the names of Steptoe, Lynch, and Wallop's Charities, consisting of about £1,000, which was lent to young beginners in trade free of interest. A portion of that sum was being constantly lent out from time to time, and repaid by instalments. He thought it very likely that the Charity Commissioners in London would be requested in the course of a short time to effect some alterations in the scheme; for instance, though their income under it was only £30 a year, they were bound to pay £18 out of the £30 to their clerk. He was convinced that such a scheme ought to be remodelled at the earliest possible opportunity, and he hoped that but a few months would elapse before a resolution was adopted by the trustees in favour of the scheme being amended.

He had seen much benefit resulting from the Society's working during the past few months. He had had to fill up some ten or twelve rooms in the newly-established Shirley Homes for Aged Women. They advertised, and had some forty applications for those empty rooms, and after taking out some names, which were ineligible according to their rules, they were obliged to refer the balance of the names to the Society, and the information they gave them was very valuable, inasmuch as this had reduced the names to the exact number they had at their disposal.

The meeting then terminated.

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND MANUFACTORY FOR THE BLIND, SHEFFIELD.—The Committee report that the sales of the institution have been £2,222. 8s. 2d., showing, notwithstanding the general depression of trade, only a falling off of £63 in comparison with last year. The profits have been a little more than sufficient to meet the expenditure. £15,000, of which all but about £2,670 has been obtained, is about to be laid out on the erection of new buildings, which will accommodate 50 inmates.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE SANATORIUM.—From the last report of this sanatorium it appears that after the 1st October 1877 the charge for

Unrecommended Patients will be 18s. per week (instead of 10s.): the charge made to patients 'Recommended by Annual Subscribers' will be 6s. per week (instead of 8s.) in all cases where the subscription falls due on or after the 1st October.

FOREIGN.

BOSTON.—*Charity Organisation.*—The Common Council of the City of Boston have passed the following order, dated December 28, 1876:—

'That the Mayor be hereby authorised to appoint a Commission of three persons to consider and report upon the treatment of the poor who apply to the City for relief, whether temporary or permanent, and to ascertain what, if any, changes are desirable in the laws of the Commonwealth and the ordinances of the City for the relief, maintenance, and employment of all classes of the poor; the expense to be incurred by the Commission not to exceed five hundred dollars, and to be paid from the Appropriation for Incumbents.'

Messrs. George S. Hale, A. A. Burrage, and A. Parker have been appointed Commissioners, and have circulated the following letter from the Charity Building, Chardon Street, Boston (February 5, 1877):—

'The undersigned Commissioners under the annexed order are desirous of obtaining statistics—as to the amount and kind of relief afforded, and the number of persons aided by charitable institutions, organisations, and churches, in the City of Boston, for the past ten years,—and respectfully request that the blank in the enclosed envelope may be filled and returned to them. They would also be glad to receive any reports or documents relating to the institution or organisation.'

Now ready, in 8vo., price 1s.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RELIEF, a Paper read by Sir C. E. TREVELYAN at a Conference convened by the Charity Organisation Society, presided over by Dr. Acland; with Remarks by Sir W. Gull, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Sir R. Alcock, Mr. T. Holmes, and others.

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REPORT of a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society on the Education and Care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics; with the Proceedings of the Committee and Report of a Deputation on the subject to the President of the Local Government Board, January and May 1877.

London: LONGMANS & Co.; and at the Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Now ready, price 3d.

'DISTRICT VISITING,' by Miss OCTAVIA HILL. Reprinted from *Good Words*, by the kind permission of the Publishers. LONGMANS, GREEN, & Co., Paternoster Row, E.C.

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REPORT ON SOUP KITCHENS. By the Co-operation Sub-Committee of the Charity Organisation Society.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 236.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 22, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Nov. 22	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, ,, 26	...	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, ,, 27	...	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee. 3.30 P.M., District Sub-Committee.
Wednesday ,, 28	...	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
Thursday ,, 29	...	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS.—A suggestion of the Lambeth Committee, that it should be a recommendation to District Committees to print their office hours on the titlepage of their Reports, has been approved by the Administrative Committee.

VISITORS AT COUNCIL.—The attention of Members of Council and others is called to the following Bye-law:—

'The Secretary shall have power to admit visitors, but such admission shall only avail for the day for which it is given.'

Persons wishing to attend a meeting of Council as visitors are requested to apply to the Secretary at least a day before.

ST. OLAVE'S UNION COMMITTEE.—Capt. A. J. Leeson has been appointed Hon. Sec. of this Committee, *vice* Sir Robert Burnett, Bart., resigned.

ST. MARYLEBONE.—Miss Octavia Hill has been elected a representative of this Committee, *vice* Rev. P. Wicksteed, resigned.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, the 26th instant:

I. Mr. W. F. Lawrence to move, on the Report on Adequate Relief being taken into consideration: 'That whereas it appears that cases exist which are not adequately relieved by any means this Society at present possesses, it be resolved:

'(a) That a short statement of such cases be inserted by advertisement in the *Times*, *Daily News*, *Standard*, and *Daily Telegraph*, on the first Monday in each month during a period of four months, commencing on December 3.

'(b) That the advertisements be addressed as from the Central Office, but be drafted and paid for by the District Committees inserting the same, who shall conduct all correspondence with the public relating to them, and be responsible for the *bond fides* of the case advertised.

'(c) That a statement of each case be presented to the Districts Sub-Committee within the first fortnight of each month, who shall have the power of veto in each case within one week of such presentation, subject, however, to appeal to the Administrative Committee by the Committee presenting the case.

'(d) That the Secretary to the Council address a letter to the principal newspapers, to inform the public of the proposed scheme.'

II. Mr. A. H. Hill to move:—

'That, on the return of Mr. Loch to his secretarial duties, the departmental arrangements* of the Society recommended by the Committee on Office Arrangements be at once carried out, and that the Inquiry and Mendicity Department be henceforward subordinated to the General Purposes Office.'

III. Mr. Edward Bond to move:—

'That all departments of the Society's work be placed under one head, and that with that view the services of the Organising Secretary be dispensed with.'†

IV. Mr. Bousfield to move:—

'That the motion of which Mr. Bond has given notice be taken as urgent for the meeting of Council on the 26th inst.'

V. Hon. R. C. Grosvenor to move:—

'That, in the opinion of the Council of this Society, it has become necessary to alter the existing rules respecting the Constitution of the Society with a view to the establishment of a smaller representative Governing Body, which shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Society; and that for this purpose the Council are of opinion that a special meeting of the members of the Society ought, as soon as possible, to be convened.'

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, November 19, at 3 P.M.

Present:—Mr. A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—J. W. Probyn, Dr. Anderson, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Mrs. Lathbury.
PADDDINGTON:—G. Charles, J. R. Holland.
CHELSEA:—R. A. Aspinall, Dr. Daniel.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Major C. C. FitzRoy.
ST. JAMES' & SOHO (Westminster Union):—H. Peto, F. C. Mills, W. Bousfield.

ST. MARYLEBONE:—S. G. Gordon-Robbins, Miss Octavia Hill, Major-General Blunt, General L. Gardiner.
HAMPSHIRE:—Rev. H. F. Mallet, E. Bond, C. E. Maurice.
NORTH ST. PANCRAAS:—A. N. Butt.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAAS:—C. A. Reiss.
ISLINGTON:—F. B. Roberts, H. Matthews, Lady Wilson.

* See *Reporter* No. 227, p. 132; and No. 228, p. 136.

† We have received the following note from Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe:—

'Dear Sir,—Will you kindly mention in the *Reporter* that, when Mr. Bond moves his resolution for modifying the Organising Secretary's department, I shall move that all the words after "head" be left out.'

'Yours truly, F. J. S. EDGCOMBE.'

Rev. S. A. Barnett writes that he will second Mr. Bond's motion.

HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
 ST. GILES' and BLOOMSBURY:—H. M. Keary, R. L. Kenyon, W. F. Lawrence, H. N. Hoare.
 STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson.
 HOLBORN:—Capt. Fortescue, G. B. Baker.
 CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins.
 SHOREDITCH:—J. L. Forster, Rev. C. Kirton.
 WHITECHAPEL:—C. Lavers Smith, C. L. Corkran, Rev. A. Wedgwood, Rev. S. A. Barnet.
 ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Major Meadows.
 STEPNEY:—A. G. Crowder, E. Peters.
 MILE END:—Hon. H. R. Scott, Major Nares.
 POPLAR:—Hon. R. C. Grosvenor.

ST. SAVIOUR'S:—W. F. Smith, R. Barrington.
 ST. OLAV'S:—Rev. J. Johnson, W. F. Beauford, Capt. Leeson.
 LAMBETH:—S. S. Taylor, D. Brown.
 WANDSWORTH:—Alan Lambert, Miss H. Gurney.
 CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
 ELTHAM:—Rear-Admiral G. H. Gardner.
 SYDENHAM:—H. Reid, C. A. Barry.
 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, George Blount, C. A. Miner.
 TOTAL:—65.
 Secretary:—C. S. Loch.
 VISITORS:—C. L. Lewes, R. Dallas, H. Howgrave Graham.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, November 15, There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland, in the chair; Lady Wilson, Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Barrington, Crowder, Edcombe, Hill, Hoare, Lawrence, Maurice, Miner, Peters, Praed, Probyn, Roberts, and Mrs. Lathbury. Miss O. Hill, visitor.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending November 10 the receipts had been £36. 10s. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £526. 11s. 3d. and £18. 0s. 9d. respectively, the whole of the latter sum being reserved to meet expenditure on School Board cases.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on November 13 there had been present:—

Mr. A. D. Graham, in the chair; Mrs. Lathbury, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Messrs. Barrington, Bousfield, Brand, Crowder, Edcombe, and Lewes. Captain Leeson, visitor.

NEW MEMBER.—Mr. H. Brand had been appointed a Member of the Sub-Committee.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on November 13 there had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Rear-Admiral Gardner, and the Hon. H. R. Scott.

THE FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE had met on Wednesday, the 14th November. There had been present:—

Lieut.-Gen. Cavenagh, in the chair; Major Nares, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Corrie, Hill, Peters, Praed, and Roberts.

At an adjourned meeting of the above Sub-Committee on Friday, the 16th November, there had been present:—

Mr. A. H. Hill, in the chair; Major Nares, Sir R. M. Stephenson, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Holland, Miner, Peters, and Roberts.

RESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN.

The Secretary read the following letter from the Earl of Lichfield:

'11 Portman Square, W.,
 November 12, 1877.

'Dear Mr. Loch,—After very full and anxious consideration I have come to the conclusion that I cannot continue to occupy the position of Chairman of Council of the Charity Organisation Society, and I must request that my resignation be accepted.

'Since the early part of last year, when I found myself in a minority upon questions affecting the government of the Society, I have taken no part in its work, and until the middle of last month I have not attended any of its meetings.

'I feel that some apology is due from me to the Members of Council for having so long retained the office of Chairman without having been able to fulfil its duties. My only excuse is that I have looked forward, perhaps unreasonably, to changes in the direction I have desired being effected, though, perhaps, by other means than those I have so persistently and unsuccessfully advocated.

'The interest I feel in the Society is undiminished; and I am daily becoming more convinced of the necessity of the work it has undertaken.

'I wish to see it carried on with greater energy and determination;

* The estimated liabilities were about £1,200, exclusive of £300 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

and to this end I believe that the Central authority must be strengthened.

'As a Member of Council I shall continue my efforts in this direction.

'Believe me, yours sincerely,

LICHFIELD.

Sir Charles Trevelyan said that the Society was greatly indebted to Lord Lichfield for the active part he had taken in moulding its constitution, and laying down those general principles, the value of which he so fully endorsed. He was glad that he would continue to take part in the work of the Society, as the Chairman of the Marlborough Committee and a Member of Council. He moved the following resolution:—

That this Council desires to express its great regret at Lord Lichfield's resignation of the Chairmanship; its strong sense of the invaluable services which his lordship has rendered to the Society, and the grateful feeling with which it has received the intimation of his lordship's intention to continue to assist as a Member of Council.

Mr. C. L. Corkran seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved the following instruction to the Administrative Committee, which was agreed to *nem. con.*:—

That the Administrative Committee be requested to consider and report on the letter of Lord Lichfield, and make such recommendations to the Council as they may think fit with respect to his successor.

He mentioned, with regret, that Lord Lichfield had been suddenly called to Cannes, on account of his brother's illness.

ORGANISATION AND RELIEF.

Major FitzRoy, with the permission of Council, explained, that in the account of what he had said at the last meeting of Council an omission had been made. He had mentioned 'several cases in which an exhaustive scrutiny of the charities had not obtained the required assistance.' He added, that this scrutiny should not content the District Committees; the fact that there were such cases showed that existing charities did not, owing to their restrictions, meet the necessities of the poor, and the Committees should endeavour to obtain such alterations in the rules of these societies as would enable them to meet those necessities. He and his seconder considered that the principle they had advocated would be sufficiently enforced by the amendment of which the Rev. R. J. Simpson had given notice. They therefore withdrew the motion in favour of it.*

Captain Fortescue withdrew the amendment of which he had given notice. [See below.]

* The following are the motion and amendments referred to in the course of the debate on this subject:—

(1) Major FitzRoy had moved:

'That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps more completely to dissociate Charity Organisation from Charitable Relief. To this end the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to direct their attention to making such arrangements that, on and after January 1, 1879, no relief by grant be made, from its ordinary funds, by any Committee of this Society; and that this important matter may be kept constantly before the Council, the Co-operation Sub-Committee are requested to report progress quarterly, commencing in January 1878.'

(2) Mr. Wightman Wood had moved the following amendment, viz.:

'That all words after "to this end" be inserted, and the following words added: "The District Committees of the Society are requested to discontinue as soon as is reasonably practicable, the practice of making grants (loans excepted), from their ordinary funds, and to collect, if possible, a special fund from which to make grants in accordance with the Society's principles."

(3) The Rev. R. J. Simpson has given notice of the following amendment, viz.:

'That, while acknowledging the force of the principle involved in Major FitzRoy's motion, this Council is of opinion that the time has not arrived when the Society can dispense with the power of relief from its own resources in the last resort.'

(4) Mr. C. A. Miner had given notice of the following amendment:—

'That the motion be altered as follows, viz.: "That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps to make more widely known the established principles of the Society with respect to granting relief, as set forth in the Manual of the Society, viz.:

After a few words from the Rev. H. I. Cummins and Mr. J. R. Hollond, Sir Charles Trevelyan urged that Major FitzRoy should withdraw his motion. It was impossible to dissociate charity organisation from charitable relief. Mr. Simpson's amendment appeared to countenance this principle.

Mr. Miner having urged the same view, Mr. Russell Barrington moved the previous question, which Dr. Daniel supported, saying that he sympathised with what Major FitzRoy had said, for he had no wish that the Society should not take the position of another relief society; but, on the other hand, he considered that the difficulties of a double collection for relief and organisation would be great.

Mr. Bousfield thought the Council should not have recourse to the previous question on such an important matter.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson, speaking against the motion for the previous question, said that the Society should, in his opinion, keep the organisation of charity steadily before it as its goal; so that eventually it might be in a position to relieve cases by reference to the proper quarter only, and should not have to assist by direct grants. Yet, while this principle was acknowledged, it could not, under existing circumstances, be put in force.

The Rev. H. I. Cummins argued that it was unwise to give prominence to a principle which the Society could not act upon. It was needless to reassert it. He would vote for the previous question.

The previous question was then put and carried.

ADEQUATE RELIEF.

Mr. W. T. Lawrence asked the permission of Council that the motion of which he had given notice might stand over. This was accordingly agreed to.

VAGRANCY.

Rev. R. J. Simpson then moved:—

That the clause in the Manual of the Society (page 12), which sets forth 'That the Charity Agents are allowed in cases of absolute hunger to give bread,' be rescinded, and that this resolution be duly reported to the Metropolitan Poor Law Authorities.

He considered the rule laid down in the Manual a mistake. Its object was to enable persons who met in the streets those who alleged that they were starving, to refer them to District Committees instead of giving them pence. This led the public to consider the Society as, primarily, a relief society, and the tramps naturally came to this conclusion also. The mere dealing with these cases, entry of names, &c., occupied a great deal of time. The Strand Committee had relieved with bread 302 persons since the 1st of October. From a private correspondence he drew the conclusion that the District Committees by giving bread were doing the work of the Poor Law. The Relieving Officers were bound to relieve all who came to them in a state of starvation.

Major Fitzroy seconded the motion. It was impossible to decide offhand, whether the applicant for bread was or was not in a state of 'absolute hunger.' There was a meal given at the casual ward morning and evening, and the want of a midday meal did not mean starvation. He feared, and he believed facts proved, that it was not those who went about, but those who stayed at home, too proud to

"(i) When other charities are unable to afford the requisite assistance to such cases (cases of temporary distress, with evidence of good character and thrift), the Committees assist them, if the funds entrusted to them admit of this.

"(ii) The Committees cannot undertake to find the pensions which chronic cases need; but where individuals or special charities are willing to take charge of these, the Committees are ready to send them the names of persons ascertained to be deserving."

(5) Capt. Fortescue had given notice of the following amendment, viz.:

'That whereas at present great confusion exists in the minds, not only of the general public, but even of supporters of this Society, as to its functions in the matter of giving relief, it is advisable to take steps more completely to dissociate Charity Organisation from Charitable Relief.

'To this end, District Committees are requested to collect money, either for the working expenses of the Society or for relief, and to keep the two accounts distinct, and that after January 1, 1879, no grant to any District Committee for relief will be made by this Council (except money specially placed in its hands for the purpose of relief), but all grants will be considered as for working expenses; and, further, that it be a recommendation to District Committees to point out that, in collecting money for relief, no part of the money so collected is used for office expenses.'

beg, who were like to starve. When the offices of the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee were first opened, they had applications for bread all day long; the applications were carefully, and he believed the residents in that district would say wisely, sifted. Now they had eight applications there as against 939 in the City in the month of October. He considered the bread-giving a part of the work of the Poor Law. To give vagrants bread at the offices instead of pence in the street was not doing a better, but rather a 'less bad' thing. If the work was Poor Law work the Society should leave the responsibility of it on the Poor Law.

Mr. J. R. Hollond was of opinion that the majority of these cases should be left to the Poor Law. The Paddington Committee acted on the rule that a man who had a meal in the morning and evening was not an 'absolutely hungry' man. They did not therefore give bread to those who had slept at the casual wards. They had only three vagrants last month. The statement in the Manual was clear, and a sufficient guide to the charity agent. It was as follows:—

The local Poor Law authorities have ample power to relieve ordinary mendicants, but the Charity Agents are allowed, in cases of absolute hunger, to give bread to be eaten on the spot.

The practice of Relieving Officers, in accordance with the injunctions of the Boards of Guardians, was in many cases, to relieve with bread those only who had slept the previous night in their district. The Local Government Board would not, he believed, recognise any such distinction. He moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Captain Fortescue, viz.:—

That, while the Council has no desire to curtail the powers of District Committees in dealing with starving persons, it cannot recommend them, as a rule, to give bread to those who are frequenting the casual wards and, as such, receiving the relief which the Poor Law allows to such cases.

Rev. H. I. Cummins said the rule in the Manual had, he believed, been wisely adopted. The system of reference to the District Committee by ticket, and of giving bread there, had been most successful in such places as Blackheath. Before, the mendicants used to make the place unsafe; now he could say, as a resident at Blackheath, they caused little or no annoyance.

Mr. Simpson's motion would, however, if carried, have to be nugatory for the present at least. The City Committee, till last April, relieved but few vagrants. In fact, the direction in the Manual had become almost a dead letter. But in May there were 50 applications for bread; in June, 180; in July and August there was a large reduction, owing to the exodus from London for hop-picking, etc.; towards the end of September the numbers rose again, and there were 83 in that month. In October there were 939.

The bread was always eaten on the spot. Each applicant was asked his name, his business, where he had slept, where he was going, and some other questions, the answers to which were duly recorded. A pound of bread was given at first, but the Committee thought that this, without some check, was perhaps too great an attraction. They therefore made an arrangement by which the tickets for bread were procurable at the City police station only. At the police station the applicants were questioned as to their names, where they had last slept, &c., and were examined so as to find out whether they had money or food with them. They were also told that if their statements were found to be false they would be brought before the magistrates. To this men would not submit, unless they were really in want. The numbers, however, did not decrease. The amount of bread was reduced to half, then to one-third of a pound. The Committee also decided not to distribute bread between one and two o'clock. There had been a reduction in the number of applicants, but they were still exceedingly numerous.

The Committee had inquired into the cases of some, and found one or two to be most deserving. They had been able to start in business one who was a foreigner. He had himself questioned many. They were not men ready to drop down from starvation; but they were in want, and appeared to be, in many cases, working men. Some may have falsely stated that they had not slept in metropolitan casual wards. Yet the fact remained that, notwithstanding strict supervision, the bread supplied a want—the want of many who seemed to be respectable.

With regard to the Poor Law, from inquiries he had made, it appeared that the Guardians at one time relieved with bread and soup

in the middle of the day; but found it better to give the practice up. At present he believed that (as a matter of law), if a Relieving Officer refused bread to a vagrant, who in consequence died of starvation, he would be liable to an action for manslaughter.

Any retraction by the Society of the rule in the Manual would give an impulse to street-begging; and if cases of real destitution occurred, the District Committees should take advantage of the rule, to carry out their work of assistance. Letters on the subject of the increase of vagrancy had been addressed to the District Committees and Country Mendicity Societies; arrangements were being made for a deputation to the Local Government Board, and he hoped that the Council would postpone its decision till further information had been collected.

Mr. Alan Lambert endorsed much of what Mr. Cummins had said. The Council should consider the position of suburban Committees, such as Wandsworth, where the applicant for bread, if referred to the Relieving Officer, might have to go four miles. A sturdy vagabond might not suffer, perhaps, but there were some that would. The action of the Wandsworth Committee had largely reduced mendicity, and Mr. Hollond's amendment, no less than the Rev. R. J. Simpson's motion, would greatly cripple their usefulness. It was the principle of the Poor Law to take something in return for what it gave; for the morning and evening meal, work was required. It would not be likely to give, perhaps ought not to give, a midday meal *gratis*.

Mr. Barrington moved the previous question. The question had been recently considered, and the Council had decided that a deputation should wait upon the President of the Local Government Board. A Committee had been appointed by the Administrative Committee, in accordance with the instructions of Council, to collect information, &c.

Colonel Prendergast opposed both motion and amendment; because he did not wish the rules agreed upon by the Council and laid down in the Manual to be lightly set aside; because the District Committees were finding, but had not yet found, a better mode of dealing with these cases; because the circumstances of Committees were different, and the uniformity aimed at in Mr. Hollond's amendment was not attainable, while Mr. W. W. Wood's amendment, reducing such cases to *resident* cases only, did not touch the point; and lastly because, though the Poor Law might be able to do the work, it was not for charity needlessly to hand over any part of what might be proved to fall within its sphere to the Poor Law.

Mr. C. L. Corkran suggested that some system of labour in return for work might be organised by the District Committees.

Mr. Bouefield referred to an arrangement made with the Kensington Board of Guardians by the Committee in that district, viz. that the Committee should refer vagrants to the Guardians, who would give them a pound of bread and an hour's work. This had not been found a restriction; all or almost all were ready to go to the workhouse and do the hour's work. He thought Committees should try expedients, and thus ascertain the best method of dealing with this class of applicants. The arrangement of the Kensington Committee might have been continued, but the Guardians could not obtain the sanction of the Local Government Board for it.

Mr. Burdett Roberts said that the Society had been most successful in checking street vagrancy; and it would be a mistake to alter its rules on the subject hastily.

After a few words from Capt. Fortescue, it was suggested that the motion and amendments should be referred to the Committee alluded to by Mr. Barrington. The Chairman pointed out that the increase in metropolitan vagrancy was but slight in comparison with the figures quoted by Mr. Cummins. More information was required as to the causes of this increase. From inquiries he had made, he found that the Guardians gave most varying instructions to the Relieving Officers as to the treatment of these cases.

After some further discussion, in which Capt. Fortescue, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. Barrington, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. Alan Lambert, and Rev. H. F. Mallet joined, it was agreed to refer the motion and amendments to the Committee.

The Council then adjourned.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE PAPERS. Price 3d. per set.
1. General Objects. 2. Loans. 4. Books and Forms. 5. Suggested Bye-Laws. 6. Information.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending November 17, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.	Annual:—	£	s.	d.
Dallas, R. C. F., Esq.	10	10	0	Ames, E. L., Esq.	5	0	0
Gosset, Miss	0	2	6	Berman, Messrs. & Co.	1	1	0
Hoare, H. G., Esq.	3	3	0	Peel, Mrs.	1	0	0
Peto, H., Esq.	5	0	0				
Rooper, T. G., Esq.	5	0	0				

AN INCIDENT.

A LITTLE WAIF.—Caroline Everett, an interesting-looking little girl of nine years of age, was charged on remand with being found wandering without visible means of subsistence. Francis Browne, an officer of the London School Board, said that he had received information from a gentleman connected with the Charity Organisation Society, that the child had been deserted by her mother, and that she had since been wandering about, sleeping and living anyhow, or where she could. She was brought to witness, and he, thinking it was the best thing that could be done, charged her, with a view to getting her placed somewhere where she could be properly looked after. Mr. De Rutzen expressed some surprise at the manner in which the child was dressed, and her nice appearance generally. Mr. Logan, superintendent of the London School Board, informed his worship that this was due to the kindness of Mr. Graham, of the Charity Organisation Society, who had very kindly procured clothes for the little waif, and had taken care of her for the past week. After some discussion, Mr. De Rutzen said that he thought the best thing he could do would be to remand the child to the workhouse for a week, during which time a school could be found for her. On hearing this stern judicial decree the poor girl began to cry bitterly, evidently not relishing the prospect at all. Mr. Graham, however, came to the rescue again, and said that he would take the little one home with him for the week. Mr. De Rutzen offered no objection to that course, and expressed his opinion that Mr. Graham was acting with very great kindness in the matter. Little Carry then dried her eyes and tripped out of court, having fast hold of her protector's hand.—*East London Observer*, November 17, 1877.

HINTS AND EXPERIENCES.—No. XV.

THE DISTRICT VISITOR'S DUTY.—It is his duty, as the friend of the poor, and consulting for their best interest, to point out the other resources which they should draw, apart from and if possible anterior to his own liberality—as, first and foremost, to stimulate their own industry or suggest how they might abridge their expenditure, thus teaching them how far they can help themselves; and secondly, if this be insufficient, to seek after their relatives, and with all proper delicacy on the one hand yet frankness and fidelity on the other, recommend the case to them, telling them how right it is that one should help those of his own kindred; and thirdly, if there be a shortness or insufficiency still, and so as yet to exceed either the means or inclination of the visitor fully to provide for, to seek for aid in this work of charity from neighbours, and specially from those whose confidence he has won, and whose moral weight in their own little vicinity might secure a general approval and willing co-operation for all his views.—*The Sufficiency of the Parochial System*, by Dr. Chalmers.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of November 1877 was 38,656, and 40,894 received outdoor relief, making a total of 79,550. This was an increase of 355 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 87, 3,729, and 12,479 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 746. This was a decrease of 52 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 82 on the corresponding day of last year.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 237.

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 29, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Nov. 29	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, Dec. 3	3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, „ 4	2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
Wednesday „ 5	2.30 P.M., Co-operation Sub-Committee.
	5 P.M., Medical Committee.
Thursday „ 6	3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

POPLAR.—This Committee would be glad of assistance in the following case:—A girl of 5, the daughter of respectable parents (the father is a member of a benefit club) is ill with spinal paralysis. Admission to the National Orthopaedic Hospital has been obtained for her—the case not being considered quite hopeless. A payment of 7s. 6d. a week, or about £18. 4s. 6d. for, at least, one year is required. The Committee are endeavouring to obtain this sum from private and other sources.

The number of the case is 1,114. Communications should be directed to the Hon. Secretary, Poplar Committee, 129 East India Dock Road, E.

ST. GILES' AND BLOOMSBURY.—'Employment wanted for an applicant, aged 33, with a wife and family. He has been prevented by failing sight from continuing in his occupation as a compositor; but the doctor holds out hope of his ultimate recovery. He would be capable of taking work not making exceptional demands upon his eyesight.' Communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, 7 Arthur Street, Oxford Street, W.C.

CONVALESCENT AND OTHER LETTERS.—An in-patient letter for the Brompton Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, and a letter for the Metropolitan Convalescent Institution can be had by District Committees, on application at the office of the Council. The letters are only available for the present year.

STANDING SUB-COMMITTEES.—The Mendicity Sub-Committee will continue its weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 2.30 P.M. Special notices of meetings will, for the present, be sent to the members of the Districts, Collection and Finance, and Co-operation Sub-Committees.

OFFICE HOURS.—Council Offices, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C. The office is open daily from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., and on Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Persons wishing to see the Secretary, except by special appointment, are requested to call between the hours of 11 A.M. and 1 P.M., on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays.

Applications for employment under the Society should be made between the hours of 11 A.M. and 1 P.M., on the above-mentioned days.

REPORT ON ADEQUATE RELIEF.—Copies of this Report can be had, on application to the Secretary to the Council, by Members of Council.

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES.—District Committees, which have not yet done so, are requested to send to the Secretary by December 8, notes of cases of interest dealt with by them during the past month, for insertion in the next monthly Reporter.

LECTURES.—The Secretary of the Council will, in accordance with instructions from the Administrative Committee, be glad to make arrangements with District Committees for one or more popular lectures, by competent persons, on general subjects connected with Charity, Provident Habits, and the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.

CAUTION TO THE CHARITABLE.—On page 189 will be found a caution respecting a man of the name of Cheslett, the particulars respecting whom have been forwarded to us by the Secretary to the Seamen's Hospital Society, Greenwich.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—A Warning.—The Hon. Secretary of this Committee has forwarded the following notice:—

A tall, well-dressed, elderly man, having a military appearance, giving the name of Russel, has been calling on several ladies. He represents himself sometimes as sent by one of the churchwardens or by the rector, sometimes as a Guardian or Poor Law Inspector. His object is to collect money for the education of a blind child, or something of the same sort. He gives no address, but in one instance gave the name and address of the blind child. The address was visited but no blind child could be found.

GREENWICH.—The annual meeting of this Committee will be held at 3 P.M., December 3.

HACKNEY.—Mr. E. Leigh Bennett has been elected one of the Hon. Secretaries of this Committee, vice Mr. Edward Bernard resigned.

LAMBETH.—Mr. W. H. Gurney Salter has been elected one of the Hon. Secretaries of this Committee vice Mr. Heathcote Long.

ISLINGTON.—Mr. Henry FitzRoy has been appointed Hon. Assistant Secretary of this Committee for six months.

STEPNEY.—Rev. H. Burchell Herne has been elected one of the Representatives of this Committee.

LECTURE ON THRIFT.—Mr. H. N. Hoare will, on Monday, Dec. 3, deliver a Lecture on 'A Penny Saved is a Penny Gained; or, Investments of the Working Classes,' at the St. Andrew's National Schools, Southam Street, Kensal Road, Kensal Town. The nearest underground station is Westbourne Park. The chair will be taken at 8 P.M. Admission is free.

ASSOCIATION FOR BEFRIENDING YOUNG SERVANTS.—The annual meeting of this Association will be held at the rooms of the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, at 2.30 on Tuesday, December 11. The Dean of Westminster, the Right Hon. James Stanfeld, M.P., and others, will address the meeting.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, the 3rd Dec. :

I. To consider the following recommendations of the Administrative Committee on the reference to them from Council of 19th November,* viz. :
'That Lord Shaftesbury be invited to accept the post of Chairman of Council.'

II. Rev. H. I. Cummins to continue the debate on Mr. E. Bond's motion* viz. :

'(1) That the whole of the Executive work of the Central Office be put under one Secretary.

'(2) That with that view the services of the Organising Secretary be dispensed with.'

III. Mr. A. H. Hill to move :—

'That, on the return of Mr. Loch to his secretarial duties, the departmental arrangements of the Society recommended by the Committee on Office Arrangements be at once carried out, and that the Inquiry and Mendicity Department be henceforward subordinated to the General Purposes Office.'

IV. Mr. W. F. Lawrence to move a series of resolutions respecting Adequate Relief. See *Reporter*, No. 236, p. 183.

V. Hon. R. C. Grosvenor to move :—

'That, in the opinion of the Council of this Society, it has become necessary to alter the existing rules respecting the Constitution of the Society, with a view to the establishment of a smaller representative Governing Body, which shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Society; and that for this purpose the Council are of opinion that a special meeting of the members of the Society ought, as soon as possible, to be convened.'

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, November 26, at 3 P.M.

Present :—General Cavenagh (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON :—J. W. Probyn, Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Lathbury, F. J. S. Edgecombe.

PADDINGTON :—Sir R. M. Stephenson, Geo. Charles, J. R. Hollond.

CHelsea :—R. A. Aspinall, Capt. Boyce, Dr. Daniel, Miss M. Nattall, W. S. Seton-Karr.

ST. GEORGE'S :—Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Hon. J. Lawrence, Major FitzRoy, Hon. R. C. Moreton.

ST. JAMES' & SOHO (Westminster Union) :—F. C. Mills, W. Bousfield.

ST. MARYLEBONE :—The Earl of Lichfield, Major-General Gardiner, Miss O. Hill, Major-General Blunt, S. G. Gordon-Robbins.

HAMPSTAD :—C. E. Maurice, E. Bond, Rev. H. F. Mallet.

NORTH ST. PANCRAZ :—A. N. Butt.

SOUTH ST. PANCRAZ :—C. A. Reiss, Miss Gibson, Miss Collett.

ISLINGTON :—F. B. Roberts, H. Matthews, Lady Wilson, H. FitzRoy.

HACKNEY :—T. Copeman, E. Bennett.

ST. GILES :—H. M. Keary, W. F. Lawrence, Hamilton Hoare, R. L. Kenyon.

STRAND :—Rev. R. J. Simpson, W. W. Wood.

HOLBORN :—W. Sheepshanks, Captain Fortescue, G. B. Baker.

CTTY :—Rev. H. I. Cummins.

SHOREDITCH :—Rev. H. G. Henderson, J. L. Forster.

BETHNAL GREEN :—J. Sapsford, Rev. C. Kirtan.

WHITECHAPEL :—C. L. Corkran, C. Lavers Smith, Rev. S. A. Barnett, O. Tottle.

ST. GEORGE'S EAST :—Rev. Harry Jones, A. G. Crowder, Major Meadows, Rev. S. A. T. Yates.

STEPNEY :—Rev. H. Burchell-Herne, A. C. Mitchell, Mrs. Barnett, E. Peters.

MILN END :—Major Nares, H. N. Dowson.

POPLAR :—A. D. Graham, J. H. Allen, R. Ellis, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor.

ST. SAVIOUR'S :—F. B. Montgomery, W. F. Smith, R. Barrington.

ST. OLAVE'S :—W. F. Beauford, Captain Leeson.

LAMBETH :—D. Brown, W. H. G. Salter, W. M. Venning.

Brixton :—P. E. Nicholson, Rev. A. Robertson.

WANDSWORTH :—Rev. C. Carruthers, A. Lambert, Miss Gurney.

CAMBERWELL :—T. Galabin.

DEPTFORD :—H. J. Cornish, D. Carpenter.

WOOLWICH :—S. Topley, Rev. J. Bond.

LEWISHAM :—J. J. Bramley, R. V. Tidman.

ELTHAM :—Admiral Gardner.

SYDENHAM :—Hon. and Rev. Canon Legg, W. Day, C. A. Barry, H. Reid.

VICE-CHAIRMAN :—A. H. Hill.

METROPOLITAN VISITING RELIEF ASSOCIATION :—Rev. S. A. Walrond.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS :—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley, G. C. T. Barley, Stephen Fuller, C. A. Miner.

TOTAL :—102.

Secretary :—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, November 22. There had been present :—

Mr. E. Peters, and subsequently Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the chair; Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Lt.-Col. Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. S. A. Barnett, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Miss Collett, Miss O. Hill, Messrs. Barrington, Brown, Bond, Copeman, Crowder, Edgecombe, Hoare, Lambert, Lawrence, Miner, Maurice, Probyn, Praed, Robbins, Roberts, and Tidman.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on November 20 there had been present :—

Major FitzRoy in the chair; Mrs. Lathbury, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Messrs. Barrington, Edgecombe, Hollond, and Lewes; Mr. H. FitzRoy, visitor.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on November 20 there had been present :—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall in the chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, and Mr. Bevan.

THE FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE had met on Wednesday, the 21st November. There had been present :—

General Cavenagh in the chair; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Nares, Messrs. Miner, Peters, and Roberts.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending November 17 the receipts had been £30. 16s. 6d. for the General Fund, that there had been no receipts for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £544. 14s. 2d. and £18. 0s. 9d. respectively, the whole of the latter sum being reserved to meet expenditure on School Board cases.

RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP.

Lord Lichfield thanked the Council for the resolution which they had passed at their last meeting, on accepting his resignation.

WORK OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

The Administrative Committee having, in accordance with the 27th Bye-law, arranged that the motion of which Mr. E. Bond had given notice should be taken first, the motion of which Mr. Bousfield had given notice, viz. :—

That the motion of which Mr. Bond had given notice be taken as urgent for the meeting of Council on the 26th inst.

was not put.

Mr. Bond obtained leave to alter the wording of the first part of his motion, so that instead of reading thus :—

That all departments of the Society's work be placed under one head, and that with that view the services of the Organising Secretary be dispensed with—

it read as follows, viz. :—

That the whole of the executive work of the Central Office be placed under one Secretary, and that with that view the services of the Organising Secretary be dispensed with.

It was agreed that the motion should be put in two parts (see notice of 'Council Business.')

After a few remarks from the Chairman, a letter from Mr. H. B. Praed, in favour of the motion, was read.

* The estimated liabilities were about £1,200, exclusive of £300 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

* See *Reporter* No. 236, p. 184.

Major FitzRoy gave notice that in the event of Mr. Bond's motion being carried, he would move the following rider:—

On and after June 1, 1878, and that leave of absence be granted to the Organising Secretary from 1st January next to that date.

Mr. Bond then moved, and Rev. S. A. Barnett seconded, the motion in the above terms.

Mr. C. L. Cockran, Mr. Bousfield, Mr. C. E. Maurice, and Miss Octavia Hill supported the motion.

Rev. H. F. Mallet, Admiral Gardner, Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, Mr. A. H. Hill, Rev. R. S. A. Walrond, Mr. W. W. Wood, Mr. R. V. Tidman, Lord Lichfield, and Sir Charles Trevelyan, spoke against the motion, either generally, or in reference to the latter part.

Major FitzRoy explained shortly some of the work of the Organising Secretary's department.

Lord Lichfield urged that the former part of the motion be referred to the Administrative Committee.

Mr. Bond was unwilling to give an opening for the protracted and possibly personal discussion which the reference to the Administrative Committee would probably involve. The decision lay really in the hands of the Council.

Mr. J. R. Hollond was in favour of Lord Lichfield's suggestion, but proposed that the question should be referred to a special committee.

Subsequently, Rev. H. I. Cummins, seconded by Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, moved the adjournment of the debate, which was supported by Rev. R. J. Simpson and Mr. A. D. Graham, and opposed by Mr. H. J. Cornish, but eventually carried.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending November 24, 1877:—

Donations:—	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Beaumont & Son, Messrs.	3	3	0	Buxton, F. W., Esq.	3	3	0
Burnett, Sir R., Bart.	10	10	0	Phillips, Miss	10	0	0
Lister, G. D., Esq.	2	2	0	District Committee Aid			
Trevelyan, Sir C. E., Bt.				Fund:—			
K.C.B. (special)	100	0	0	Herne, Rev. H. F. H. Bur-			
Annual:—				chell (a)	2	2	0
Barnard, H., Esq.	1	1	0	St. Marylebone Committee	100	0	0

CAUTION TO THE CHARITABLE.

Mr. H. T. Cheslett, the person referred to in the following letter which appears in the *Birmingham Daily Post* of the 22nd inst., having obtained money by false pretences from several supporters of the Seamen's Hospital Society, late Dreadnought, Greenwich, which has agencies in many of the chief towns in the United Kingdom, we are requested to state for the protection of the public that the person in question was dismissed for misconduct a fortnight since. H. T. Cheslett, has, therefore, no connection whatever with the charity in question:—*A CASE OF IMPOSTURE.*—To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.—Sir,—Allow me to put your readers on their guard against a respectable-looking, bald-headed, middle-aged man, named Cheslett, who is obtaining money under false pretences. He called at the Glassworks on Saturday, and asked for the gift of 10s., to enable him to complete his journey to London. He stated that he had been employed as assistant clerk in the office of the Seaman's Hospital (late Dreadnought) at Greenwich, and had recently left, because there was no further need of his services. He presented a neat card, with his name and address at the hospital, but took good care to say that he had no longer right to make use of that card. I gave him the 10s., but, upon further consideration, decided yesterday to write to the secretary, Mr. F. C. Burdett, at the hospital, and have this morning received a telegram to the effect that "Cheslett is an impostor," and has got money in like manner from others. His excuse was that he had been to Liverpool to look after a situation, which he had failed to obtain, and had exhausted his resources.—Yours truly, R. L. CHANCE. Chad-hill, Edgbaston, November 21, 1877.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the second week of November 1877 was 38,784, and 41,089 received outdoor relief, making a total of 79,873. This was an increase of 323 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 689, 3,867, and 12,281 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 802. This was an increase of 56 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 121 on the corresponding day of last year.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

HACKNEY.—*Annual Meeting.*—The annual meeting of this Committee was held on the 12th inst. There was a good attendance. The Chairman, Mr. Robert King, in opening the proceedings, said, after alluding to various topics:—

'New remedies for existing evils always at first meet with great opposition, and it is long before they are received favourably, but, if founded on truth, gradually they gravitate to the masses and become the accepted principles of society. It is thus with the plans for the organisation of charity: the great imposture that existed and preyed upon the charitable called aloud for remedy; it increased to such an extent that local committees started into existence for its suppression, and these, not without great opposition, spread over the whole metropolis, and, for the sake of concert, and for statistical purposes, were joined to a central office.

'We have arrived at this stage of our history that we are recognised by society as filling a useful place, and are used by the charitable to a great and increasing extent, and a feeling is arising that, when a subscriber sends a case to the Society, all responsibility there ends, except a hostile criticism that the one who was relieved was not lifted out of his misery and placed in a position not again to require help—as though a simple resolution of a committee and an ordinary grant could at once remove the causes of failure from that life which possibly might be found (could the causes be traced far into the past) to be the result, perhaps, of evil companionship at school, or of the bad example of a brother or sister, a father or mother.

'There can be no doubt that the constant use of our agency by the charitable has a tendency to lessen the feeling of responsibility, by withdrawing the charitable from contact with suffering, and I must entreat everyone who sends us cases not to let their interest cease there; as far distant, I hope, may be the day when the great sympathy that is now felt for the suffering poor may be in the least lessened. I have again to urge all who have to administer charity funds in this large parish to use the information we have obtained by extended inquiry; we shall not say, "What are you doing?" but, "Come and see what we and others are doing, so that your charity may not be wrongly bestowed."

'In making an annual report of a society like this, whose object is the amelioration of the poor, it is most gratifying to be able to announce progressive work. The influence of the School Board of London is now unmistakably shown by the report of the Governor of Holloway Prison, who states that "The juvenile criminal population has yearly decreased, so that, instead of 136 males and 26 females received in 1869, the number in the present year has been only 28 males and no females"; and the report attributes the decrease to the School Board. Now, when we think that in every town and village in the Kingdom the School Act is being enforced with like results, we can estimate but faintly the enormous influence that will affect the rising population. The temperance movement is making progress, and many are joining the ranks, men of moderate habits giving up their little that they may speak with greater force to those who indulge in excess—the cause of most of the misery of great towns. These signs are cheerful, and bid us look forward with hope and not despair; and I conclude in the words of the great Arnold: "Let us work with the firm hope of success, but with the feeling that we have not succeeded."

NORTH ST. PANCRAS.—*Vagrancy.*—Mr. A. N. Butt, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the North St. Pancras Committee, writes as follows:—

'As I did not arrive until very late at the Council meeting to-day, and had no opportunity of speaking on the subject of tramps, I shall be glad if you will allow me to state the plan we have adopted of dealing with them. It has met with complete success, and, therefore, I hope the suggestion may be useful to other Committees.

'Our office is seldom visited by vagrants; but a short time ago they suddenly appeared in considerable numbers. Most, if not all of them, collect in the latter part of the morning. From this we surmised that they were casuals, who, having performed the allotted work since breakfast, found it agreeable to lunch at our expense. We therefore instructed our agent to obtain the necessary permission to visit the parish stone-yard early every morning to take a look round. From the first day this was done the applications ceased altogether.'*

BATTERSEA.—*Collections in Places of Worship.*—The Hon. Secretary of the Battersea Committee writes, that collections in aid of the funds of that Committee will be made in several places of Worship in the parish on Sunday, 9th December.

PROVINCIAL.

BRIGHTON.—The Brighton Charity Organisation Society have adopted the plan of publishing monthly leaflets, which are issued gratis. That for October is headed with the address and office hours of the Society. Then

* See Reporter, No. 236, p. 185.

follow a list of the honorary and other officials of the Society, a few remarks respecting the objects, work, membership, and general arrangements of the Society, a classified list of cases 'during the year 1877-78, to the end of last month,' an abstract of accounts to the end of the month, a few 'notes,' and three illustrative cases. The notes state that the Society have recently established a fund for the relief of deserving cases. 'All contributions to it are applied in full without any deduction whatever; the whole of the expenses of investigating the cases and of seeing to the application of the relief granted (which is always given in kind, when practicable) being borne by the general funds of the Society.'

The leaflet is short, clearly printed, and easily read. District Committees may find the publication of similar sheets of good service in bringing the work of the Society to the notice of the residents in their districts. A few copies can be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Council.

RETURNS OF SCHOOL BOARD CASES FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1877.

Seven District Committees had no cases:—

Hampstead | Paddington | Eltham | Brixton | Sydenham
Lewisham | Stepney.

Three District Committees expended no money on the relief of cases:—

Wandsworth | Poplar | St. Marylebone.

Twenty-nine District Committees expended money on the relief of cases:—

No money expended	Money expended	Total number of cases		Amounts expended.
				£ s. d.
11	4	15	Kensington	3 5 9
—	16	16	Fulham	48 18 7
1	9	10	Chelsea	5 11 8
4	3	7	St. George's (Hanover Square)	1 16 0
5	4	9	St. James's and Soho	5 4 9
1	4	5	North St. Pancras	3 7 3
1	7	8	South St. Pancras	22 18 9
4	9	13	Islington	23 9 5
—	2	2	Hackney	2 4 9
2	5	7	St. Giles and Bloomsbury	3 19 3
3	5	8	Strand	3 4 3
5	8	13	Holborn	5 17 0
1	9	10	City	15 6 0
12	11	23	Shoreditch	6 15 0
35	11	46	Bethnal Green	14 7 11
2	2	4	Whitechapel	2 5 8
2	3	5	St. George's (East)	1 3 0
3	1	4	Mill End	0 16 9
8	5	13	St. Saviour's	1 16 1
2	2	4	Newington	0 12 9
5	13	18	St. Olave's	10 11 10
4	11	15	Lambeth	9 8 5
1	6	7	Battersea	4 14 2
2	4	6	Camberwell (Grove Lane)	5 2 0
1	2	3	Do. (Peckham)	0 5 0
—	1	1	Greenwich	0 15 3
2	1	3	Deptford	0 3 7
—	1	1	Woolwich	0 6 8
—	1	1	Clapham	0 8 0
117*	160	277	Total	£204 16 3

November 22, 1877.

C. S. LOCH, Secretary.

* Of these:—

18 were dismissed, or unfavourably reported on as 'Not requiring relief.'
35 do. do. 'Undeserving.'
61 do. do. 'Ineligible.'
1 was recommended to the Guardians.
2 were do. Institutions or Local Agencies.

Total 117, being the number of cases upon which no money was expended.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

RICH AND POOR DISTRICTS.

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

DEAR SIR,—It is a little important just now that members should be well-informed as to the ability of Committees in the poorer districts to be self-supporting—self-supporting, that is to say, under the arrangement which precludes their collecting outside the area belonging to them.

During three years spent in the south and east of London, I have had some opportunities of watching the facts for myself, and also of hearing the views of others better qualified to express an opinion upon them.

I am bound to admit that the supposition with which I entered upon the work was a mistaken one. I believed—and I still believe—the principles and plan of the Society to be so excellent, that I thought they only required to be understood to command the support of the public. In regard to this last assurance I was utterly wrong.

Reasons exist in virtue of which the Charity Organisation Society cannot at present expect to be well supported by the middle classes, and, speaking generally, it is to the middle classes alone that we can look for funds in the poorer parts of London. A few wealthy employers of labour are of course to be found, but in the present state of public opinion we must expect that some of these will be hostile, or at least indifferent, whilst others plead that they have to look after their own people, and also that they have claims upon them in the suburbs where they live.

I must not take up your space by enumerating the *Reasons* above referred to, but they are, for the most part, closely related to one great fact of which the Charity Organisation Society has no reason to be ashamed. That fact is that we are a reforming Society, and therefore, like all reformers, in a minority. In our endeavour to work out and to propagate sound principles of relief, we must expect to be opposed by many who have not given much thought to the subject, not to speak of those, and they are not a few, who, from a variety of motives, are interested in administering charity upon unsound principles. For a long time to come we must expect to be supported chiefly by the upper classes; because it is mostly amongst them that persons are to be found, who have been led, either by the necessities of their position or by intelligent interest, to give the subject the consideration it requires.

The theory that District Committees should be self-supporting would have been an excellent one, if no Committees had been established until the districts had asked for them, for people may fairly be expected to pay what they very much desire to have. The theory would be good enough to go upon, even as things are, if only we were not ahead of middle class opinion; the middle class purse being quite deep enough for our modest wants, if we were permitted to draw upon it, but since we can count upon the sympathy only of the better educated and most disinterested section of the public, it is pure delusion to expect the poorer District Committees to be self-supporting.

Having shared the delusion, I am naturally disinclined to be hard upon it, and will content myself with pointing out that the reason why it enthrals so many respected members of the Charity Organisation Society is one which is at the root of many errors. Theory, uncorrected by experience, is the fertile mother of mistakes, and the tenacity with which this particular mistake is adhered to by gentlemen who have done good service at the Central and on the West End Committees, is due to the fact that they have not gone through a sufficient course of poor district experiences.

District Committees could probably be self-supporting if they collected outside their own area, which, of course, they would be obliged to do if told that they must not look to the Council for funds, but it would be a melancholy spectacle of disorganisation, if the West End were invaded by a straggling contingent of collectors, representing all the poorer districts of the metropolis!

I am, &c.

69 East India Dock Road, Nov. 16.

ALLEN D. GRAHAM.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the *Reporter* at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 238.

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 6, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Dec. 6 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Monday, " 10 ... 3 P.M., Council.
Tuesday, " 11 ... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
3.30 P.M., Districts Sub-Committee.
Thursday, " 13 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES.—District Committees, which have not yet done so, are requested to send to the Secretary by December 8, notes of cases of interest dealt with by them during the past month, for insertion in the next monthly *Reporter*.

LECTURES.—The Secretary of the Council will, in accordance with instructions from the Administrative Committee, be glad to make arrangements with District Committees for one or more popular lectures, by competent persons, on general subjects connected with Charity, Provident Habits, and the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.

PERSONAL WORK AMONG THE POOR.—The attention of District Committees is directed to the letter on this subject printed on page 177, No. 235. The letter was, in accordance with instructions from the Administrative Committee, printed in the *Reporter* only, and not issued as a circular.

OFFICE HOURS.—Council Offices, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.—The office is open daily from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., and on Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Persons wishing to see the Secretary, except by special appointment, are requested to call

between the hours of 11 A.M. and 1 P.M., on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays.

Applications for employment under the Society should be made between the hours of 11 A.M. and 1 P.M., on the above-mentioned days.

HAMPSTEAD.—The Annual Meeting of this Committee will be held on Monday, December 10, at 8 p.m. Hon. and Rev. W. H. Freemantle, rector of St. Mary's, Bryanstone Square, will take the chair.

PADDINGTON.—The office of Clerk at the Paddington Committee is vacant. Persons wishing to apply for it may obtain particulars, relating to the appointment, from the Hon. Secretary at the office.

ST. SAVIOUR'S.—The Rev. G. W. Berkeley has been elected one of the representatives of this Committee *vice* Rev. W. A. Richmond.

STRAND.—Captain Blunt has been elected second Hon. Secretary of this Committee.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, the 10th Dec.:

I. To appoint the members of the Special Committee on the work of the Central Office. (*See* resolution of Council, page 193).

II. (1) To consider the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee on the reference to them from Council of 19th November,* *viz.*: 'That Lord Shaftesbury be invited to accept the post of Chairman of Council.'

(2) To this recommendation Major-General Lynedoch Gardiner has given notice of the following amendment (Lord Lichfield having on the 3rd instant moved the adjournment of the debate on the recommendation), *viz.*:

'That in future the Chairman of the Council of this Society be elected annually, and that Lord Shaftesbury be asked to accept the office of Chairman for the year 1878.†'

III. To receive the Statement of the Barnardo Committee.

IV. To receive the Report of the Law Committee on the case of the Kensington Committee respecting the powers of the Administrative Committee.

V. To adopt recommendations of the Medical Committee:

(1) That Dr. Joseph Rogers be asked to become a member of the Medical Committee.

(2) That the Council approve and take part in a deputation to the Court of Aldermen now being arranged by a Committee of the British Medical Association, provided that they approve the statement on the subject of Metropolitan Medical Relief to be presented on the occasion by that Committee.

VI. Mr. A. H. Hill to move:

'That, on the return of Mr. Loch to his secretarial duties, the departmental arrangements of the Society recommended by the Committee on

* *See Reporter*, No. 236, p. 184.

† The sixth Rule of the Society is as follows:—

'There shall be a Chairman, Treasurer, and such Vice-Chairmen as the Council shall think fit, who shall be appointed by, and hold office during the pleasure of, the Council, and shall be *ex officio* members of Council.'

Office Arrangements be at once carried out, and that the Inquiry and Mendicity Department be henceforward subordinated to the General Purposes Office.*

VII. Mr. W. F. Lawrence to move a series of resolutions respecting Adequate Relief. See *Reporter*, No. 236, p. 183.

VIII. Hon. R. C. Grosvenor to move:

'That, in the opinion of the Council of this Society, it has become necessary to alter the existing rules respecting the Constitution of the Society, with a view to the establishment of a smaller representative Governing Body, which shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Society; and that for this purpose the Council are of opinion that a special meeting of the members of the Society ought, as soon as possible, to be convened.'

IX. Lord Lichfield to move:

'That when notice of a motion has been duly given and inserted in the *Reporter*, such motion shall not be withdrawn or altered without the consent of the Council.'*

X. Mr. F. D. Thornton to move:

'That after Thursday the 31st of January next, the meetings of the Administrative Committee be held on Fridays.'

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, December 3, at 3 P.M.

Present:—General Cavenagh and subsequently Mr. A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—Dr. F. Anderson, J. W. Probyn, F. J. S. Edgcombe, Mrs. Lathbury.

FULHAM:—Rev. H. Wilson, Miss E. Howes.Paddington:—Sir R. M. Stephenson, Geo. Charles, J. R. Holland.

CHELSEA:—R. A. Aspinall, Capt. Boyce, Dr. Daniel, W. S. Seton-Karr, Miss M. Nattali.

ST. GEORGE'S:—Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, Lieut.-Colonel Sanford, Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Major FitzRoy, Hon. R. C. Moreton.

ST. JAMES' & SOHO (Westminster Union):—W. Bevan, H. Feto, W. Bousfield, F. C. Mills.

ST. MARYLEBONE:—The Earl of Lichfield, S. G. Gordon-Robbins, Miss O. Hill, Major-General Gardiner, Major-General Blunt.

HAMPSTEAD:—E. Bond, C. E. Maurice, Rev. H. F. Mallet.

NORTH ST. PANCRA'S:—T. J. Maude, A. N. Butt.

SOUTH ST. PANCRA'S:—C. A. Reiss, Miss Gibson.

ISLINGTON:—F. B. Roberts, Lady Wilson, H. FitzRoy, H. Mathews.

HACKNEY:—E. Leigh Bennett, T. Cope-man.

ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare, H. M. Keary, R. L. Kenyon, W. F. Lawrence.

STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, H. H. Hill, Capt. Blunt, W. W. Wood.

HOLBORN:—Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, Capt. Fortescue, W. Sheepshanks, G. B. Baker.

CITY:—Rev. H. I. Cummins.

SHOREDITCH:—J. L. Forster. BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. C. Kirton, J. Barber.

WHITECHAPEL:—Rev. S. A. Barnett, Rev. A. Wedgwood, C. L. Smith, O. Tottle. ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Rev. Harry Jones, A. G. Crowder, Major Meadows, Rev. S. A. T. Yates.

STEPNEY:—A. C. Mitchell, E. Peters, Mrs. S. A. Barnett.

MILE END:—Major Nares, Hon. H. B. Scott, H. N. Dowson.

POPLAR:—Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, J. H. Allen, R. Ellis.

ST. SAVOIR'S:—F. B. Montgomerie, W. F. Smith, Rev. G. W. Berksley, E. Barrington.

ST. OLAVE'S:—W. F. Beauford. LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown, W. H. G. Salter, W. M. Venning.

BRIXTON:—Rev. A. Robertson, P. E. Nicholson.

WANDSWORTH:—Rev. C. Carruthers, Miss H. Gurney, A. Lambert.

CLAPHAM:—S. Etches. CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.

DEPTFORD:—Capt. Cassan, H. F. Cornish. WOOLWICH:—Rev. J. Bond.

LEWISHAM:—J. J. Brunley, R. V. Tidman. ELTHAM:—Rear-Admiral Gardner.

SYDENHAM:—H. Reid, W. Day. METROPOLITAN VISITING RELIEF ASSOCIATION:—Rev. M. S. A. Walrond.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, G. C. T. Bartley, Stephen Fuller.

TOTAL:—103.

Secretary:—C. S. Loch.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, November 29. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Holland in the chair; the Earl of Lichfield, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Captain Fortescue, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Rev. S. A. Barnett, Rev. H. F. Mallet, Mrs. Lathbury, Miss O. Hill; Messrs. Barrington, Brown, Copeman, Edgcombe, Fuller, Hill, Hoare, Lawrence, Mills, Miner, Maurice, Peters, Roberts, and Robbins.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending November 24 the receipts had been £129. 19s. for the General Fund, and £102. 2s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances† of the two funds on that day had been

* The 13th Bye-Law is as follows:—

'After a resolution or amendment has been moved and seconded, the same shall not be withdrawn without leave of the Council; but the mover may accept a modification of his resolution or amendment, with the consent of the Chairman.'

† The estimated liabilities were about £800, exclusive of £200 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

£273. 12s. 7d. and £120. 2s. 9d. respectively, £18. 12s. 5d. of the latter sum being reserved to meet expenditure on School Board cases.

GRANTS.—That they had made the following grants:—Holborn £15; Mile End £18; Newington £15; Shoreditch £10; Stepney £15; and Bethnal Green £15.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on November 27 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy in the chair; Mrs. Lathbury, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Messrs. Barrington, Bousfield, Edgcombe, and Lewes.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on November 27 there had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall in the chair; Major FitzRoy, and Mr. Bevan.

THE FINANCE AND COLLECTION SUB-COMMITTEE had met on Wednesday, the 28th November. There had been present:—

Mr. A. H. Hill in the chair; Sir R. M. Stephenson, Major Nares, Rev. H. I. Cummins, and Mr. F. B. Roberts.

QUARTERLY REPORT ON FINANCE.

The Report of the Finance and Collection Sub-Committee for the quarter ending 30th September last was read. It appeared that the donations on the General Fund had been £771, as against £782 in the corresponding quarter of 1876; and the subscriptions £185, as against £90. A sum of £250 had been contributed to the General Fund by District Committees. A loan of £300 had been obtained from Messrs. Coutts & Co. Loans from the General Fund to the District Committee Aid Fund had been £425, as against £200 in the corresponding quarter of last year. The general receipts on the District Committee Aid Fund had been £39, as against £63; the receipts from District Committees on this fund had in the Michaelmas quarter of 1876 been £363; but no sums had been received from District Committees on this fund in the corresponding quarter of 1877.

£113 less had been received from District Committees on the two funds; and £110 more paid in aid of District Committees. £514 had been thus distributed.

VAGRANCY.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe asked if members who were members of Boards of Guardians had found that there was any unusual pressure on the casual wards.

Rev. H. I. Cummins said that there was no such special pressure in the City.

Major-General Gardiner said that there had been an unusual number of admittances in Marylebone.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COUNCIL.

Sir Charles Trevelyan moved the adoption of the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee, viz.:—

That Lord Shaftesbury be invited to accept the post of Chairman of Council.

He said that Lord Shaftesbury was rightly and generally recognised as the representative of British charity. It was therefore most fitting that the Council should elect him as Chairman of the Council of the Charity Organisation Society. Questions of political economy had a close relation to the work of the Society, but, after all, the basis of the work was charity, and the constituents of the Society, whose confidence it was most essential that the Society should secure, were the charitable. It was frequently urged that the Society raised expectations it could not realise; that it inquired with a view to ascertaining demerits. The evidence for this was exceedingly slender. The Society was not so amenable to such strictures as was generally supposed. But the most effective answer to them would be the election of Lord Shaftesbury as Chairman of Council. In his speech at the annual meeting last year Lord Shaftesbury had said:—

All in all, I congratulate you upon the establishment of a Society like this, which places its hands on so many means of helping the needy, and acts so promptly in exposing the impostor. The longer you work the better will your operations become adapted to the wants of the people, and I trust that you will put manifestly forward that you are not merely a Society for repression, looking into the abuses which wrong alike the givers and the poor; but that you are, at the same time, a Society for the help of the deserving and industrious, not by the distribution of doles, but by the help which will place them above necessity and elevate them in all respects.

There could not be a more true and just statement of the objects of the Society than this.

Mr. A. H. Hill seconded the motion. He believed in that catholicity of spirit which prevailed in the Society, and which would gladly welcome Lord Shaftesbury as Chairman.

After some remarks from Mr. Russell Barrington, Major-General L. Gardiner, Mr. C. E. Maurice, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, and Captain Fortescue, Lord Lichfield, seconded by Rev. R. J. Simpson, moved the adjournment of the debate, General Gardiner giving notice of the following amendment, viz. :—

That in future the Chairman of the Council of this Society be elected annually, and that Lord Shaftesbury be asked to accept the office for the year 1878.

WORK OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

On the reopening of the discussion on this subject, letters, containing resolutions, were read from the Lambeth, St. Marylebone, and South St. Pancras Committees, together with a letter from Mr. J. Whitcombe.

Mr. E. Bond then stated that General Gardiner was about to give notice of an amendment, which in due course he would himself be ready to accept. The motion would then run as follows :—

That the whole of the executive work of the Central Office be put under one Secretary :

‘And that it be referred to a committee, consisting of General Cavenagh (as Chairman), the Earl of Lichfield, Mr. J. R. Hollond, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, and General Gardiner, to consider and report to Council as to carrying out this object.’

The latter paragraph would take the place of the words—

That with this view the services of the Organising Secretary be dispensed with.

After a short discussion, in which Rev. H. I. Cummins, Mr. E. Bond, Mr. A. G. Crowder, Mr. A. H. Hill, Mr. G. C. T. Bartley, Lord Lichfield, Mr. J. R. Hollond, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Rev. Harry Jones, Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, and Sir Charles Trevelyan joined, Rev. H. I. Cummins moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Mr. J. R. Hollond, viz. :—

That all the words after ‘that’ in the motion be omitted, in order to insert the following, viz. :—

‘The Council are of opinion that the question of dispensing with the services of an old and valued officer of the Society ought not to be mixed up with a proposal to regulate the relations of the two great departments of the Society’s work to each other, and they consider that no sufficient reasons have yet been shown for dispensing with the services of the Organising Secretary : but they are further of opinion that it is necessary to subordinate the work of Repressing Mendicancy to the more important work of Charity Organisation, and that it should be referred to a special committee to consider and report on the best means of accomplishing this.’

Mr. G. C. T. Bartley, Mr. Russell Barrington, Mr. Seton-Karr, Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, and Mr. H. H. Hill supported the amendment.

General Gardiner, in opposing the amendment moved by Rev. H. I. Cummins, gave notice of the following amendment, viz. :—

That all words after ‘one Secretary’ be struck out, and that in lieu thereof the following words be added :—

‘And that it be referred to a committee, consisting of General Cavenagh (as Chairman), the Earl of Lichfield, Mr. J. R. Hollond, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, and General Gardiner, to consider and report to the Council as to the best means of carrying out this object.’

Rev. C. Carruthers, Mr. Crowder, and Mr. W. Day opposed Mr. Cummins’ amendment.

Rev. R. J. Simpson gave notice of the following amendment :—

That the consideration of the question, whether the whole work of the Central Office should not be placed under one head, should be referred to the Administrative Committee, with the instruction that they should report on the subject to Council.

The Secretary having spoken shortly, Mr. Bond replied, a motion for the adjournment of the debate, moved by Dr. Daniel and seconded by Lord Lichfield, being withdrawn.

On a division being taken, the numbers in favour of the amendment, moved by Rev. H. I. Cummins, were 47 : those against the amendment were 40. The amendment having been accepted as a substantive motion, the other amendments were not put.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending December 1, 1877 :—

Donations :—			£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
Essex, The Earl of . . .	5	0	0			Wormald, J., Esq. . .	5	0	0		
Hampstead Committee (Collection, St. Peter's, Belsize Park) . . .	30	6	8			Eyre, G. J., Esq. . .	10	0	0		
Ditto . . .	10	0	0			<i>Annual :—</i>					
Lawrence, W. F., Esq. . .	5	0	0			Lawrence, W. F., Esq. . .	1	1	0		
Noble, Col. R. E. . .	2	0	0			<i>District Committee Aid</i>					
Payne, C., Esq. . .	1	1	0			<i>Fund :—</i>					
						Nares, Major E. D. . .	1	1	0		

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

POPULAR.—ANNUAL REPORT.—District Committee Work.—‘The circumstances which draw the attention of the public to the Society are often such as to bring into somewhat excessive prominence the action of the Central Office in respect to large general questions and matters of special temporary importance, and thus to obscure the fact that the chief work of the Society is that which is carried on at its District Offices, in the midst of the London poor, out of sight, for the most part, of the public press and of the world at large. What that work is, in some of its most important aspects, it is the purpose of the following pages to explain. To be occupied with it, to feel that from time to time some fellow-creature, stricken by undeserved misfortune, is raised, and comforted, and helped to renew the struggle of life; that some poor sufferer, afflicted by terrible bodily infirmity, is rescued from squalor and neglect, and placed where sympathy and skill can alleviate even if they cannot cure—these experiences give to the individual members of the Committee courage to carry on their tasks amidst much that is discouraging and even painful, and justify them in the belief that, if only they could really make clear to residents in Poplar what it is they are doing, and trying to do, there would be no necessity to go to their Central Office, or to the West End, for funds to prosecute the work. The careful reading of the Report by persons interested in the district is the more desired because the Committee have reason to suspect that their action is somewhat misunderstood, and the rules that guide them sometimes held to be unreasonably severe. It cannot be too emphatically repeated that the aim of the Charity Organisation Society is, not the suppression of charity, but the diversion of it; that is to say, the diversion of it from the parasite swarms of idlers and cadgers and malingerers by whom a charity dispensed without investigation is certain to be absorbed, to the deserving and afflicted poor, whose sorrows are real sorrows, whose distresses are the result, not of improvidence, waste, and dissipation, but of those calamities which none can be expected to foresee, and which it is the glory of true charity effectually to relieve.’

Principles of Decision.—‘A reference to the Classified List on page 6 will show that nearly half the applications made to the Committee during the year were rejected as “ineligible,” “undeserving,” or “not requiring relief.” The broad principle which has governed the decision in the majority of these cases has been plainly and tersely expressed by Mr. G. W. Hastings, a well-known authority in matters relating to the welfare of the people. He says :—“It is most unkind to do anything which will have the effect of inducing the bulk of the inhabitants of this country to be improvident, or careless, and so to bring themselves ultimately to destitution and misery.” This consideration it is which binds the Committee frequently to refuse assistance, even where the applicants are of fair character, when the distress arises from circumstances that might have been controlled or provided for. If a contrary policy were pursued, if the working-classes of London were to learn that a society existed for the purpose of saving them from the consequences of all ill-considered action, all improvident habits, then that society, however benevolent it might be in intention, would be, not merely no blessing to the people, but a positive curse. On the other hand, when the distress does not originate from some cause which the poor ought to deal with themselves, when it is due, not to vice or indolence, not to want of thrift or want of thought, not to lowness of wage or slowness of work (which latter evils in so far as they are chronic are the result of over-population), when, in a word, the distress comes from some exceptional misfortune, some—roughly speaking—non-preventable cause, then the Committee endeavour to remove it, no regard being had to money, time, or toil.’

Organisation Expenses.—‘Before leaving this point it may be well to notice its bearing upon an objection sometimes urged against the Society, that so large a part of its funds is spent upon mere machinery. Such an objection cannot, it is thought, be brought against a Committee which endeavours, in the manner described in this report, to secure for persons in distress the best help that can be obtained, both from other benevolent agencies and from the resources of private charity. It is true that a paid agent is em-

ployed, an office rented, and sundry other small expenses incurred, but, in return for this, a house is daily opened where any case of distress belonging to the district can be investigated, and where once a week a meeting takes place of the working members of the Committee, each of whom is pledged by the fact of his attendance to do his best to secure "fitting action in all cases." An attempt is here made to show what that "fitting action" means, and, from what has been already said, it must be sufficiently obvious that the balance-sheet is a very inadequate representation of the expenditure it involves.

The report contains several typical cases, with remarks on dealing with cases of illness and widowhood, which cannot fail to be of interest to those who are desirous of making their charity as far as possible remedial.

PROVINCIAL.

BRIGHTON.—Annual Meeting.—At the sixth annual meeting of the Brighton Charity Organisation Society, held on the 26th of November last, the Chairman the Mayor of Brighton—offered, as 'one of the trustees for the training ships . . . if his fellow trustees were agreeable . . . to send a ship to be stationed at Shoreham, so that Brighton might have a place to send her destitute boys to.'

In the annual report, which shows a steady increase of work, it is stated, 'in the relief of distress in the ranks of deserving poor, as well as those who by sudden and unlooked-for reverse of fortune, have been reduced to poverty, your Society has been able to do more than formerly, owing to the increased amount which has been placed at its disposal for purely charitable purposes. It is hoped that this charitable fund may be largely augmented in future. In those cases of gross imposition and fraud which, in pursuance of a public duty, your Society has felt bound to prosecute, not a single failure has occurred, although, unfortunately, from the reluctance of many persons to give evidence in open court, several flagrant cases of imposture have for the time evaded punishment. Still, the opinion of both residents and visitors seems to be unanimous that, since the establishment of the Society, Brighton has been free from the plague of beggars to an extent unknown in former years.'

'But beyond those operations of the Society which can be shown by statistical reports, the amount of work done in gradually forming public opinion on matters of such grave importance to the national welfare as the administration of the Poor Laws, the mode of dealing with that vagrant class which is the marvel of other countries and the disgrace of our own, and the condition of the labouring classes generally, the administration of the great medical charities, and questions of a like nature, is not to be estimated by any return of mere office work. That work of this kind is still to be done in Brighton, especially with reference to medical charities, seems probable, if the statement made in a late article in the *Quarterly Review*, October 1876 (headed "London Alms and London Pauperism"), that one in four of the whole population of this town is in receipt of gratuitous medical relief, is in any way founded on fact. It is a matter of regret that the report of a committee of this Society on medical charities, printed with the annual report of 1875, has not received that amount of consideration which the importance of the questions raised in it might seem to demand. Meantime, in furtherance of the object which your Society keeps steadily in view, it confidently recommends the extension of the system of provident dispensaries as one of the best means for improving the condition of the poorer classes.'

The Society has also, as we have good reason to believe, been highly instrumental in checking the action of collectors for spurious London charities.

We should be glad to know what steps—if any—have been taken to promote the formation of Parochial Councils or Committees of Relief in the various ecclesiastical districts of Brighton. One of the latest formed in the metropolis will be found fully described in the *Reporter* of 14 Dec. 1876, No. 198.

ORGANISATION NOTES.

ANOTHER EVIL OF PAWNBROKERS.—The pawn shop is, it has often been said, the poor man's bank. But it is not a savings bank. The conveniences it offers create a tendency to unthrift, and to all the evils that arise from unthrift. One of the most truly charitable acts, it is now generally acknowledged, is to place within the reach of the poor easy and secure means of saving their money, and obtaining a reasonable and not artificial rate of interest. The *Sanitary Record* of the 16th ult. points out another prevalent though not necessarily insurmountable evil. These two, among other instances, show how infectious diseases are spread, through pawnshops:—

'CASE 1.—Two sisters lived in a small village near London, but nearer to a country market town. One of these sisters was seized with the small-pox and died. The survivor, who was next to destitute, took some of the

deceased's clothes and the sheets and blankets off the mattress on which she died to the pawnbroker of the market town in question. The sheets were refused, as they were evidently dirty, but the blankets and the apparel were taken in. At the same time, on the same day, A. Z., a workman, pawned his jersey at the same place. He took that jersey out five days afterwards, and within a fortnight was also seized with the small-pox, of which, till then, there had been no case in the town. He recovered; but the outbreak of which his case was the commencement led to three deaths.

'CASE 2.—A servant, in service at Holloway, paid a visit to her mother who lived in the eastern district of London to spend her week's holiday with her. During her stay there she pawned a velvet jacket, which she redeemed the day before she returned to service. Soon afterwards her mistress's baby was seized with the small-pox, and mother and child died of the disease. The servant escaped.'

These and three other cases, the *Sanitary Record* states, have been very carefully inquired into, and while it acknowledges that 'many solutions of the difficulty at slight expense and trouble will offer themselves for consideration,' it writes that 'No better means could possibly be devised to spread such infectious diseases as are communicable by clothing than the pawnbrokers' shops. They are in truth veritable Exchanges of Disease, and the poorer the people, the more disease prevails amongst them, the livelier is the communication between infected and uninfected clothing and bedding.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the third week of November 1877 was 39,116, and 41,371 received outdoor relief, making a total of 80,487. This was an increase of 614 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 1,234, 3,969, and 12,275 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 812. This was an increase of 10 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and of 183 on the corresponding day of last year.

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METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RELIEF, a Paper read by Sir C. E. TRIMVELYAN at a Conference convened by the Charity Organisation Society, presided over by Dr. Acland; with Remarks by Sir W. Gull, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Sir R. Alcock, Mr. T. Holmes, and others.

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REPORT of a Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society on the Education and Care of Idiots, Imbeciles, and Harmless Lunatics; with the Proceedings of the Committee and Report of a Deputation on the subject to the President of the Local Government Board, January and May 1877.

London: LONGMANS & Co.; and at the Central Office of the Society, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

THE Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED BY THE
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No. 239. THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 13, 1877. MONTHLY NUMBER. PRICE 2d.

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The 'CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' is published weekly during the Sittings of Council; on the second Thursday in each month throughout the year a Double Number is published.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. LOCK, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Dec. 13 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
 Monday, „ 17 ... 3 P.M., **Council**.
 Tuesday, „ 18 ... 2.30 P.M., Mendicity Sub-Committee.
 Thursday „ 19 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

OFFICE HOURS.—*Council Offices, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.*
 —The office is open daily from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., and on Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Persons wishing to see the Secretary, *except by special appointment*, are requested to call between the hours of 11 A.M. and 1 P.M., on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays.

LECTURES.—The Secretary of the Council will, in accordance with instructions from the Administrative Committee, be glad to make arrangements with District Committees for one or more popular lectures, by competent persons, on general subjects connected with Charity, Provident Habits, and the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.

ST. SAVIOUR'S.—Mr. H. Hoper has been appointed one of the Hon. Secretaries of this Committee.

LEWISHAM, BLACKHEATH, AND LEE.—Mr. J. R. J. Bramly has been appointed joint Hon. Secretary with Mr. R. V. Tidman.

PADDINGTON.—Mr. George Charles has been appointed one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Committee, *vice* Mr. J. B. Curgenvén, resigned.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, the 17th Dec. :—

I. To adopt the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee :—

‘That the Council adjourn to January 14.’

II. To receive the Report of the Law Committee on the case of the Kensington Committee respecting the powers of the Administrative Committee.

III. To adopt recommendations of the Medical Committee :

(1) That Dr. Joseph Rogers be asked to become a member of the Medical Committee.

(2) That the Council approve and take part in a deputation to the Court of Aldermen now being arranged by a Committee of the British Medical Association, provided that they approve the statement on the subject of Metropolitan Medical Relief to be presented on the occasion by that Committee.

IV. Mr. W. F. Lawrence to move a series of resolutions respecting Adequate Relief. See *Reporter*, No. 236, p. 183.

V. Hon. R. C. Grosvenor to move :

‘That, in the opinion of the Council of this Society, it has become necessary to alter the existing rules respecting the constitution of the Society, with a view to the establishment of a smaller representative Governing Body, which shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Society; and that for this purpose the Council are of opinion that a special meeting of the members of the Society ought, as soon as possible, to be convened.’

VI. Lord Lichfield to move :

‘That when notice of a motion has been duly given and inserted in the *Reporter*, such motion shall not be withdrawn or altered without the consent of the Council.’

VII. Mr. F. D. Thornton to move :

‘That after Thursday, the 31st of January next, the meetings of the Administrative Committee be held on Fridays.’

VIII. Mr. J. R. Holland to move :

‘That Sir Arthur Hobhouse be appointed an additional member of Council.’

IX. Mr. F. J. S. Edcombe to move :

‘That such alterations be made in the Bye-laws as will make it clear that the Administrative Committee is a Sub-Committee of the Council, and

attach to it all the incidents of that position. And that it be referred to a Sub-Committee to carry into effect the above resolution.’†

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS.

The following, among other business, stands for the 20th inst., viz. :—

To consider the following recommendations of the Medical Committee to Council, viz. :

‘1. That, in the opinion of this Committee, it is advisable to appoint a Sub-Committee of this Committee, with a suitable agent placed at its disposal, for the purpose of extending and promoting the Provident Dispensaries in the metropolis.

‘2. That it is desirable that a separate fund be placed to the credit of this Committee for the purpose of carrying out its objects.’

HOSPITAL LETTERS.

Letters of recommendation to the following hospitals and institutions; can be obtained from the Secretary of the Council by the Honorary Secretary of any District Committee having suitable cases before it :—

In-patients :

King's College

North London

St. George's

Westminster

Metropolitan Conva-

lescent Institution

Hospital for Women and

Sick Children, Vincent

Square, Westminster

Hospital for Sick Chil-

dren, Great Ormond

Street

Victoria Hospital for

Sick Children, Chelsea

National Hospital for

Paralysed and Epilep-

tic, Queen's Square

Royal London Ophthal-

mic, Moorfields

Royal South London

Ophthalmic

St. John's Hospital for

Skin Diseases, Leices-

ter Square

London Homoeopathic

Ventnor Hospital for

Consumption

*British Lying-in Hos-

pital

City Dispensary

Royal Orthopaedic

Royal Infirmary for Wo-

men and Children

St. George's Hospital

St. Mary's Hospital

National Hospital for

Diseases of the Heart

Queen Adelaide's Dis-

pensary

Sussex County Hospital

*Royal Surrey County

Hospital

St. Peter's Convalescent

Home

*Hospital for Sick Chil-

dren (Brighton)

Hospital for Diseases of

Women and Children

Chelsea Hospital for

Women

Out-patients :

King's College

Middlesex, Lying-in Let-

ter

North London

Westminster

Hospital for Consump-

tion, Brompton

City of London, for

Diseases of the Chest

North London Consump-

tion

*Royal Hospital for Dis-

eases of the Chest,

City Road

New Hospital for Women

*British Lying-in Hos-

pital

Hospital for Sick Chil-

dren, Great Ormond

Street

North-Eastern Hospital

for Sick Children

Infirmary for Epilepsy

and Paralysis

Royal South London

Ophthalmic

Royal Orthopaedic, Hat-

ton Garden

London Homoeopathic

Dental Hospital

Chelsea, Brompton, and

Belgrave Dispensary

Royal Fimlico Dispensary

Royal Sea Bathing In-

firmmary, Margate

Belgrave Hospital for

Children

City Dispensary

British Lying-in Hos-

pital

Chelsea Hospital for

Women

East London Hospital for

Sick Children and Dis-

pensary for Women

National Hospital for

Paralysed and Epilep-

tic, Queen's Square

Public Dispensary (Sto-

hope Street)

Royal London Ophthal-

mic Hospital for Wo-

men and Children

St. Mary's Hospital

*Victoria Hospital for

Sick Children

Eveling Hospital

National Hospital for

Diseases of the Heart

Queen Adelaide's Dis-

pensary

Sussex County Hospital

Provident Surgical Ap-

pliance Society

Hospital for Diseases of

Women and Children

City of London Dispen-

sary

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buck-
 ingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, December 10, at 3 P.M.

Present :—A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON :—Dr. Anderson, J. W. Pro-
 byn, Mrs. Lathbury, F. J. S. Edcombe.

FULHAM :—Miss Howes.

PADDINGTON :—Sir R. M. Stephenson,
 J. R. Holland, Geo. Charles.

CHELSEA :—Dr. Daniel, Capt. Boyce.
 ST. GEORGE'S :—Lieut.-Col. Prendergast,
 Hon. J. H. Lawrence, Major FitzRoy.
 ST. JAMES' & SOHO :—H. Peto, W. Bevis,
 W. Bousfield.

† If this motion is rejected, Mr. F. J. S. Edcombe will give notice of the following motion :—

‘That, as it now appears that the so-called Administrative Committee is identical with the Council, and not a Sub-Committee, as has been hitherto supposed, it is desirable that the distinction in name be abolished, and that the meetings of what is one and the same body be regulated in future by the same rules of procedure. And that it be referred to a Sub-Committee to make such alterations in the Bye-laws as will carry into effect the above resolution.’

‡ An In-patient Brompton letter can be had on application to the St. George's, Hanover Square, Committee.

* These letters are not available after this year.

ST. MARYLEBONE:—The Earl of Lichfield, Miss O. Hill, L. G. Gordon-Robbins, Major-General Gardiner.
 HAMPSTEAD:—C. E. Maurice, E. Bond.
 NORTH ST. PANCAS:—T. J. Maude, A. N. Butt.
 SOUTH ST. PANCAS:—C. A. Reiss, Miss Gibson.
 HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
 ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare, W. F. Lawrence, H. M. Keary.
 STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, W. Wightman Wood.
 HOLBORN:—W. Sheepshanks, Capt. Fortescue, G. B. Baker.
 CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brooks, Rev. H. I. Cummins.
 BETHNAL GREEN:—J. Barber, Rev. Chas. Kirton.
 ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Major Meadows, Oscar Tottle.
 STEPNEY:—Rev. H. Burchell-Herne, E. Peters.
 MILE END:—Major Nares.

POPLAR:—Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Ralph Ellis.
 ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. Montgomerie, Russell Barrington.
 NEWINGTON:—D. P. Thornton.
 ST. OLAV'S:—W. F. Beauford.
 LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown, W. H. Gurney Salter.
 Brixton:—P. E. Nicholson.
 WANDSWORTH:—Miss H. Gurney, Alan Lambert, Rev. C. Carruthers.
 CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
 DEPTFORD:—Capt. Cassan, H. F. Cornish.
 WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.
 LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramley, R. V. Tidman.
 ELTHAM:—Rear-Admiral Gardner.
 SYDENHAM:—H. Reld, W. Day.
 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley.
 TOTAL:—68.
 Secretary:—C. S. Loch.
 VISITORS:—Major-General Bainbridge, H. Howgrave Graham, J. H. Spiller.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, December 6. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the chair; the Earl of Lichfield, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Major-General Gardiner, Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Rev. S. A. Barnett; Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, Bond, Brown, Copeman, Crowder, Hill, Lawrence, Peters, Peto, Roberts, Mrs. Lathbury, and Miss O. Hill.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on December 4 there had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major FitzRoy, and Mr. Bevan.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending December 1 the receipts had been £69. 8s. 8d. for the General Fund, and £1. 1s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £275. 15s. 6d. and £24. 17s. 3d. respectively, £10. 5s. 11d. of the latter sum being reserved to meet expenditure on School Board cases.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF COUNCIL.

The following amendment to the recommendation of the Administrative Committee, that Lord Shaftesbury be invited to accept the post of Chairman of Council, was moved by General Lynedoch Gardiner, and seconded by Lord Lichfield, viz.:—

That in future the Chairman of the Council of this Society be elected annually. And that Lord Shaftesbury be asked to accept the office of Chairman for the year 1878.

General Gardiner explained that 'the year' mentioned in his amendment was from one annual meeting of the Society to the next. He thought that the Chairman of Council for each year should take the chair at the annual meeting in March, and hold office till the March following. It would be necessary to ask Lord Shaftesbury to take the Chairmanship for a somewhat longer period, viz., from the present time to March 1879.

With the permission of the Council, the words 'ensuing year' were substituted for 'the year 1878.'

After a short debate, in which Sir Charles Trevelyan, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. Bousfield, and Admiral Gardner took part, the amendment, which it had been agreed to vote upon in two parts, was duly put and carried, and accepted as a substantive motion.

WORK OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

It was agreed, on the motion of Rev. H. I. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Russell Barrington, that the following members of Council be members of the Committee to be appointed in accordance with the resolution of Council of the 3rd inst., viz. Lord Lichfield, Major-General Cavenagh, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. E. Bond, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Mr. J. R. Hollond, and Rev. H. I. Cummins.

STATEMENT OF THE BARNARDO COMMITTEE.

The adoption of the statement of the Barnardo Committee was moved by Lord Lichfield, seconded by Mr. J. R. Hollond.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, seconded by Mr. C. E. Maurice, moved the following amendment, viz.:

* The estimated liabilities were about £800, exclusive of £200 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

That the statement be referred back to the Committee with instructions to amend it by the omission, as far as possible, of all charges against Mr. Barnardo. And that this report be issued, at the discretion of the Secretary, only to such persons inquiring as are legitimately interested.

It was agreed that the amendment should be taken in two parts.

Mr. Russell Barrington, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. J. W. Probyn, Admiral Gardner, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Rev. H. I. Cummins, and Mr. W. W. Wood, supported the motion.

Mr. Bousfield and Mr. E. Bond supported the amendment.

Miss O. Hill, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Major FitzRoy, Mr. W. Day, and Mr. L. G. Gordon-Robbins, said a few words.

The amendment having been put and lost, 10 voting for it, 33 against it, the motion for the adoption of the Report was put and carried.

A series of verbal amendments, of which Major FitzRoy had given notice, were, with others suggested by General Gardiner, and Mr. Gordon-Robbins, referred to the Committee.

To the latter part of Mr. Edgcombe's amendment, amendments were moved by Rev. H. I. Cummins, viz.:

That an advertisement be inserted in the newspapers, stating that the statement can be had at the Central Office;

by Rev. R. J. Simpson, viz.:

That the question of the mode of publication be referred to the Administrative Committee;

and by Lord Lichfield. The latter, to the following effect, was eventually carried, viz.:

That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to adopt the best and most effectual means of giving full publicity to the completed statement of the action of the Society in the Barnardo case (as approved to-day).

ADJOURNMENT OF COUNCIL.

The following recommendation of the Administrative Committee having been taken as urgent, was moved by Mr. Russell Barrington, and seconded by Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, viz.:

That the Council adjourn to the 14th January next.

Mr. J. R. Hollond, seconded by Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, moved the adjournment of the debate.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending December 8, 1877:—

Donations:—			£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
Blunt, Mrs.			0	10	0	Thompson, J. R. W., Esq.			0	10	6
Melvil, R., Esq.			10	0	0	Whateley, A. P., Esq.			5	5	0
Reiss, Mrs.			100	0	0	Wood, W. Wightman, Esq.			1	1	0
Wilson, Miss Jane			10	0	0						
Annual:—											
Crisp, F., Esq.			1	1	0	District Committee Aid Fund:—					
*Eden, Mrs. E. H. G.						Bond, E., Esq.			20	0	0
(1876)			1	0	0	Wood, W. Wightman,					
Eden, Mrs. E. H. G. (1877)			1	0	0	Esq. (a)			1	1	0
Sion College, The Go-						Total			£153	10	6
vernors of			2	2	0						

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

GREENWICH.—*Annual Meeting.*—The Annual Meeting of this Committee was held on the 4th instant, Major-General Bainbridge being in the chair.

Mr. Burdett, Secretary to the Seamen's Hospital, in moving the adoption of the Report, said he had been a resident of the district for about four years, and although he did not altogether agree with the work of the Society he was pleased with the good that had been done. Passing through the park and over Blackheath he could not at one time go above fifty yards without meeting a beggar. One was now scarcely met, and as citizens they were much indebted to the local branch for what they had accomplished in this district. He believed, speaking of hospital work, that the Charity Organisation Society enabled them to look forward to the time when those persons who applied for assistance and help from the hospitals, and who were really ill and deserving, would receive aid without that delay and annoyance which was experienced from the impudence and professions of the able-bodied and undeserving.

* This item, having been collected in error, has been refunded.

Rev. F. S. Clark seconded the adoption of the report. He thought if persons would spend a little more in studying the operations of the Society, and remember that it was a *Charity Organisation* and not a *relief* Society, more good would be done.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson said, if after 40 years the Poor-law had been unable effectually to deal with the question of relief, how could they expect the Charity Organisation Society to do so in eight years, or to attempt to do so without opposition? The nation spent a large sum of money in carrying out a system of public relief which enabled every man to calculate to a certainty what he will receive, and that, no matter how reckless or idle he may be, without any discriminate inquiry being made. When the Society had to adjust such a system it had a gigantic work before it, which required a great deal of energy and courage to carry out.

It was impossible to organise charity without directly or indirectly repressing mendicancy; but for one case of repression and prosecution they had hundreds of cases in which they were quietly working for the benefit of the poor, and elevating them from a state of pauperism or semi-pauperism to one of self-reliance and independence. Many might imagine that because they saw a prosecution about every three months, where the public themselves would not interfere, the Society was mainly formed for repressing mendicancy, but it was not so.

One objection to the Society was, 'We don't want other people to spend our money; we want to spend it ourselves.' The Society said they wanted them to spend their own money, but in such a way that it would not injure, but benefit the poor. Another objection was that their working expenses were very large in comparison with the relief given, and he said, so much the better, and the Society would not become what it should be until such expenses were 100 instead of 70 per cent. If all the money in the coffers of London was properly distributed there would be no need for the Society to give one farthing in *relief*. If charity consists in flinging a shilling or a half-crown to a person the moment he asked for it, no doubt whilst many would be ready to give there would be more ready to receive; but if there was to be no inquiry in a metropolis of ten cities, with a population of 4,000,000, which was the focus into which the whole nation poured its paupers; if they wished to have the opportunity of allowing impostors to prey upon the benevolent, they could not do better than allow indiscriminate almsgiving to go on.

Speaking of ladies and district visiting, it was a delicate subject,—than them they found few more active and intelligent workers,—but they should be able to get amongst them those who could make up for the terrible benevolent misdeeds of their sisters; for more harm had been done by warm-hearted benevolent ladies—and, second to them, by misguided clergy—than by anyone else. If the Society did no other work than diffusing a discerning spirit amongst the district visitors, it would do a good work; but without the discernment the angel of light produces darkness to an alarming extent.

Mr. Rilton Turner said he was bound to say that the Society was by no means perfect, but a great number of persons were themselves to blame for not remedying what they said were evils. They could not relegate the responsibility to others. From what he saw of the Report that branch deserved encouragement for its success in discouraging begging, and for that alone it was well worthy of support. The Society had plenty of energy; for that it could hardly be blamed! According to the Poor Law the responsibility for relief was what he might term perpendicular—from grandfather to grandchild—but in Germany it reached aunts and uncles, and every person had to contribute towards the support of his or her relatives, and consequently the poor-rate was diminished. The Society was entitled to some credit for driving into work the undeserving, by cutting them off from all sources of charity. With regard to prosecution, it was a most painful task, but after many years' experience he had found that the person prosecuted frequently came to him for advice afterwards. In nearly every case of charity which came before them there was a screw loose, and they must find out where it was, and make the person feel that he must become an independent instead of a dependent man. It was of no use people denouncing the Society without sharing in the work, or learning how it was done. To those they would say, 'Come and help us; see our work, and if we are wrong, show us where.'

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the fourth week of November 1877 was 39,403, and 41,733 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,136. This was an increase of 649 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 1,107, 3,646, and 12,579 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 772. This was a decrease of 40 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 88 on the corresponding day of last year.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.

Statement showing the number of paupers in the metropolis on the last day of the fourth week of November compared with the number on the last day of the fourth week of October 1877:—

Districts or Unions	Indoor Adults and Children		Outdoor Adults and Children	
	4th week October	4th week Nov.	4th week October	4th week Nov.
Kensington	1,144	1,159	418	415
Fulham	458	487	620	632
Paddington	794	829	888	912
Chelsea	943	955	379	425
St. George's	1,904	1,986	1,456	1,451
Westminster	785	794	286	281
St. Marylebone	2,474	2,517	1,752	1,750
Hampstead	173	182	101	90
St. Pancras	2,915	2,934	4,412	4,607
Islington	1,376	1,471	2,326	2,503
Hackney	864	942	1,752	1,879
St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury .	1,204	1,230	606	601
Strand	747	747	273	314
Holborn	2,693	2,776	3,497	3,603
City of London	2,011	2,050	2,675	2,683
Shoreditch	1,181	1,193	760	840
Bethnal Green	1,405	1,416	610	703
Whitechapel	1,034	1,088	155	126
St. George's, East	1,086	1,166	93	106
Stepney	908	936	159	159
Mill End Old Town	842	845	468	522
Poplar	1,079	1,118	1,586	1,569
St. Saviour's, Southwark	2,568	2,642	2,427	2,461
St. Olave's, Southwark	1,441	1,478	2,188	2,237
Lambeth	1,671	1,744	3,042	3,041
Wandsworth and Clapham	979	1,012	1,355	1,406
Camberwell	1,221	1,268	1,196	1,363
Greenwich	1,379	1,433	1,978	1,977
Woolwich	678	689	2,238	2,417
Lewisham	292	316	585	645
Total	38,249	39,403	40,282	41,733

PROVINCIAL.

ABERDEEN.—*Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.*—At the eighth annual meeting of the Association, held on the 13th ult., Lord Provost Jamieson, who was in the chair, said: 'The public generally realise the benefits of this Society. It is, and ought to be, looked upon by them very much as the means of intelligently distributing their charity. If we are really beneficially to give away money to the poor, we must do one of two things. We must go there first ourselves and examine into the cases, and see that they are really needy cases, proper cases, cases that can be alleviated beneficially for the person and for society; or we must do what a number of us feel is the only other resort we can apply to, namely, to apply to the Society. We shall then be able, certainly, to do what is right in the circumstances.'

'This Society exists not merely for the purpose of handing over money and food and clothing for the poor. That is not the object of the Society, or at least that is not altogether the object of the Society. The object of it mainly is to find out—first, the condition of parties who apply for relief; to ascertain what their difficulties are, what their real circumstances are, what their relations in life are, and, if possible, stimulate them to help themselves to make a livelihood, and to appear respectable in the world. If this is not done, we shall have done no good thing to the poor.'

'No doubt there will be cases in which you cannot possibly put the poor in the way of making their livelihood, but you can then support them until they are able to do so, and if that is not possible, then you know the institution to which to hand them over for the purpose of something like permanent support. Our institution is to help those who cannot help

themselves, and to help them especially in a time of need, a time of depression, a time of sickness, it may be, when they have been brought very low, and to put the hands of the Society around them, and bear them up until they are able to do something again respectably for themselves. To do anything else, I need not tell you, is only to foster and to promote pauperism, and I hope that this Association will not be found lending itself to anything of the sort.'

It appeared from the Report that 813 cases—23 more than last year—had been dealt with, there being a proportionate decrease in unsuitable cases. With regard to the workshop, the number to whom work was offered during the past year was 226. Of that number 69 did not present themselves at the workshop, while 46 of those who did go declined to commence work. The number who commenced to work was 111, or less than one-half of those who applied for assistance because they had no work; and of those who did make a commencement, 11 remained less than a day; so that out of a total of 226 who would have accepted relief had it been offered to them, these figures show distinctly that 126 of the number could do without it, while the remaining 100 were put in a position to help themselves, and in numerous instances permanent employment was obtained for them.

The Report referred specially to the other departments of the work of the association—the Industrial Register, the Loan Fund, Mendicity, the Prison Aid Society, the Flower Mission, &c.

Rev. J. M. Dawson quoted the following definition of organised charity: 'To work as well as to give, and to give with clear intelligence as well as kind purpose, make it the practical charity that is needed in these times.'

He urged upon all Christian communities to consider the claims of this Society, not as diminishing the chances of their own poor for relief in their particular congregations, but rather as taking up those cases which no congregational organisation can overtake.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Charity Organisation Society*.—The annual meeting of this Society was held on the 6th inst. The Mayor was in the chair.

Archdeacon Prest said he believed there was a large fund of generosity in the people of these towns; but, after all, there was a limit to the power of giving. The experience of those who worked as he did in large populations told us that any day there might be found a number of persons who would spend a whole day in walking about to the houses of those who were supposed to be charitable; and then, when asked the circumstances of their case, could not tell with any precision where they lived. You could not in every case follow out the investigation; and very often you lost time, temper, and money. We wanted a society which would really conduct these investigations, and this would largely economise the funds available for the relief of poverty.

'The cost of working the Society diminished the funds, but, notwithstanding this there was an immense increase in the amount of real charity well bestowed. The Society did not wish to take the reins out of a man's hands, or to refuse to let him do what he will with his own; but it desired to help him where he really had not got the reins at all, and could learn nothing whatever of the applicant. In fact, the Society encouraged personal investigation as far as possible; for nothing was better than that we should make our own hands our executors, and our own eyes our overseers, and that we should personally give, because we could give the word of sympathy and of wise counsel at the same time. But as this was impossible to most of us, this Society afforded a most useful and practical agency.

'What was given indiscriminately was to a very large extent lost. We ought to economise in every direction, in order that when deserving cases came they might have help to the full measure of their needs and deserts, whilst at the same time the undeserving might receive that check and, if possible, that absolute and entire repression which was so desirable in a well-organised community.'

Mr. C. B. P. Bosanquet moved: 'That this meeting approves of the objects and working of the Society, considers its system and organisation valuable for the purposes of relieving distress and preventing imposture, and strongly recommends it to the moral and material support of the public.' He said the object of this Society was to bring about a division of labour in the work of charitable relief. It was quite true that they would be very glad to go back to that simple system of charity which had been alluded to, but which was only possible in a village; but it was obvious that that was out of the question in large towns, where the rich and poor generally lived at different ends of the town, and where cases of distress were often of an extremely complicated character. There were many cases with which an individual who was desirous of personally bestowing charity on the deserving would scarcely know how to deal, and to these the Society was ready and anxious to give information.

He felt most strongly the importance of what Archdeacon Prest had said as to the importance of in every way encouraging personal intercourse

between the charitable and the distressed. That was a point the Society had not forgotten, and one in which they were anxious that more instead of less should be done. It was a mistake to suppose that the Society wished to do the charity of the public for them. At the same time the officer of the Society was ready to act as the agent of everybody inquiring into cases of apparent distress.

The efforts of the Society were not altogether, though chiefly, local; it had communication with similar organisations in many parts of the world—in India, the United States, Australia, on the Continent, and in England, Ireland, and Scotland; and they were thus enabled readily to obtain information in cases both of distress and imposture. He had observed that there had been a good deal relating to the Artisans' Dwellings Act in the local newspapers of that day. He read all about it with the greatest interest, because it was entirely owing to the Charity Organisation Society in London, and to the labours of the special Committee appointed to consider the whole subject of the worst parts of London, that Mr. Cross was enabled—by the information they laid before him—to bring in the bill which is now the Artisans' Dwellings Act. He ventured to say that, if this Society had the support which the resolution he had moved said it deserved, if a number of people took a cardinal interest in it, they might do a great deal to mature public opinion on such a subject, and promote the wise application of such a measure as that to which he had referred to the needs of the town. In conclusion, he wished to say to all, 'Please make use of the Society.'

Councillor Dixon seconded the motion. He said there was never a greater fallacy than the belief that indiscriminate and bounteous giving wiped out poverty. So far was indiscriminate charity from wiping out poverty, that in the great majority of cases it actually increased the very thing they wished to do away with. It destroyed self-reliance, and it was important to this and every country that the feeling of self-dependence should be strengthened.

It must not be supposed that the Society was against liberal giving; the only point on which they quarrelled with many benevolent and kind-hearted people was their mode of giving. As there was only a limited amount of means, they wished it all to go to the deserving poor, and not to dissolute and undeserving people, who would rather beg than work.

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES RECENTLY DEALT WITH BY DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

RECOMMENDED AND ASSISTED.

Marylebone.—C. C. was a single woman, upwards of 70 years of age. She had been assisted by her brother, and thus kept from the parish. Upon the brother's death his widow felt unable to continue her late husband's payments, and C. C. applied to the parish. The Guardians offered admission, as it appeared the woman had no means whatever. The case was then brought before the Marylebone Committee. Through the clergy, two nephews and a niece were got to promise the aunt 6d. a week each, and the clergy undertook to give a small pension. The Guardians, upon this being represented to them, reconsidered their decision, and granted 3s. weekly.

Islington.—A man, a clothier's cutter, who had been for seven weeks unable to go to his work in consequence of the breaking of a blood-vessel, applied to our Committee for an in-patient's letter for the Brompton Convalescent Hospital. He had a wife and six children, the eldest only 12. They bore a most excellent character. The man had belonged to the Foresters' Club, but he had been 'scratched off' three years before, not being able to keep up the payments when he was out of work. His employer had sent him 10s. a week during the first part of his illness, and was ready to take him on again directly he was fit for work. As Hampstead was nearer to the man's home than Brompton, an out-patient's letter for the Consumption Hospital there was given him until he could be admitted, and 10s. was granted in the meantime, and his case was to come up again. The attention of the Committee was now called to his family by the School Board. As the wife was earning what she could, and friends were helping, it was decided to give clothing, of which part was provided for by members of the Committee, the rest by a grant of £2. 10s., and to make them an allowance by the week when the husband went into the hospital. Their weekly income was made up in this way:—

The wife earned about	6s. a week.
The Strangers' Friend Society gave	2 "
St. Mark's Lay Association "	2 "
Our Committee	5 "
	—
	15s.

The husband stayed six weeks in the hospital, came out with his health improved, and was then sent to Walton for a month during which time the weekly 5s. was continued. He then returned, and was able to go to work

again, and expressed much gratitude to the Committee for having helped to prevent him from applying to the parish.

A man aged 34, a labourer, with a wife and four young children, applied for help to get the clothing necessary to enable them to emigrate to Australia. The man suffered from asthma, which generally prevented his earning much in the winter; he thought the drier climate of Australia might perhaps cure him. His wife's two brothers were out there, doing well, and had sent the money for their passage. They had collected the money for their journey to Plymouth, from whence the ship was to sail, and all they now wanted was clothing, a certain quantity of which all emigrants are obliged to have before they are admitted on board. Inquiry proved them to be thoroughly respectable, and it was decided to help them. What they wanted was provided in clothing and the sum of £1. 5s., given by or through different members of Committee, and by £1 granted from the funds of the Committee. The family sailed last month.

Holborn.—M. F., a widow with three children—the two elder at school—had recently lost her husband, a journeyman printer, his sudden death throwing upon her the support of the children. She applied for and received outdoor relief, 4s. 6d. a week. The family were well known and respected in the home where they had lived seventeen years, and which she now had to leave. She applied to the Committee for help to purchase a sewing machine having collected from neighbours a considerable sum towards the purchase-money. A grant of £1 was made out of a private fund placed at the disposal of the Committee. This, with £3 she had collected, enabled her to buy a good second-hand machine, and to increase largely her weekly earnings.

St. Olave's, No. 1,287.—The applicant applied for assistance to enable him to pay for his passage to South Africa, stating at the same time that he had been suffering from consumption for the past three years, and had been compelled to give up work for twelve months. It appeared on inquiry that both applicant and his wife bore excellent characters. For some considerable time the man had been dependent on his wife's earnings as an umbrella maker. The Committee obtained for the case the sum of £9. 2s. from private individuals, and made a grant of £5. 14s. from their own funds. This enabled the man to pay his passage of £16. 16s. to Port Natal. The doctor had recommended his going to this place as the only means of saving his life. On leaving England the applicant wrote a letter to this Committee, thanking them most gratefully for the liberal way in which they had assisted him.

Woolwich.—J. P., a labourer, with wife and five children, earning altogether in full work 36s. per week, but at present only 21s., asked for a loan and a grant, to enable him to send his son, aged 17, out to Australia as an emigrant. A married daughter and husband were going out, and the opportunity seemed a good one. A loan of £4 was granted, to be repaid by weekly instalments, and £2 given for outfit. The family had been suffering from sickness for some time, which made it difficult for them to raise the money. The man belonged to a burial club.

E. R., a married woman, aged 39, with seven children, applied for loan of £5 to buy a mangle. Her husband is subject to fits, and is therefore unable to get or retain regular work. A daughter (14) is at service, with 2s. a week wage, and a son (16) gets 1s. a week as apprentice to a waterman. The woman supports the family by washing, and earns fair wages in the summer. She has managed this year to keep herself and family off the rates. She bears an excellent character and provides good security. The loan was granted.

SELF-SUPPORTING MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD PROVIDENT MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this society was held recently. The Report, which was adopted, stated:—The object of the society is to afford those of the working classes—who are in a position to do so—an opportunity of paying for their medical attendance, and thereby relieving the medical charities. The report of the medical officer relative to the medical work performed renders it unnecessary to enter upon that part of the year's operations further than merely to record the satisfaction of the committee with our present medical officer. We again congratulate the members on the usefulness of the society, and trust every member will use his utmost endeavours to increase its usefulness by spreading a knowledge of its advantages. It is now three years since it was determined to establish the society, and we are proud to testify to the amount of really satisfactory benefit derived by the members, as will be seen from the number attended, both at home and at the dispensary, as well as the number of cured and relieved, together with the low death-rate. During the year the number of members has continued to increase. We have now upon the books 1,129 male members; 698 female members; 99 juvenile members; 1,304 children members; making a total of 3,221 persons. The following is a general summary of the numbers of members treated, with results:—Cured, 720; relieved, 383;

advised, 12; not treated, 6; accouchements, 22; under treatment, 32; total, 1,175. Deaths, 6.

PLYMOUTH.—*Proposed Amalgamation of Free and Provident Dispensaries.*—Mr. W. H. Alger has forwarded to us a copy of a pamphlet on the 'Outline of a Scheme for the Amalgamation of the Plymouth Public and Provident Dispensaries.' The Court of the Governors of the Public Dispensary have resolved that, 'this Court gives power to its Committee to adopt the provident system in connection with this institution.' Mr. Alger proposes that effect should be given to this resolution in the following manner:—In future a subscription of one guinea to the Public Dispensary should entitle the subscriber to four recommendation papers. These recommendation papers should be given to applicants for medical advice, not as a title to gratuitous treatment, but, as it were, as payment on their behalf of the sick fines, which—not having previously become members of the Provident Dispensary—they would, according to the usual rules of a Provident Dispensary, be required to pay on admission to its benefits during illness. The subscriber would thus have in his hands the power of absolving from the sick fine those to whom he gave his paper of recommendation. After being admitted in this way the patient would take his place as an ordinary Provident Dispensary member, and would pay sixpence, which would thus be considered equivalent to the weekly payment of an ordinary member for six weeks. After six weeks the patient would be induced, if possible, to continue his weekly or monthly prepayment, and he would not be allowed to have the benefit of medical attendance on any other footing for another six weeks, unless it were found on inquiry that he was a suitable recipient for further gratuitous advice.

Mr. Alger points out that, 'in this way, whilst the Provident system would be engrafted upon the Public Dispensary, yet the charity would still be holding out a welcome hand to those poor persons who could not afford to pay for medical assistance; and the investigations which would be made into the merits of each case, whilst weeding out improper persons, would doubtless bring into notice the really necessitous cases, and thus enable the benevolent to render aid to them in other ways.'

These last words which we have italicised suggest one of the most pressing considerations in medical charity organisation. Sickness being of necessity the crisis in the career of many at which timely assistance may be effectual, and after which even lavish assistance may be unavailing, it is most important that the charitable who give medical relief and the charitable public outside hospitals and dispensaries should so co-operate that, with the medical advice and treatment, assistance during convalescence and other adequate aid should be given, and at the same time everything be done to induce the patient to insure himself, so far as may be possible, against the hopeless difficulties which a recurrence of illness may bring with it.

The pamphlet contains numerous suggestions respecting the apportionment of medical duties and payments, of great importance for the just and easy settlement of details. With regard to the position of the medical profession we quote the following paragraphs:—

'A striking illustration of the unwise prodigality of the medical profession is to be found in the Plymouth Public Dispensary. At this institution four physicians and four surgeons gave, during the past year, their best advice to nearly four thousand (3,928) patients. Each of these persons might have had advice and medicine for six weeks; and supposing that ten interviews took place between each ticket-holder and his medical attendant during the six weeks, either at the patient's house or at the Dispensary (and I understand from one of the staff that this number is below the real average), this will represent about forty thousand (39,280) interviews or visits. Now, what is the sum paid for this enormous amount of mental and physical wear and tear?

'Six of these gentlemen get absolutely nothing, whilst the other two, who do most of the home visiting, receive £120 per annum between them; and, dividing this sum by the figures just quoted, it will be found that the medical profession was paid at the preposterous rate of less than three farthings for each consultation or actual home visit.'

SUFFOLK COUNTY MEDICAL CLUB.—A meeting was held at the Town Hall, Ipswich, on the 29th ult., for the purpose of electing a Committee of Management, and to take such steps as might be thought desirable towards the establishment of the Suffolk County Medical Club.

Sir Edward Kerrison, who was in the chair, said it was his wish, as well as, he was sure, of all the gentlemen who had acted with him, that the Club should be made entirely self-supporting. . . . The Eye Medical Club, which had now been in successful working for a year and a half, made no payment to its stewards; and he sincerely hoped that, in the various other districts in the county of Suffolk there would be people found who would be ready to collect subscriptions and receive the names of members for the Suffolk County Medical Club. He did not doubt that in some instances the overseer, in others the schoolmaster, or, it might be, farmers would take this duty without payment. The Eye Club had some 4,000 members; the number was being added to every day, and the only payment to officers of

that kind was one of £20 a year to the general secretary. . . . It would be necessary to have a general secretary at Ipswich, and, for a time, a gentleman appointed here and there to assist him in putting the stewards in the way of collecting these sums, but this could be done for a nominal payment of some £5 or £10 a year, according to the district. If, however, after a time, gentlemen could not be found in the various districts of the county willing to collect the subscriptions without payment, then he should say it would be almost better not to have a Club at all.

Alluding to a letter of Dr. Fletcher's, in which he spoke of the popularity of the Club in his district of Earl Soham, where, out of a population of 3,000 as many as 1,300 persons had already joined the Club; and in which, referring to expenses, he mentioned that the amount received from the Eye Club was £187, which was supplemented to the amount of £60 by the honorary fund, Sir Edward Kerrison said that, taking the rate as laid down in the rules of the County Club, the payment for a thousand people would be £32 a year, so that, if there were 10,000 people in the County Club, the extras paid to the medical officers would amount to something over £300 a year. He went on to state that considering that these medical men would have this little extra beyond what they would have in the ordinary cases in the same class, and considering that the money was collected for them, he thought they ought to be satisfied with this arrangement. Sixty-eight medical gentlemen had signified their willingness to accede to these terms, and he believed this number would be increased the moment the Club set to work.

If gentlemen resident in the various districts would call the labourers together in the evening at the different schools, as he understood Dr. Short was going to do in six different parishes next week, and explain to them the rules, tell them of gentlemen who would be willing to receive subscriptions, and point out to them that they were eligible to receive the benefits of the Club one month after they had joined, that would be an admirable method of making known the advantages of the Club, and inducing those to join for whose special benefit it was formed. In that way not only would people be helping the labouring classes in times of sickness, but they would at the same time be directly tapping the very sources of pauperism; and it was upon the principle of stopping pauperism as well as on the principle of affording medical relief that he and others had taken up this movement. Many counties in England were making applications for rules, in order that they might be able to see what Suffolk was doing in this matter.

Dr. Short observed that this County Medical Club was not entering into competition with the Oddfellows' or Foresters' Clubs in any way. On the contrary, this Club was intended to assist them rather than be at all antagonistic. In many cases provision was only made for the men; this Club proposed to include the wives and families as well; and one direct benefit would be that the surgeon of the district would become acquainted with the families of the labouring classes, and would be able to help the great benefit clubs to healthy members. The Medical Club would also help those who were inclined to be self-provident by providing medical attendance for their families.

ONE CHECK ON INTEMPERANCE.

Theories, statistics, and statements respecting drunkenness and pauperism are to be found in every newspaper and periodical. And some are attempting, by placing within the reach of the people more rational amusements, to divert them from grosser pleasures. To these the following translation of a part of a description given by George Sands of a marriage festival in central France may be of interest. It shows how, in an old-world district of Europe, only a comparatively short distance from London, at every peasant's wedding several days used to be spent in serio-comic mummeries—in strange, almost childish ceremonies and *playing*—which formed a part of an inheritance of thought and symbolism, bequeathed from very far distant ages, and which, notwithstanding their wildness and grossness, were powerful to check drunkenness, improvidence, and recklessness:—

Two young fellows, representing a husband and wife, dress themselves up as beggars, covered with the most miserable rags. The husband is the dirtier of the two: vice has degraded him; the wife is only unhappy and disgraced by the misconduct of her husband.

They are called the gardener and the gardener's wife. But the husband goes by various names, each of which has a meaning. He is called indifferently the *straw-carrier*, because he wears a wig of straw or hemp, and because, to hide his nakedness, he covers his legs and a part of his body with straw. He makes himself a large paunch or a hump by stuffing straw or hay under his blouse. He is called the *rag-man*, because he is covered with rags. And he is called the *pagan*, which is still more significant, because he is reputed by his cynicism and debauchery to contain in himself the opposite of every Christian virtue.

Sometimes he appears with his face daubed with soot and dregs of wine,

sometimes disguised with a grotesque mask. A broken earthenware cup, or an old shoe, hung from his waist by a string, he uses to hold out for the wine for which he begs. No one refuses him, and he pretends to drink, and then pours the wine on the ground by way of libation. At every step he falls, and rolls in the mud; he pretends to be in the most disgraceful state of intoxication. His poor wife runs after him, lifts him up, calls for help, tears the hemp hair which comes in rough locks out of her dirty mob-cap, cries over her degraded husband, and reproaches him pathetically.

"Unhappy man," says she, "see to what we are reduced by your bad conduct! In vain do I spin, work for you, mend your clothes. You are always tearing your things and dirtying yourself. You have devoured my little property. Our six children have to lie upon straw. We live in a stable with the animals. See, we are reduced to beg for alms, and still you are so ugly, so disgusting, so despised, that soon we shall have bread thrown to us as to dogs. Alas, good people, have pity upon us! Have pity upon me! I have not deserved my fate; and never did a wife have a more dirty, a more detestable husband. Help me to lift him up, or the carriage will crush him, like an old broken bottle, and I shall be a widow, which will complete my misery and kill me; although everyone says it would be a great blessing for me."

Such is the part of the gardener's wife and such are her continual lamentations during the whole piece. For it is a regular comedy, free, impromptu, played in the open air, on the roads, across fields, supplemented by any fortuitous accidents which present themselves, and in which during three or four hours of the day everybody takes part, those belonging to the wedding party or outsiders, occupants of the houses or passers-by, as well as those who go to see it. The theme is invariable, but there are infinite variations upon the theme, and it is in these that the instinct of imitation, the abundance of grotesque ideas, the loquacity, the spirit of repartee, and even the natural eloquence of our peasants appear.

The part of the gardener's wife is generally given to a thin man, without beard and of a fresh complexion, who understands how to give great reality to the personification, and to play burlesque despair in a sufficiently natural way to amuse and sadden at the same time as by a reality. . . .

When the unhappiness of the wife is proved the young people of the wedding party get her to leave her drunken husband, and to amuse herself with them. They offer her an arm and carry her off. Gradually she gives herself up to present enjoyment, grows merry, begins to run, first with one then with another, behaving in a shameless manner: a new moral—the misconduct of the husband provokes and leads to that of the wife.

The *pagan* then rouses himself from his drunkenness, looks for his companion, arms himself with a rope and a stick, and runs after her. They make him run, they hide themselves, they pass the woman from one to another, they try to distract and deceive the jealous man. His friends try to intoxicate him. At last he rejoins his faithless wife, and wishes to beat her. . . . But the moment he raises the stick and prepares the rope to tie the delinquent, all the men of the wedding party interpose and place themselves between the husband and wife. "Do not beat her; never beat your wife!" is the formula repeated to satiety in these scenes. They disarm the husband, force him to pardon—to embrace his wife; and he soon pretends to love her more than ever. He goes about arm-in-arm with her, singing and dancing, until a fresh access of drunkenness makes him roll upon the ground; and then the lamentations of the wife begin again, her despair, her simulated misconduct, the jealousy of the husband, the intervention of the neighbours, and the reconciliation.

There is in all this a lesson, naïve, even coarse, showing its descent from the Middle Ages, but it always makes an impression, if not upon the married people at least upon the children and youths. The *pagan* so frightens and disgusts the young girls, by running after them and pretending to wish to embrace them, that they fly from him with an emotion which has nothing of pretence in it.

ORGANISATION NOTES.

ROYAL DRAMATIC COLLEGE FUND.—A glance through any of the directories or handbooks to the Charities of London shows how naturally a large number of the charities group themselves under different trades and professions. A common profession seems to create a sort of charitable kinship between the members of it. It is on this kinship that charity, when relations or private friends are not forthcoming, has frequently to rely in obtaining assistance for those who are in distress. For such reasons as these we cannot but regret to see the notice that appeared in some of the daily papers recently: 'That as it is impossible to keep up the Royal Dramatic College and provide for its inmates, through want of sufficient support, there being at this moment no funds for the current expenses except by selling out the remaining sum of £1,000 in the New Three per cents., the Council do forthwith take such steps as the Charity Commissioners may advise to dispose of the property and to provide for the inmates.' Any member of the medical profession 'in London, notwithstanding that he may

afterwards move away, can, by joining' the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, 'when he is resident in London, always insure that, for the small payment of two guineas annually, his wife and children shall, if he die without leaving means for their support, be kept from penury and its attendant miseries.' Surely it would not be a hopeless task to attempt to organise a charity on this self-supporting or quasi-self-supporting basis, for those who obtain their livelihood by the drama. Or would it be impossible for those who make art in its several departments their profession to form some combination of their charities, so as to place them by increased support on some such thoroughly sound basis? The only strictly theatrical charitable institution that appears to exist in London at present is the Royal General Theatrical Fund, which has an income of about £2,400.

CRITICISMS ON THE SOCIETY.

The following letter appeared recently in a contemporary:—Sir,—As you have opened your columns to a discussion on the policy and principles of the Charity Organisation Society, I shall be glad if you will allow me space to make a few criticisms on Mr. S. C. Hall's recent pamphlet on the subject. These criticisms, which I shall direct chiefly to Mr. Hall's own theory of charity, as far as we have any indications of it, will enable me to bring out more clearly the aims and principles of the Society, and the special evils which it is intended to remedy.

In Mr. Hall's view, as far as I can judge of it from the censures he passes on the Society, the sum and substance of charity is to be found in the literal carrying out of the precept, 'Give to every man that asketh of thee.' All who come to us professing to be in distress ought to be relieved, and that without delay. If it be suggested that we ought first to ascertain by visiting the home or making inquiry in other ways, whether the distress is genuine, the answer would be that the distress may be genuine and may be urgent, and if it is, while you are taking up time in inquiry the poor applicant may starve. Better run the risk of being imposed upon—I imagine Mr. Hall would say—than the risk of a single human being perishing through want.

The first remark I shall make on this theory is that it entirely ignores the existence of the Poor-law. Can Mr. Hall be aware that there is a State provision, maintained at a cost of eleven or twelve millions annually, by which food to eat and a roof to shelter them are secured to all who are without the necessaries of life? It is true that in order to prevent the abuse of this provision certain regulations have to be made as to the mode in which these necessaries are to be given, but the regulations are not such as to nullify the benefits of the law, or to make it untrue to say that by the law of England no one need starve. To discuss, therefore, the duties of private societies and individuals, without considering the important duties which the State has taken upon itself in this matter of charity, is to ignore at least half the conditions of the problem to be solved. The second remark I would make is, that Mr. Hall seems to me to underrate the evil of imposture. Of this evil a very small part is the mulcting of the pockets of the well-to-do; by far the larger part is the demoralisation which would be caused in the class intended to be benefited, by a series of successful impostures. If everyone gave to all comers without hesitation and without inquiry there would be no limit to the ingenious devices by which the sympathies of the public would be played upon. Feigned illness, telegrams from dying relatives, urgent needs of all imaginable kinds, would be systematically resorted to; and, if all did their duty according to Mr. Hall's principles, with unvarying success, the industrious poor, who are striving hard to live a life of honest toil, would see their less scrupulous neighbours living in idleness and comparative ease on the fruits of their deceptions, and would be tempted at times to follow their example. In other words, we should be throwing additional difficulties in the way of honest industry, and offering a premium to fraud.

Now, surely it cannot be right to act upon a principle which, if acted upon universally, would lead to such results as these. It cannot be right in the matter of charity, where the interests of others are concerned, to set aside the common sense rule of conduct which bids us look before we leap. It is just to enable the public to act systematically on this sound maxim in charitable matters that the Charity Organisation Society exists. Few persons can undertake to give the necessary time and trouble to an inquiry into every case of distress which comes before them, and they are tempted either to give impulsively and unwisely or to refuse with equal unreason. But here the Society steps in and offers to undertake the investigation for them. In every district in London it has its office and staff of workers, of all creeds and classes, ready to attend to every case of distress brought to their notice. Urgent cases are sent at once to a refuge, but to them, as to all, the principle of thorough investigation is applied, in order that, after the need of the moment has been met, the deeper underlying causes of distress may also be met, and the recurrence of the poverty guarded against. Nor is personal care for the poor dissociated from the work of the Society. It does not offer a substitute for individual charity;

all the relief it gives it would gladly see given by individuals; it only offers its services for the purpose of ascertaining how the help may be best applied. It annihilates the excuse for hardheartedness, which arises from fear of deception, and at the same time stimulates real benevolence, by directing the best thought and attention of all to the removal of the causes of poverty. Much more may be said on the subject, but I feel that I have already trespassed too long on your space.

October 16, 1877.

JOHN R. HOLLOWD.

RETURNS FOR NOVEMBER.

The following is the Monthly Tabular Statement of cases for the four weeks ending Saturday, November 24, 1877, returned by the District Committees:—

DISTRICT COMMITTEES	Class I. Dismissed or unfavourably reported on as				Class II. Recommended to				Class III. Assisted by				Grand total	Reports sent out	Inquiries for other Committees	Vagrants dealt with
	Not requiring relief	Undeserving	Cases for Poor Law or otherwise ineligible	Class total	The Guardians or local agencies	Private persons	Class total	Grants	Loans	Employment	Letters for hospitals &c.	Class total				
Kensington	24	11	22	57	7	9	16	14	2	10	..	26	9	53	13	166
Fulham	4	4	2	10	1	1	2	4	1	1	14	16	37	13	17	46
Paddington	3	2	10	15	..	9	9	11	14	2	9	11	36	62	56	27
Chelsea	..	4	11	15	3	4	7	2	1	9	19	19	44	31	18	2
St. George's	5	..	12	17	..	3	3	4	..	1	..	5	82	30	21	3
G. Committee	3	3	19	25	..	5	5	13	5	1	5	24	..	..	..	..
W. Committee	2	1	10	13	..	3	3	3	..	1	4	8	20	15	21	..
St. James's and Soho, Westminster Union	2	2	17	21	2	24	26	18	44	2	5	16	86	34	10	..
St. Marylebone	7	2	2	11	..	2	2	4	2	2	..	8	17	7	11	27
Hampstead	2	1	1	4	1	1	2	..	..	1	1	2	19	7	11	..
North St. Pancras	3	4	9	16	..	5	5	6	11	..	4	5	32	12	28	..
South St. Pancras	6	3	8	17	1	8	9	10	19	6	2	3	47	64	23	7
Islington	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	9	1	..	..	10	13	..	..	..
Hackney Union	2	3	2	7	..	2	2	4	2	..	2	8	19	8	17	..
St. Giles's & Bloomsbury	2	1	3	6	3	3	6	3	1	1	..	5	17	50	26	107
Strand	3	3	9	15	..	10	10	2	1	..	..	3	28	14	28	13
Holborn	..	..	..	..	3	3	6	3	12	6	1	19	22	11	61	107
City	1	1	10	12	1	12	13	3	1	..	1	5	19	8	21	..
Shoreditch	..	14	21	35	1	2	3	14	..	..	..	14	38	20	14	..
Bethnal Green	1	4	11	16	..	4	4	1	..	1	4	6	28	12	26	..
Whitechapel	5	1	11	17	..	8	7	16	4	2	..	3	42	6	13	1
St. George's-in-the-East	3	..	10	13	..	5	5	4	..	..	..	9	36	49	12	..
Stepney	2	..	1	3	1	2	3	1	..	1	2	4	10	11	12	..
Mill End Old Town	5	1	7	13	..	9	4	13	3	5	..	5	13	30	6	..
Poplar	3	2	5	10	..	1	5	6	4	1	..	2	23	5	11	1
St. Saviour	3	2	9	14	..	3	3	6	3	..	1	5	23	16	13	..
Newington	1	4	8	13	..	4	4	5	9	..	..	1	20	10	12	..
St. Olave's	2	3	13	18	..	2	2	4	13	..	..	1	20	10	12	..
Lambeth	2	..	1	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	4	7	6	6	..
Brixton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wandsworth & Putney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Battersea	..	1	4	5	..	1	1	4	..	..	1	7	13	6	5	..
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Camberwell	..	1	6	7	..	7	7	14	2	..	..	3	30	..	8	..
Grove Lane	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	2	5	4	6	1
Peckham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greenwich	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dartford	4	2	4	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	9	7	..
Woolwich	6	1	3	12	3	2	5	4	3	1	1	9	20	30	2	171
Lewisham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	14	19	19	12	9	102
Eltham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sydenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	122	73	370	465	15	130	145	285	194	61	36	112	403	1154	654	577

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

'THE CHARITY ORGANISATION REPORTER' will be sent direct from 15 Buckingham Street, post-free, for 1½d. s. d.

Forty Numbers (the average issue for a year) ... 5 0

Those who wish to subscribe are requested to allow their names to be entered as 'subscribing till further orders'; in this case payments need not be made in advance. Orders can only be entered for a year or other definite periods if accompanied by a remittance.

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TERMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Selected Advertisements will be inserted in the Reporter at the rate of 1s. a line, or 9s. an inch.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUNDS of the COUNCIL should be sent to Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59 Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, at the Office, 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Charity Organisation Reporter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY DURING THE SITTINGS OF COUNCIL

BY THE

SOCIETY FOR ORGANISING CHARITABLE RELIEF AND REPRESSING MENDICITY.

No. 240.

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 20, 1877.

PRICE 1d.

THE OBJECT of the CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY is the improvement of the condition of the poor:

1. By bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities.
2. By securing thorough investigation and suitable action in all cases.
3. By granting effectual temporary assistance, as far as the funds of the Committees allow, in cases where a permanent result may be hoped for, and which are not met by existing sources.
4. By repressing mendicity.

The Society, therefore, being desirous of enlisting the sympathy of those who are endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the poor, would urge such of them as are willing to take part in the work to become members of the District Committees, especially of those in the poorer parts of London, and would remind them that by so doing they will be brought into direct contact with the facts of the life of the poor, and with the various agencies that are intended to help them.

The Secretary of the Council, Mr. C. S. Loch, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be happy to furnish further information.

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NOTICES.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Thursday, Dec. 20 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.
Thursday, Jan. 3 ... 3 P.M., Administrative Committee.

COUNCIL MEETINGS.—The next meeting of Council will be held at 3 p.m. on January 14, 1878.

OFFICES OF THE COUNCIL.—The offices of the Council, 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, will be closed from Saturday, the 22nd instant, at 2 P.M., to Thursday, the 27th instant, at 10 A.M.

THE 'REPORTER.'—The next number of the *Reporter* will be published on Thursday, the 10th January.

WARNING.—Roger Valentine Challice has been obtaining money from the public, and more particularly from clergymen, by false representations. Particulars can be obtained on application to the Central Office of the Charity Organisation Society, 15 Buckingham Street, W.C.

KENSINGTON.—Dr. Anderson has temporarily resigned the post of Representative of the Committee, Mr. J. Whitcombe having been elected in his stead.

COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business stands for Monday, January 14:—

I. To adopt the Report of the Districts Sub-Committee on Adequate Relief.

II. Mr. W. F. Lawrence to move a series of resolutions respecting Adequate Relief, as an amendment to the above Report. (See *Reporter*, No. 236, p. 183.)

III. Hon. R. C. Grosvenor to move:

'That, in the opinion of the Council of this Society, it has become necessary to alter the existing rules respecting the constitution of the Society, with a view to the establishment of a smaller representative Governing Body, which shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Society; and that for this purpose the Council are of opinion that a special meeting of the members of the Society ought, as soon as possible, to be convened.'

IV. Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe to move:

'That the Administrative Committee be abolished, and that the business of Council be conducted by two or more Sub-Committees.'

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

THE Council of the Charity Organisation Society met at 15 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, on Monday, December 17, at 3 P.M.

Present:—A. H. Hill (in the Chair).

KENSINGTON:—J. W. Probyn, J. Whitcombe, Mrs. Lathbury, F. J. S. Edgcombe.

PADDINGTON:—Sir R. M. Stephenson.
CHELSEA:—Capt. Boyce, Dr. Daniel.
ST. GEORGE'S:—Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Lieut.-Col. Sanford, Major FitzRoy.

ST. JAMES' & SOHO:—W. Bevan, W. Bousfield.

ST. MARTYRKONE:—The Earl of Lichfield, Miss O. Hill.

HAMPSTEAD:—E. Bond.
NORTH ST. PANCRA:—A. N. Butt.

SOUTH ST. PANCRA:—C. A. Reiss.
ISLINGTON:—F. B. Roberts, H. FitzRoy.

HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare, R. L. Kenyon, W. F. Lawrence.

STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, W. Wightman Wood.

HOLBORN:—W. Sheephanka.
CITY:—Rev. W. H. Lyall.

BETHNAL GREEN:—Rev. C. Kirton.

STEPNEY:—E. Peters.

MILE END:—Major Nares, Hon. H. R. Scott.

ST. SAVIOUR'S:—W. F. Smith, F. Montgomerie, Russell Barrington.

NEWINGTON:—H. R. Brand, F. D. Thornton.

LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown, W. H. Gurney Salter.

WANDSWORTH:—Rev. C. Carruthers.

CAMBERWELL:—H. Hyde, T. Galabin.

LEWISHAM:—George Parker, J. J. Bramley.

ELTHAM:—Rear-Admiral Gardner.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, George Blount.

TOTAL:—47.

Secretary:—C. S. Loch.

Org. Secretary:—C. J. Ribton-Turner.

VISITORS:—A. N. Maude, Dr. R. J. Lee, H. N. Hardy.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, December 13. There had been present:—

Mr. E. Peters, in the chair; the Earl of Lichfield, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Rear-Admiral Gardner, Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Major FitzRoy, Major Nares, Capt. Fortescue, Hon. H. R. Scott, Miss O. Hill, Mrs. Lathbury, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Messrs. Barrington, Bond, Brown, Copeman, Edgcombe, Hill, Hoare, Lawrence, Mills, Peto, Tidman, Whitcombe.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT WORK.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on December 11 there had been present:—

Major FitzRoy, in the chair; Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Messrs. Barrington, Bousfield, and Edgcombe.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on December 11 there had been present:—

Rear-Admiral Gardner, in the chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major FitzRoy, and Mr. Bevan.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending December 8 the receipts had been £132. 9s. 6d. for the General Fund, and £271. 1s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £349. 8s. 7d. and £162. 13s. 10d. respectively, £127. 1s. 6d. of the latter sum being reserved to meet expenditure on School Board cases.

* The estimated liabilities were about £800, exclusive of £200 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

GRANTS.—That the following grants had been made:—Stepney, £5; Bethnal Green, £5; and St. Olave's, £25.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES.—That the following letter had been received:

SCHOOL BOARD FOR LONDON.
7 The Terrace, Putney, S.W.:
December 4, 1877.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Committee on Needlework to ask you whether it would be in your power to purchase ready-made underclothing of good materials, suited principally for children.

These garments can be supplied singly or by the dozen, and will be sold at cost price or a little under.

They have been made in the Board Schools, but, owing to special circumstances which can be fully and satisfactorily explained, have not met with a sale among the scholars, and the Board are desirous of clearing them out of their schools.

Yours faithfully,
H. FLOYER,
Examiner of Needlework.

STATEMENT RESPECTING MR. BARNARDO.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe stated that Mr. Maude was present as a visitor, and was able to give evidence respecting Mr. Barnardo's having sufficient private means to give his services gratuitously. Mr. Maude had called on him and invited him to go and see Mr. Barnardo on the subject, but he had been unable to go. Mr. Peters had, however, gone in his stead. This evidence, he believed, would go a long way to meet some of the points in the Statement adopted by the Council at their last meeting. The Administrative Committee had given instructions respecting the publication of the Statement. After that day these instructions would be carried out. The matter was therefore urgent.

The Chairman ruled that it would be out of order for a visitor to submit evidence. The question had been discussed at length and settled by the Council at the previous meeting. In accordance with the 5th Bye-law, 'statements' might be made 'by members on subjects of special interest to the Society.' It was open, therefore, to Mr. Edgcombe, as a member of Council, to make any such statement.

Mr. H. Brand said that, from information he had lately received, there appeared to be some chance of a conference between the Committee of Mr. Barnardo's Homes and members of this Society. The question had been brought before that Committee during the past week. He would ask the Council whether they would delay the publication of the Statement for six or seven days, in order that he might be able to inform them definitely by that time if the Committee had determined on a conference. The Council had no end in view but the ascertainment of the truth. He had given the name of his informant in confidence to Lord Lichfield.

Lord Lichfield said that, while at the Council meeting, Mr. Brand had mentioned to him the name of his informant, and what he had just stated. The question to be considered was whether the delay in the publication would bring about a conference between members of the Society and Mr. Barnardo's trustees. He felt, when Mr. Edgcombe asked the Council to consider the question, that one grave objection was, that it would bring the Council into contact with Mr. Barnardo, and not with Mr. Barnardo's trustees. The trustees had said that they had evidence to refute the evidence in the hands of the Society. That evidence, however, had not been forthcoming. He had been most anxious to hear it, and would be the last to oppose any delay in order to come in contact with the trustees themselves. There could, however, be no question but that delay would have an injurious effect, unless something came of it. He was ready to accept Mr. Brand's assurance of the likelihood of this.

It was pointed out that this information did not come from the trustees, but from Mr. Barnardo's committee. Mr. Barnardo, so far as he was responsible, was responsible to his trustees.

Mr. Brand stated that Mr. Barnardo and Mr. Nisbet were, he understood, opposed to any conference. If their opposition could be met, the conference, he believed, might be arranged. He wished the causes of delay to be fully stated in the *Reporter*.

Rev. R. J. Simpson said the Society's object was to have justice done. This being so, there were good grounds for delay, if the evidence mentioned by Mr. Edgcombe was good and sufficient.

Mr. Edgcombe again urged that Mr. Maude be heard.

The Chairman said he could not alter his ruling.

Major FitzRoy moved:—

That it be an instruction to the Administrative Committee to withhold the publication of the Barnardo Statement pending the negotiation for a conference which has been suggested.

Mr. Edgcombe moved the following rider:—

and not to publish the statement until they have reported to the Council.

Mr. Bousfield said the case was exceptional. Justice required that the Council should hear the evidence.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Edgcombe was in a position to lay the evidence before Council.

Mr. Edgcombe stated that Mr. Maude had seen the marriage settlement, and that he believed that this and other facts went to disprove the second head of the Statement.

Mr. J. Whitcombe alleged that, in the circular published in September last, charges under this head had been made without evidence being given.

Mr. J. W. Probyn said that he had supported the adoption of the Statement. He believed that if the Council postponed the publication of it, they would at least show that all they aimed at was to obtain truthful information. He hoped a conference would ensue. It was a most important question; the Council had to consider the possibility of the conference failing.

Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast pointed out that the Council should consider the position of the Society as well as that of Mr. Barnardo's trustees. The trustees had promised to give evidence; they had had ample opportunity for doing so, and they had broken their promise, sheltering themselves under the recommendation of the arbitration that no *defamatory* statements should be published by either side. They might have officially instructed some one to give evidence on their behalf. There was nothing to show that they were taking any action. This came from individuals only. He did not think the Council should hear any evidence except such as was submitted by the trustees.

Rev. R. J. Simpson suggested that Mr. Edgcombe and his friends might lodge a protest containing the evidence he had against the Statement.

Mr. Brand said that, after what Colonel Prendergast had said, he must state that this proposal of a conference did not come from the trustees, but from a gentleman of position and known integrity, who had interested himself in the matter, and was in hopes of arranging a conference between the two committees. The trustees had not, until quite lately, had the evidence. He thought the Council was too large a body to consider and sift evidence.

Mr. Edgcombe said Mr. Maude would speak from evidence received from the trustees.

Mr. Peters said he had been shown by Mr. Barnardo, on the accounts of the Children's Treasury, a net balance of £1,878. 10s. 4d. With regard to other sources of income, Mr. Barnardo had stated that, early in his career, private friends had guaranteed his expenditure. He had only Mr. Barnardo's statement on this and other points.

It was stated that the alleged income for the Children's Treasury would not meet the charges made against Mr. Barnardo on the score of finance.

Mr. Whitcombe said that Mr. Peters had not alluded to the marriage settlement.

Mr. Peters stated that Mr. Barnardo had also mentioned this. The settlement amounted to £105 a year.

Major FitzRoy said that there ought not to be, nor werethere, he believed, two parties in this question. To ascertain the truth was alike most important to both.

Mr. Edgcombe's rider having been put and lost, 8 voting for it and 22 against it, Major FitzRoy's motion was unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT OF COUNCIL.

Mr. Russell Barrington, seconded by Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, moved the following recommendation of the Administrative Committee, which was adopted *nem. con.*:—

That the Council adjourn to the 14th January next.

DEPUTATION TO THE COURT OF ALDERMEN.

The Secretary explained shortly the object and main arguments of the statement which it was proposed by the Committee of the British Medical Association to submit to the Court of Aldermen.

Dr. R. J. Lee, who attended as a visitor, said that the Committee

ST. MARYLEBONE:—The Earl of Lichfield, Miss O. Hill, L. G. Gordon-Robbins, Major-General Gardiner.
 HAMPSTEAD:—C. E. Maurice, E. Bond.
 NORTH ST. PANCAS:—T. J. Maude, A. N. Butt.
 SOUTH ST. PANCAS:—C. A. Reiss, Miss Gibson.
 HACKNEY:—T. Copeman.
 ST. GILES:—H. N. Hoare, W. F. Lawrence, H. M. Keary.
 STRAND:—Rev. R. J. Simpson, W. Wightman Wood.
 HOLBORN:—W. Sheepshanks, Capt. Fortescue, G. B. Baker.
 CITY:—Rev. Harvey Brooks, Rev. H. I. Cummins.
 DEATHAL GREEN:—J. Barber, Rev. Chas. Kirton.
 ST. GEORGE'S EAST:—Major Meadows, Oscar Tottle.
 STRIMNEY:—Rev. H. Burchell-Herne, E. Peters.
 MILE END:—Major Nares.

POPULAR:—Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Ralph Ellis.
 ST. SAVIOUR'S:—F. Montgomerie, Russell Barrington.
 NEWINGTON:—D. P. Thornton.
 ST. OLAVE'S:—W. F. Beauford.
 LAMBETH:—Douglas Brown, W. H. Gurney Salter.
 BRIXTON:—P. E. Nicholson.
 WANDSWORTH:—Miss H. Gurney, Alan Lambert, Rev. C. Carruthers.
 CAMBERWELL:—T. Galabin.
 DEPTFORD:—Capt. Cassan, H. F. Cornish.
 WOOLWICH:—S. Topley.
 LEWISHAM:—J. J. Bramley, R. V. Tidman.
 ELTHAM:—Rear-Admiral Gardner.
 SYDENHAM:—H. Reid, W. Day.
 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:—Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Dr. Hawksley.
 TOTAL:—68.
 Secretary:—C. S. Loch.
 VISITORS:—Major-General Bainbridge, H. Howgrave Graham, J. H. Spiller.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.

The Administrative Committee had met on Thursday, December 6. There had been present:—

Mr. J. R. Hollond, in the chair; the Earl of Lichfield, Hon. R. C. Grosvenor, Major-General Gardiner, Lieut.-Col. Prendergast, Major Fitz-Roy, Major Nares, Capt. Fortescue, Rev. H. I. Cummins, Rev. S. A. Barnett; Messrs. Barrington, Bevan, Bond, Brown, Copeman, Crowder, Hill, Lawrence, Peters, Peto, Roberts, Mrs. Lathbury, and Miss O. Hill.

MENDICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on December 4 there had been present:—

Mr. R. A. Aspinall, in the chair; Hon. H. R. Scott, Major FitzRoy, and Mr. Bevan.

FINANCE.—It was reported that during the week ending December 1 the receipts had been £69. 8s. 8d. for the General Fund, and £1. 1s. for the District Committee Aid Fund, and that the available balances* of the two funds on that day had been £275. 15s. 5d. and £24. 17s. 3d. respectively, £10. 5s. 11d. of the latter sum being reserved to meet expenditure on School Board cases.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF COUNCIL.

The following amendment to the recommendation of the Administrative Committee, that Lord Shaftesbury be invited to accept the post of Chairman of Council, was moved by General Lynedoch Gardiner, and seconded by Lord Lichfield, viz.:—

That in future the Chairman of the Council of this Society be elected annually. And that Lord Shaftesbury be asked to accept the office of Chairman for the year 1878.

General Gardiner explained that 'the year' mentioned in his amendment was from one annual meeting of the Society to the next. He thought that the Chairman of Council for each year should take the chair at the annual meeting in March, and hold office till the March following. It would be necessary to ask Lord Shaftesbury to take the Chairmanship for a somewhat longer period, viz., from the present time to March 1879.

With the permission of the Council, the words 'ensuing year' were substituted for 'the year 1878.'

After a short debate, in which Sir Charles Trevelyan, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. Bousfield, and Admiral Gardner took part, the amendment, which it had been agreed to vote upon in two parts, was duly put and carried, and accepted as a substantive motion.

WORK OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

It was agreed, on the motion of Rev. H. I. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Russell Barrington, that the following members of Council be members of the Committee to be appointed in accordance with the resolution of Council of the 3rd inst., viz. Lord Lichfield, Major-General Cavenagh, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Mr. E. Bond, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Mr. J. R. Hollond, and Rev. H. I. Cummins.

STATEMENT OF THE BARNARDO COMMITTEE.

The adoption of the statement of the Barnardo Committee was moved by Lord Lichfield, seconded by Mr. J. R. Hollond.

Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, seconded by Mr. C. E. Maurice, moved the following amendment, viz.:

* The estimated liabilities were about £800, exclusive of £200 required for District Committees during the current quarter.

That the statement be referred back to the Committee with instructions to amend it by the omission, as far as possible, of all charges against Mr. Barnardo. And that this report be issued, at the discretion of the Secretary, only to such persons inquiring as are legitimately interested.

It was agreed that the amendment should be taken in two parts.

Mr. Russell Barrington, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Mr. J. W. Probyn, Admiral Gardner, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Rev. H. I. Cummins, and Mr. W. W. Wood, supported the motion.

Mr. Bousfield and Mr. E. Bond supported the amendment.

Miss O. Hill, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, Major FitzRoy, Mr. W. Day, and Mr. L. G. Gordon-Robbins, said a few words.

The amendment having been put and lost, 10 voting for it, 33 against it, the motion for the adoption of the Report was put and carried.

A series of verbal amendments, of which Major FitzRoy had given notice, were, with others suggested by General Gardiner, and Mr. Gordon-Robbins, referred to the Committee.

To the latter part of Mr. Edgcombe's amendment, amendments were moved by Rev. H. I. Cummins, viz.:

That an advertisement be inserted in the newspapers, stating that the statement can be had at the Central Office;

by Rev. R. J. Simpson, viz.:

That the question of the mode of publication be referred to the Administrative Committee;

and by Lord Lichfield. The latter, to the following effect, was eventually carried, viz.:

That it be referred to the Administrative Committee to adopt the best and most effectual means of giving full publicity to the completed statement of the action of the Society in the Barnardo case (as approved to-day).

ADJOURNMENT OF COUNCIL.

The following recommendation of the Administrative Committee having been taken as urgent, was moved by Mr. Russell Barrington, and seconded by Lieut.-Colonel Prendergast, viz.:

That the Council adjourn to the 14th January next.

Mr. J. R. Hollond, seconded by Mr. F. J. S. Edgcombe, moved the adjournment of the debate.

The Council then adjourned.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The following contributions were received by the Council during the week ending December 8, 1877:—

Donations:—			£ s. d.		
Blunt, Mrs.	...	...	0	10	0
Melvil, R., Esq.	...	...	10	0	0
Reiss, Mrs.	...	...	100	0	0
Wilson, Miss Jane	...	...	10	0	0
Annual:—			£ s. d.		
Crisp, F., Esq.	...	...	1	1	0
*Eden, Mrs. E. H. G.	...	...	1	0	0
(1876)	...	...	1	0	0
Eden, Mrs. E. H. G. (1877)	...	...	1	0	0
Sion College, The Governors of	...	...	2	2	0
District Committee Aid Fund:—			£ s. d.		
Bond, E., Esq.	...	...	20	0	0
Wood, W. Wightman, Esq. (a)	...	...	1	1	0
Total	...	...	153	10	6

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

GREENWICH.—Annual Meeting.—The Annual Meeting of this Committee was held on the 4th instant, Major-General Bainbridge being in the chair.

Mr. Burdett, Secretary to the Seamen's Hospital, in moving the adoption of the Report, said he had been a resident of the district for about four years, and although he did not altogether agree with the work of the Society he was pleased with the good that had been done. Passing through the park and over Blackheath he could not at one time go above fifty yards without meeting a beggar. One was now scarcely met, and as citizens they were much indebted to the local branch for what they had accomplished in this district. He believed, speaking of hospital work, that the Charity Organisation Society enabled them to look forward to the time when those persons who applied for assistance and help from the hospitals, and who were really ill and deserving, would receive aid without that delay and annoyance which was experienced from the impudence and professions of the able-bodied and undeserving.

* This item, having been collected in error, has been refunded.

and quoted his application to it of the first verse of Psalm xli.: 'Blessed is he that considereth the poor.' He regarded such work as most clearly a religious work, and should not otherwise concern himself with it. He ventured to suggest to his brethren in the ministry there present, that they would find themselves in nowise fettered, but greatly aided, by co-operation with the Society, and dwelt upon the mischief unavoidably occasioned by entrusting the work of giving relief to District Visitors, without supervision or direction, and without full investigation and careful consideration of all cases.

Mr. Fremantle further proceeded to strengthen his argument by adducing various examples of actual cases of distress, and of difficulties in dealing with them which were surmounted, but could only be surmounted, by full inquiry and patient consideration. Cases of pressing urgency could always be temporarily dealt with until investigation has taken place.

The adoption of the report was moved by James Marshall, Esq., J.P., and Chairman of the Board of Guardians, who paid a handsome tribute to the value of the Society's work in Hampstead, and regretted that it had not been more fully appreciated. He spoke from personal experience as a Justice of the Peace, as Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and as a Trustee of the Wells and other Endowed Charities in Hampstead. He was seconded by Mr. T. A. Evans, also a Guardian of the Poor.

A resolution of thanks to the officers and Executive Committee was moved by Manley Hopkins, Esq., who spoke with warm approval of the efforts of the Society, and was followed, as seconder, by the Rev. Dr. Sadler, of Roslyn Hill Chapel, who defended the Society against the imputation of hardness, and said that it would be nearer the mark to say that it was 'not soft.' The resolution was acknowledged by Mr. Frederic Hill, Chairman of the Executive Committee, who took occasion to refer to the valuable services of the Agent, Mr. Robert Frisby, by the Rev. H. F. Mallet, and by Messrs. Edward Bond, and C. E. Maurice, representatives of the Committee at the Central Council.

The Rev. S. B. Burnaby, Vicar of Hampstead, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Fremantle for his kindness in presiding and conduct in the chair, stating his own entire concurrence with his views, which he was endeavouring to carry out in his own portion of the parish, and his readiness, if others would join him, to appoint one Relief Committee for the whole of Hampstead, in which Churchmen and Nonconformists should unite. The motion was seconded by Charles H. L. Woodd, Esq., J.P.

The meeting was attended by a good many ladies engaged in district visiting from various parts of the parish, and, in addition to those already mentioned, by the Rev. J. Kirkman, Vicar of St. Stephen's; the Rev. A. Herklots, Vicar of St. Saviour's; the Rev. J. M. Sutton, Mr. W. Geoghegan, C. R. Wild, A. N. Butt, Mr. Burford, and others.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Council does not consider itself responsible for any of the opinions expressed by its Correspondents.]

CONVALESCENT HOMES.

To the Editor of the 'Charity Organisation Reporter.'

SIR,—I wish to recommend to the notice of members of the Charity Organisation Society, through the medium of the *Reporter*, a 'Home for Invalid Children,' of which I enclose a prospectus. 'St. Agatha's Home,' at Beckenham, Kent, has been established by a lady who was for some years one of the surgical sisters at St. Thomas' Hospital, and who, in the course of her experience in the children's ward, became much impressed with the great need of early removal from the hospital of children patients, partially convalescent, but not yet fit for either home or an ordinary convalescent institution.

Having, at her own cost, provided a suitable building, she is desirous of receiving patients for whom payment can be made. The Home has been opened for a year, but has not met with the support which it deserves.

Having considerable acquaintance with the subject, I may venture to say that no other similar institution supplies what this does—all the skill and care of a hospital, with more individual attention, and with country air; and I can conceive of no better form of permanent relief in cases which are but too numerous in the children's wards of this metropolis, than by providing the cost of the journey, and a few weeks' maintenance to a little patient.

A complete recovery may thus frequently be ensured, which, under other circumstances, would be either extremely doubtful or out of the question. Enquiries should be addressed to Miss Hawthorn, St. Agatha's Home, Beckenham.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY BONHAM CARTER.

91 Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, W., November 25, 1877.

VAGRANCY.—It has been found that the professional vagrant has a decided preference for those workhouses where provision is made for his accommodation on the old-fashioned plan, with associated dormitories and workrooms. Here he can change experiences with his brother tramps and give and receive 'tips' as to the best 'lays,' and generally spend his evening in social, albeit somewhat obscene, discourse, to the disgust of any respectable poor person who may, by stress of circumstances, be compelled to accept the charity of the ratepayers. The associated vagrant wards are, however, doomed, and new wards on the cellular plan are taking their place. The Guardians of Kensington are about to erect wards for 40 males and 20 females, from the plans of Messrs. A. & C. Harston, architects. Here each tramp will, after taking the inevitable bath, be introduced to a separate sleeping-cell, warmed, lighted, and provided with every necessary, but accommodation for one person only. Adjoining each male's cell is a work-cell, into which he is admitted in the morning, to find a given quantity of granite stones and a hammer for the cracking thereof; should he have occasion to call the attendant he will find in each cell an electric 'push,' which will cause a gong to sound in the attendant's room. The clothing of the vagrants will be dried and disinfected in a Leoni's gas disinfectant, in the basement, where will also be found the boilers for heating and for the supply of hot water. The contract for the whole of the work has been taken by Messrs. Lathey Bros.—*Builder*.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The total number of paupers in metropolitan workhouses on the last day of the first week of December 1877 was 39,744, and 42,242 received outdoor relief, making a total of 81,986. This was an increase of 850 on last week's returns. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1876, 1875, and 1874, this was a decrease of 821, 4,250, and 13,013 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 746. This was a decrease of 26 on the return for the last day of the preceding week, and an increase of 90 on the corresponding day of last year.

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